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Residents blame oil companies with endangering health in Greenpoint

By KEVIN DELAN

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Letters to the Editor

Re: Fruit Fly Life, Opinion, Issue 1, Sept. 5-Sept. 17

I am not in denial. I realize that because I'm a gay man, most of my friends are women. This is because a lot of straight men incorrectly feel we are always coming on to them. Since my straight male peers haven't come to terms with their own sexuality issues, I tend to attract beautiful and interesting women. I have had many a wonderful, beautiful gay friend, who admittedly made those lonely single moments more fulfilling. I enjoy female company because the energy is not sexual or weird. Also, they allow you to have deep conversations about life that are otherwise too personal. However, I have learned the hard way that there are certain rules to follow as a straight girl's best gay friend.

They don't always have your best interest at heart so there are a few things to look out for:

1. If you meet a straight girl and the first thing she says is "Oh my god, can you believe she said that?" or "Oh my god, she's so fat!" it's because she assumes you're just as jumpy and shallow as she is. They will expect you to make similar loyalty comments back so they can have a sense of control. Don't give in—they will most likely turn around and go gossipy behind your back. Pretend you have to take an important phone call and walk away, it works like a charm.

2. If she wants to talk fashion, and you're the kind of guy who throws on jeans and a T-shirt, kindly let her know that just because you're gay doesn't mean you have style. If she gets mad or makes you feel bad, remember that she's not your real friend. She should develop some taste of her own instead of depending on pop culture stereotypes to tell her how men are.

3. When making friends, find out early on if the girl has a boyfriend. If she doesn't, chances are, you are just her "filler boyfriend." When she meets a guy and somehow has sex with him, you will be old news. And when she asks what you think of him, she doesn't really want to know that he's trashy or manipulative, she wants you to make excuses for why you're no longer her favorite.

4. If the girl mostly surrounds herself with gay men: STAY AWAY AS IF SHE HAS A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE. A recent Free Press article said "Though I have yet to find a boyfriend, gay men provide me with what I need..." By that she means an excuse to not talk about anything other than "OMG, did you read what Perez said about Miley..." She'll use you to make herself feel loved. That is until she finds some poor straight guy who will ignore her.

5. Most straight women assume gay men are sluts. Because sex is less taboo in the gay community, they've had the opportunity to more fully experience our sexuality. Unlike a lot of straight folks, we don't feel having sex a few nights a week with different guys is shameful. Remember, they're comparing their dry sex lives to ours.

6. Straight girls who are slutty also pretend they aren't. We know they got drunk at the party and went home with what's his-name, but they expect us to make her feel like the in-control virgin she isn't.

7. Finally, most straight women don't understand the issues you go through as a gay man. They will look at it as a media-friendly, straight-person's lens and not offer the guidance that you want and need. Don't assume that what she wants is you want and vice versa.

8. Start making a social network of gay friends, because they won't write trashy articles about what they think you are.

-L.J. Regine

Don't Greenwash The New School

Concerned students and faculty recently sat down to a videotaped conversation with Bob Kerrey to discuss two related topics: the need to develop a comprehensive environmental studies program, and the need for the university itself to be more environmentally responsible.

On the latter point, Kerrey offered some reassurance. For instance, he told the group that the new building on 65th Avenue will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Platinum certified, meaning it meets the highest standards of sustainable architecture.

That's great, but there are many other things we'd like to see, from improved on-campus recycling facilities to locally grown and organic food in the cafeterias. There is a student, faculty and staff group—the Committee for Greening the University—pushing for these types of changes. However, this one group cannot accomplish much without strong administrative support to back it up.

One issue for the New School is obviously money. These changes will be much harder to implement here than at universities like NYU—which purchased more renewable energy than any other American university last year.

It's true that green energy costs more than traditional energy, but not that much more. Wind power, for example, is now the world's fastest-growing source of renewable energy, and New York State is the 15th-largest producer of wind power in the country; through Con Edison, that power costs around 10% more than power from coal or gas fired plants. Logically, as fossil fuels become scarcer, wind power and other alternative energy sources will become more affordable by comparison.

The other issue is a curriculum one. If you look at the University's website and the promotional materials it sends out, you might get the impression that we are on the verge of becoming one of the world's leading educational institutions. Yet how can we be if our students are not prepared to face the overwhelming challenges of a changing global climate and diminishing natural resources?

On October 24, the New School's Board of Trustees will watch the video and, we hope, begin a serious discussion on ways for the administration to finally step up and develop both an innovative environmental studies curriculum—one that reflects our progressive ethos and commitment to social justice—and a series of ecologically sound institutional practices. The New School has to decide whether it will play a leading role in the effort to sustain the world, or whether our students will remain unequipped to contribute to a solution.

Hannah Rappleye
If New School President Bob Kerrey decides to run for the Senate seat about to be vacated by Chuck Hagel in Nebraska, he will also abandon numerous university-wide initiatives in the middle of one of the most decisive periods in the university's history.

Since Kerrey came on as president in 2001, he has been integral in phasing out the for-profit venture, Over a hundred administrators, reporters, and Parsons New School for Social Research deans’ offices declined to comment.

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Sustainability Committee Meets With Kerrey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

...between the Gold and Platinum standards, Kerrey said. “There is no benchmark for the Gold standard. It’s an anti-enforcement ticket. When you come to the Gold standard, you have to pass it as a committee. That means that we have to be the ones to decide if the company is meeting the standard.”
Voices resonate down 5th Avenue as a large group of SDS members march in protest of the Iraq war. Chants of “Power to the People” make heads of passersby turn and take notice. The onlookers read signs that say “Resistance is Unstoppable,” and cars stop as the chants grow louder and the group approaches the looming shadow of the Empire State Building.

On September 21, the 44th anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War, 35 members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and other anti-war demonstrators marched from the GF building to Lockheed Martin’s office in the Empire State Building to protest military technology used in the Iraq War.

The war in Iraq has not only taken millions of lives, but it takes billions of dollars from valuable social programs. Where does this money go? To war profiteers like Lockheed Martin, said SDS member Pat Korte.

The march began around noon, as SDS members gathered in front of the GF and marched up 5th Avenue toward the Empire State Building. They carried signs reading “Your Money Is Bloody” and chanted prepared slogans, which garnered quizzical looks, applause and hos-tility from the people they passed on the streets.

“We want to show that the anti-war movement is still strong. We cannot appease. We can’t give up,” SDS member Ronnie Almon-ta said.

“We need to dismantle apathy,” said Beth Słutski, an SDS member from Sarah Lawrence College who came out to join the New School chapter. “People don’t want to come out to demonstra-tions because they think it won’t help, but nothing can be accom-plished until we get much bigger numbers. If everyone came out to support what they believed, we could make some change.”

When the protesters arrived at the Empire State Building, they circled around it several times. Soon after, they marched to the Armed Forces Recruitment Center in Times Square on 42nd and Broadway. A group of five police of-ficers watched from 100 feet away. The officers told the marchers to stop using a bullhorn, and they complied. There were no other incidents during the march.

“We’re not in this to get arrested,” said Ko-rite. “We hope that each demonstration will get more radical and will move into a more mili-tant direction, but we didn’t come out today hoping to get arrested.”

SDS con-ducted a non-violent “sit-in” in an Army recruit-ment center last March that resulted in the arrest of 20 of its mem-bers. None of the students seemed to want to repeat that outcome. “If they ask me to leave, I’ll leave,” said Annie Match-es, another protestor. “I’m happy with the turn-out, consider-ing the time we had to organize it,” said Korte. Because the year has just begun, and this is the first in a series of sched-uled demonstrations, SDS mem-bers only had three weeks to plan the demonstration. “I’m confident we’ll get increas-ing numbers as we continue our demonstrations,” Korte added.

SDS also hopes to hold film screenings and host guest speak-ers throughout the year. “The best thing for anyone interested in becoming involved is to come out to the demonstrations,” said Almonte. “High attendance at our meetings won’t do that much. We need numbers at the events. So people should come out and show their support.”
Students from The New School For No Research, a group protesting the university's lack of study space, rallied to raise awareness for their cause on September 19. During construction of the new building at 65th Avenue, which is set to be demolished next summer, the only quiet study space left will be the comparatively small basement area of 8 East 16th Street. Five members of the NSNR gathered at the Graduate Faculty reading room at 1:00 p.m., planning to walk into the study space and gather students there to join them in a march to 8 East 16th Street. "I should have brought a sign," said one organizer, Jacob Blumenfeld, before the protest began. After nearly 20 minutes of discussion, the students burst through the door of the Graduate Faculty reading room and explained their position to the students studying inside. After some hesitation, seven other New School graduate students joined the march. "Until I saw their flyer, I didn't know about the New School plans for reading space post-demolition," said Ted Strauss, a graduate student who joined the march. "If it's true that the student reading space is to be reduced to the small noisy basement space, then the message being sent to us by the administration is student study areas are not important." The NSNR spawned from the graduate student organization SRE, where these issues of space and university development were raised.

"Some people who are involved with the No Research Group are specifically involved with the GSPSS, but the No Research group is not exclusively a GSPPS group," said Jeff Chabra, a founding member of NSNR. "NSNR is a group for all concerned university students." Many students claim that there is a lack of communication between the administration and the student body.

"I see a likeness between New School administration and our current president's administration," said graduate student Douglas Turner. "Whatever they do can do under the radar, they will do." However, administrators believe that the protests are overblown.

"The students are protesting what they fear instead of what's happening," said Caroline Oyama, Director of Communications at The New School. "The administration is aware of its inconvenience and is trying to mitigate it."

In response to student accusations that The New School is working in secret, Oyama said that those familiar with the plan for future study space will hold "community meetings and will show the students the plans once they have them."
**Bridging the Gap**

**By Tracy Rogovin**

On September 19, The New School’s Institute of Urban Education started the first of many bridge courses and seminars that integrate New York City public school students into university courses in order to prepare them for the transition to college. The program offers roughly 30 juniors and seniors from local public high schools the opportunity to study for a semester with a Lang professor.

This year, students will study Cultural Perspectives on City Life with Nancy Barnes and attend an accompanying workshop. During the meeting, students discuss their achievements in the class and their concerns over college life with Lang students. The first bridge workshop was moderated by three Lang students and Lori Chajet, Lang professor and IUE Coordinator for Research and Training, and began with a question and answer session among the students.

“I must clarify that our purpose here is for you to feel supported,” said Chajet in an opening statement. “This is not a class. This is the space for you to let us know if there is anything you need.”

The Lang students started the workshop with a series of “get to know you” exercises, where they introduced themselves and their schools. The students, who were mostly women of color, then assembled into small groups and asked the Lang students questions regarding their college experiences. The questions betrayed the students’ worries over educational, social, and economic issues.

Exposing high school students to college life has been the goal for the IUE. The program aims to make the high school-to-college transition less daunting for the students by acclimating them with a university atmosphere. The Bridge Course is just one piece of a comprehensive program that facilitates the process, offering them a chance to reach their goals by helping them understand an otherwise incomprehensible college world.

Amanda Dummet, a senior at East Side Community High School, said that the IUE was her chance to prove herself. “I want to be a lawyer,” she said. “It’s a lot of work, I know, but I want a baby.”

“**You can’t get a Jaguar on a deli salary**”

Sierra Stoneman-Bell, Lang professor and Coordinator for Educational Partnerships of the Institute, explained in an interview that the IUE works with the smaller schools that use inquiry-based learning models, a curriculum that encourages critical thinking about the world around them. These schools are part of the Small Schools Movement, a nation-wide effort that reduces class sizes and minimizes standardized tests that lump students into categories.

In coordination with the smaller schools, the IUE concentrates on providing resources to better meet the needs of their students through inquiry-based programs in both high school and college courses.

“Our philosophy is that all students should have the information and opportunity to make informed decisions about college,” she said. “For students who are the first in their families to pursue college, high schools play a critical role in preparing them. Our goal is offer resources for schools and students and as part of a broader movement to close the college access and persistence gaps.”

The overall 4-year graduation rate in NYC was at 50% in 2006, according to an April press release from the New York State Education Department. “The alarm bell is ringing louder than ever. The graduation rate must improve much faster,” said Regents Chancellor Robert M. Bennett in the announcement.

According to an August press release from the NYSED, the NO Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 27 NYC schools have been designated “Persistently Dangerous” and that about 30% of NYC schools are in need of significant improvement in order to educate students in a safe and productive working enviroment.

This is the third year of the College Immersion program. The IUE will continue to work with high school students over the course of this year, offering a safe intellectual environment for young people in New York.

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**The International Rundown**

**By Julia David and Lauren Casmana**

**Design by Corette Brinns**

**IRAQ:** On September 16, employees of Blackwater USA, a private security firm based in North Carolina, killed 2 Iraq civilians outside the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Iraq officials claimed that the employees were gunman Blackwater shooting, but Blackwater has now retracted naming diplomatic security outside the Green Zone in Iraq. On September 24, the Iraqi government announced that its intelligence is being lost against the Blackwater shooting, and that it is investigating the matter.

**CHINA:** Since August, extreme floods have hit many African countries, including DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Uganda, cutting off of millions of people from food, electricity, and water. On August 30, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that over a million people have been moved from their homes to make way for the project, and more than 2000 towns and villages have been destroyed. On September 21, the United Nations Security Council approved resolution 1784, which authorized the deployment of up to 18,000 UN peacekeepers to secure the area.

**GERMANY:** Germany has sold a $120,000 Jaguar to a deli owner, who said he could not afford it. The Jaguar was subsequently found in a German deli, where it was being used as a display piece.

**INDIA:** In the past week, massive floods in Pakistan and India have killed at least 2,000 people and left millions more without food, water, or shelter. The floods have caused widespread destruction of infrastructure, including bridges and roads, and have left thousands of people displaced. The United Nations has called for international assistance to help those affected by the floods.

**Source:** Associated Press

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**Focus:** The Crisis in Burma

A panel discussion, “The Crisis in Burma,” will take place Tuesday, October 2, at 8 p.m. in 79 5th Ave. Room 1107.

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The Notorious Pick Up Artist

The Lang Pick Up Novice

Hi, I need to get a quick Lang student opinion on something. My friends are waiting outside in my Ferrari, so please answer quickly: What did you think of that show The Pick Up Artist? Because, you see, I know this guy who watched the show and decided it would be fun to go out and try everything he learned from watching it and then write an article about his experience. When he told a female friend of his, she went into a fit of rage, called him a manipulative prick, slapped him in the face and stole his cat to sell on the black market! Do you think the girl overreacted?

Why? By the way, has anyone ever told you that you have Bugs Bunny teeth? We just had New York hot dogs.

You have just been opened. First was an opening gambit with a false time constraint and a DHV spike. The gambit was the neutral story with just enough drama to make it interesting and an open-ended question that couldn’t be brushed off with a one-word answer. The thing about the friends at the bar eliminated the threat of having some stranger hanging around for too long, and I demonstrated higher value (DHV) by casually mentioning that my friends were waiting in the Ferrari. The thing that’s interesting about this particular opener is that I did it this weekend as an attempt to test the skills Mr. Mystery (a.k.a. Erik Von Markovik) demonstrated on his VH1 show The Pick Up Artist.

Mystery’s entire philosophy is based on the idea that all people look for traits in the opposite sex that show signs of “survival and repulsion.” Therefore, I began by putting on some of my most obvious clothing and blowing dry my hair so that I looked like I belonged in some mainstream Emo band. Mystery calls this art of drawing attention to oneself “pea-cooking.”

I went to two bars in Alphabet City. The Library is frequented by Hipster-types as well as punks, and their jukebox is one of the best in the city. I didn’t use any stock openers or negs from the show, so that no one would notice I was following the method. To my surprise, not one person mentioned The Pick Up Artist. Armed with a pivot (an ex or female friend that you are not interested in to use as a prop because, as Mystery claims, women are attracted to women), I opened with a two set with an 8os dogs opener. My friend had two new dogs and wanted to name them after an 8os pop duo.

We decided that two dogs named “Duran” was perfect. I stacked the conversation and talked about the song from the jukebox, but focused on the less attractive of the two girls. Then I told the target that there was some lint on her shirt, and picked it off for (a neg). I continued talking to the friend and after about six minutes I told her that I felt bad about ignoring her so much and asked the target if she wanted some outside with me for a cigarette. Outside, I began “kinesthetic escalation” by touching her hair because it was “so soft.” Then, at the height of the sexual tension, I rolled off, telling her I had to go meet my friends at the bar. To my surprise, she number closed me!

I tried one more three set. This set had a guy, so I made sure to give him plenty of attention, thereby disarming him while I se- duced his company. I ran a similar routine, but with a different open- er. Once the target had bounced outside with me, I did an “elicit- ing values” routine on her called “The Cube” in which the girl describes a picture and by her description I’m able to tell her what she wants her shirt, and picked it off for (a neg). I was shy at first, but by the end of the evening I felt like Valentine. The truth is, I’ve never had much trouble with girls, but I am usu- ally deadly afraid of approaching strangers and never have I gone to a bar and had a kiss less than an hour after arriving. My pivot

The Lang Pick Up Novice most out of file. Mystery calls these tests “girl erack.” Then I figured, why not try Mystery’s kiss close? “Do you want to kiss me?” I asked. If she said “yes,” I’d kiss her. If she said “maybe,” I’d say, “let’s find out” and kiss her. If she said “No,” I’d say, “I didn’t say you could, it just looked like something was on your mind.” She said maybe, and I kissed: soft, no tongue and a little lip nibble because that’s how I do. I was shy at first, but by the end of the evening I felt like Valentine. The truth is, I’ve never had much trouble with girls, but I am usu- ally deadly afraid of approaching strangers and never have I gone to a bar and had a kiss less than an hour after arriving. My pivot

The Notorious Pick Up Artist and I went to an Irish bar across the street and I did a few more sets, got a few more numbers, and called it a night.

If you’re thinking this whole thing is manipulative, think about the types of guys that usually approach you in bars. Think about the last time a nice guy started an interesting conversation with you. What’s to you if the shy guy has a few tricks up his sleeve, if it means you find Mr. Right? Hell, if you’re really lucky, my next kiss could be by you.

The Pick Up Artist airs in reruns on VH1.

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Agnanti Restaurant (19-06 Ditmars Blvd.; N/W Ditmars Blvd. Station): Despite the famous tension between Greeks and Turks, both fares are harmoniously hand- in-hand at this hangout overlook- ing the park. Alongside such tra- ditional Greek dishes as saganaki cheese ($7.95), the menu offers a wide range of dishes like the Yogurtlu Kebab ($9), the gy- ro’s Turkish cousin that Alex- ander the Great is rumored to have loved.

Lefkon Pastitsio Cafe (22-85 31st St; N/W Ditmars Blvd. Station): Mar- velously donning Greek and Italian fusion, this spot is a perfect setting for an afternoon picnic. On your way there, stop by the Greek/Italian grocer Rosario’s (22-53 31st St, below the station) to pick up Mediterra- nean selections of fresh cheeses, olives and snacks like Tsanos’ Four Cheese Cookies ($5.25) or Cypriot Loukoumia sweets ($5.75), usu-}

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Beg, Borrow or Steal
Decorating on a Discount

By NSP ARTS STAFF

Kerri has quite a stylish living space, but like many New School students who do not have a huge amount of extra money to spend on furnishing her dorm. She found many items shown here for a cheaper or discounted rate.

Kerri relaxes while reading a book (1) she purchased for $1 from The Strand, located on 12th St and Broadway. She purchased other books (2) from Half.com, where books are sold for as low as $1 (99 cent price). Her $100 Mart lamp (3) lights her entire room so that she doesn’t strain her eyes. Plus, this sexy number has three lighting options, so she can set the lights down low when she’s entertaining guests. Kerri’s small round coffee table (4), which she picked up for just $25 at Virgin Records. Kerri’s ex, which she picked up for just under $10.00. She tries not to nod off on her comfy pillows (5) from Century 21, a discount department store with several locations in New York City. She picked up two pillows for about $15, and window shopped for their other discounted clothing and accessories. Kerri’s small round coffee table (6), which she made for under $10.00, with string and thumb-tacks.

An important part of any study break is having a snack. Kerri is enjoying a turkey and cheese wrap (6) from Zey Tuna (located on William St. in the Financial District), where she scored a 100% discount with her student ID. No paper plates for this co-ed: Kerri dines on a $3 plate (7) from Marshall’s discount department store.

When Kerri needs to rest she lies on her IKEA bedspread (8), which she choose from a selection of blankets, throws and bedspreads all under $10.00. She tries not to nod off on her comfy pillows (9) from Century 21, a discount department store with several locations in New York City. She picked up two pillows for about $15, and window shopped for their other discounted clothing and accessories. Kerri’s small round coffee table (10), retail of $100 but marked down to $20, is one of her favorite Century 21 purchases.

Kerri can keep track of her expenses on her do-it-yourself bulletin board (11), which she made for under $10.00, with string and thumb-tacks.

So, New School students, it seems as if we can decorate our room on a budget in one of the most expensive cities in the nation.

Additional Reporting by Justin Harrison

The No- guchi Mu seum (32-37 Vernon Blvd, N/W Astoria Broadway station): Japanese artist Isamu Noguchi lived and created his sculpture, furniture, theater sets and garden models here in Astoria. Known for his move ment to make sculpture useful in daily life interior spaces, the converted factory exhibition space follows his guidelines to house most of his works while interacting with an exterior courtyard space. Across the street is the Socrates Sculpture Park (Broadway at Vernon Blvd), hosting outdoor sculptures by contemporary artists at the East River waterfront.

The Museum of the Moving Image (37th Ave. at 36th St; via N/W Astoria Broadway station or R Steinway St): Explore the history of technology and art behind movies. There are various informational displays and lots of hands-on exhibits; you can dub over your own voice to classic movie scenes, or make a short film of yourself ($2.00). The Rilkiss Theater here shows films ranging from independent to all-time classics each weekend.

Strolls through some Astoria neighborhoods suggest journeys back to the ’80s, offering peaceful residential environs to locals who want them. Yet, a few blocks later, lively young crowds fill stylish modern spaces ready to tackle the future. When it was assumed that Astoria was to undergo a transformation similar to Brooklyn’s recent dramatic hipster takeover, the neighborhood stood firm to its roots by pleasing both longtime residents and the new. Once introduced to this melting pot community, visitors will quickly come across the Astoria they desire to see.
The Darjeeling Limited


By LAUREN TAYLOR

You have seen this film before. Wes Anderson’s much anticipated movie, The Darjeeling Limited, tells the story of three brothers who set out on a train trip through India to reconnect after the loss of their father.

Francis (Wilson) is controlling, Peter (Brody) is confrontational and Jack (Schwartzman) is the emotional younger brother. Together, they make up a family at odds with their collective losses. Peter is on the brink of compromising his manhood for parent-hood, Jack is heartbroken after a breakup and Francis is left by his girlfriend and their mother has abandoned them for nunhood. The star of the pack, Francis, is the glue that holds the brothers and the film together. His loss is the most significant and emotive in the film, insofar that it’s the closeness of his family he misses. Though glossed over in Anderson’s archetypal humor, Francis ingrains his mission into his brothers’ heads, saying, “That’s what we’re here for, to start trusting each other.”

The film touches on many subjects, but is overwrought with clichés, barely reaching the real depth of both death and abandonment. The three brothers flaunt their own quirks and the film seems as if it could have been set anywhere. The broth- ers and the film together. Francis’ goal to foster a unity amongst the three becomes funny. The significance of India as opposed to a different setting is never addressed. Francis’ goal to foster a unity and sense of trust between himself and his brothers may or may not have been achieved. The film, however, is stuck somewhere between comedy and drama, making it a generally unreliable performance.

Not Recommended

Specialty Restaurants: Eating Within Limitations

By KATH MURRAY

For those of you who have to look further than the neighbor-hood pizza joint for a restaurant, check out the gluten-free Risotteria, the macrobiotic Souen and the vegan Sacred Chow.

Risottoria. (270 Bleeker Street) was a revelation. The goat cheese, oven dried tomato and arugula gluten-free pizza with its thin, crispy crust, was some of the best pizza I’ve ever had, gluten or no gluten. The arugula is added after the pizza is cooked, so it’s green and fresh. The fontina, zucchini, tomato and parsley risotto was cooked to perfection with the rice just slightly firm. I was suspicious of how the parsley would work with the rest of the flavors, but its fresh crispness completed the dish which I enjoyed more than all five times I ate risotto in Italy. The gluten-free Bard’s Tale Dragon’s Gold beer didn’t taste like normal beer; it was slightly fruitier and the hops weren’t as apparent, but it was just as good. For dessert, we ordered the gluten-free tiramisu, which was slightly cakey and not as light as when it is made with wheat ladyfingers.

I’d heard good things about the small vegan restaurant, Sacred Chow (247 Sullivan Street), but it lacked culinary creativity. The Tapa Salad I ordered was described as “seasonal greens w/ any single item, sandwich or pasta dish.” The “seasonal greens” turned out to be less than perky looking romaine with a few slices of cucumbers and tomatoes. I expected the “single item” of hummus to be incorporated into the salad, but instead it came on a different plate and was dry and not very flavorful. The entire meal tasted fine, but it was entirely un-inspired and unimaginative. The one redeeming feature was the spicy peanut dressing that would have been great with a better salad with more vegetables and top-pings.

Souen (28 E. 13 St.), a restaurant which serves food that compliments the macrobiotic lifestyle, is great for students who don’t want to shell out a lot of cash. The “basics” menu offers breads, noodles, tofu, steamed veggies, as well as many other dishes all between $2.50 and $5. The sweetness of the warm corn bread is complimented by slight bitterness of the tahini sauce that accompanies it. Chirashi-sushi, served in a large bowl, comes heaped with rice, seaweed, slices of cucumber, carrots, asparagus, burdock, avocado, salmon, tuna, shrimp and edel. The veggies were fresh, the rice well cooked and the amount of sushi-grade seafood you get is far more than a little roll’s worth. With its broad menu consisting of a variety of soups, salads, noodle and pasta dishes, fish entrées and sushi, there’s something for everyone.

Recommended
Experience something offbeat: a likely psycho who acts like a clown, talks like a guy who would add "The" to the end of his name, and looks like an Aldo who might do a Peraza.

Aldo Perez (also credited as the Mystic Renaldo Th and Psychotic the Clown), a classically trained musician, enter-
tainer, poet, playwright and singer who performs as part of a trio at Lower East Side mu-
sic venue and bar, The Living Room. He is joined by a maid with a trumpet (newcomer Jenny Lee Mitchell) and a valet on percussion (Richard Ginnoccio) in the cozy room with a 70s vibe for an outra-
genuously quirky act.

Upon first glancing at this eccentric crew, one might think there must be some-
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Arts and Culture

Guide to Daytime TV

By Charlie Leveridge

If You’re Feeling Self-Conscious About Your Looks, Watch Tyra

Last spring, Tyra introduced a new segment on her show called, “Tyra’s So What Campaign.” The show’s website describes “So What” as a campaign “for women everywhere who’ve been counted out or kicked down but had the strength to pull themselves back up.” The point is that whether your weight is under public scrutiny because of its constant fluctuation (like Tyra’s), or people keep ragging on your cheap synthetic weave (unlike Tyra’s glamorous 100% human hair weave), we all just need to shrug it off and say, “So What!”

If You’re Pregnant And Debating Whether Or Not To Get An Abortion, Watch The View

So, it finally happened. You got knocked up and you’re wondering what to do? Watch The View. It’s my favorite daytime show with it’s five female co-hosts discussing and debating about the “hot topics” of the day. Co-hosts Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Sherri Shepherd are the resident conservatives while Whoopi Goldberg and Joy Behar currently represent the liberal mind set. Barbara Walters just tries her best not to show a political bias. Inexplicably lovable Hasselbeck is adamantly anti-abortion and will implore you not to terminate the pregnancy. On the Aug. 2, 2006 episode, she got into a fight with guest host Lisa Loeb over a woman’s right to choose, and wound up in tears.

After watching Elisabeth kvetch and whine about the evils of abortion, you’ll probably want to have one just to spite her.

If You’re Feeling Gloomy And Depressed And Want To Get Happy, Watch Ellen

As the days get shorter and the weather gets colder, depression can easily sink into the average person’s soul. Don’t let Seasonal Affective Disorder get you down. Watching Ellen will certainly cheer you up. How can anyone not love Ellen Degeneres? She’s just so damn nice, and her casual and non-threatening sense of humor just makes you feel good. She also kicks off each episode with a few minutes of dancing, so get up and dance along and get those endorphins flowing. If that doesn’t cheer you up, it’s probably time to hit the bottle—or the Zoloft. And if all else fails, watch Oprah because girlfriend has all the answers, and all the cash!

Boulder-to-Boulder in Central Park

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY ADAM SOLOMON

For some New Yorkers, the rocks of Central Park provide not only a good place to sunbathe, but also a unique athletic challenge.

Bouldering is a form of low-to-the-ground rock climbing that involves no ropes or protection. People have been bouldering in Central Park for several decades. The park’s most popular bouldering area is known as Rat Rock, a 5-minute walk northeast from Columbus Circle, just west of Hecksher Playground.

Bouldering requires a mix of strength, balance and patience. To start bouldering, experts recommend that one acquires climbing shoes, a chalk bag and chalk, which will total about $80. Some climbers use a bouldering pad to land on, which costs about $150, though it is not necessary to do so.

For boulders, the question is not whether you get to the top, but how. Some areas are so low that a climber could reach the top simply by jumping from the ground, but the park’s dedicated climbers have instead crafted hundreds of “problems,” or routes, along the rock to challenge themselves.

Bouldering was originally intended as training for longer climbs, but now has grown into a sport of its own. Problems are scaled in difficulty from V0 (easiest) to V15 (hardest). The problems at Rat Rock range from V0 to V9.

Onlookers will often see climbers discussing the routes that are mostly handed down by word of mouth. Bouldering is a very social sport, and climbers are always ready to dish out wisdom or just talk about the weather.

For Left Photo: Ashima, a 7-year old bouldering prodigy. Look out for her in Urban Climber Magazine; Above and clockwise: rock climbers scale boulders in Central Park
Sarkozy's Summer Vacation

By Emily L. Nelson

The recently elected French president Nicolas Sarkozy spent his two-week vacation in New Hampshire, near George W. Bush's summer home, where the two spent much time together. Upon his return, he announced that Iran would be faced with a choice between "enlightenment" or "a bombardment of Iran" if it did not comply with sanctions imposed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the organization checking U.S. charges that Iran is developing nuclear weapons.

Iran released a five page timetable outlining its plans to resolve the issues surrounding its contracted uranium enrichment program. Officials from the IAEA described it as a breakthrough. However, the United States, Britain, and France pushed for a further round of sanctions after expressing dissatisfaction with the plan. A second report was requested, due by early November.

Ostensibly, it will allow inspectors greater access to Iran's nuclear sites. The United States and France have warned of diplomatic and economic pressures that will be placed on Iran if it does not eliminate its nuclear program; Iranian officials deny a harmful threat.

The French government is pressuring Franco-Iranian gas companies to freeze all investments until Iran's uranium enrichment program is aborted. As the CEO of a French business group confessed to the French ambassador, such a policy does not favor French businesses.

What are the reasons for France's sudden change in policy, if any? France and Iran have enjoyed peaceful relations since the Middle Ages. Former President Jacques Chirac opposed the war in Iraq, stating that the country did not pose an immediate threat. Even Sarkozy did not support U.S. military intervention in the region, although foreign minister Bernard Kouchner was one of the few French politicians who did. How can we explain the hawksishness of the Sarkozy administration? Does France aim to ally itself with the world's growing superpower in the hope that it might benefit from its strong upshooting in the Middle East? Or is Sarkozy merely attempting to stop the proliferation of weapons?

I am suspicious of the aims of this policy mirrors the aims of the Project for a New American Century. The Project is a neoconservative organization that was developed in Washington in the 1990s with the purpose of supporting greater U.S. militarization to support economic development in the Middle East. Its president also include Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld.

We have been invaded in the past for its oil. A fundamentalist regime such as Iran's current one will pose a threat to western interests. I suspect Sarkozy seeks a share of the benefits that would result from a shoring up of the region, while justifying his opposition to the United States, Britain, and France. Sarkozy's Summer Vacation

By Wendy J. Biddlecombe

Do you like where you live? Didn’t think so. It’s safe to say that the biggest challenge for students in New York City is finding housing that is affordable, comfortable, and with a relatively easy commute. Dorm life leaves something to be desired, especially if it’s not a giant shopping center, or has some unexpected face problems, as most lack the salary or prestige of a full-time job, and have little experience dealing with such a complicated market. I posited myself up for a good year and a half before finding a place and signing a lease. On Thursday, September 20, I sat down with Peter Chadzynski of Rapid Realty, a no-fee apartment agency that helped company and enlist his apartment finding service for students. Rapid Realty currently doesn’t exclusively within Brooklyn, with plans to offer rental options in all five boroughs.

Chadzynski says their goal is “to be able to provide a service to as many people as possible and make the rental situation a little less scary.” And it shows: there is nothing uninviting about the Rapid Realty office. It bustles with agents and clients coming and going late into the night. The interior layout is modern, and the young and energetic real estate agents wear black Rapid Realty t-shirts and openly talk about their days as they rush in and out of the office on different appointments. The agents seem genuinely excited about finding you an apartment. When we sat down with Chadzynski, he explained how their real estate agents receive a commission fee from the building owners, not the renters. We decided to take a look, so he grabbed the keys and we left the office. The apartment has two bedrooms, a decent kitchen and living room space and a killer view of the Hudson River and the Manhattan skyline. Half an hour later, we put a deposit down to ensure that the company wouldn’t show the apartment to anyone else, and we started the initial paperwork to make it ours. Less than two weeks later, we signed the lease.

Even though we went with the first apartment we saw, there is no pressure to settle on the first apartment you see, or any apartment that you see. If you really can’t find an apartment that you like, the only thing you’ve wasted is time.

Broker? I Barely Touched Her!

By Wendy J. Biddlecombe

The Art of Finding a No-Fee Apartment

by Lez Garber-Paul and Wendy J. Biddlecombe

When we sat down with Chadzynski, he explained how their real estate agents receive a commission fee from the building’s owner or manager.

Lez Garber-Paul and Wendy J. Biddlecombe

On Al Iraqya T.V., a weekly one-hour program hosts a round table discussion of Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds, Jews, Christians and Turkmen. They reflect on how they survived Saddam Hussein’s society of surveillance, imprisonment and torture. The peopple ‘uspeke ourfuffing with each other’, Kanam Makiya, an Iraqi exile who founded the Memory Foundation, which produces the show, told me this summer over the phone. “Suddenly, Kurds see that their experience has been parallel to Arabs, and Shiites see their experience has happened to Sunnis, and Sunnis see that they, too, have seen what other people have gone through.” The Memory Foundation started after the invasion in 2003. Since then, the group has built an immense archive of Baath Party documents, works of art by Iraqis and personal testimonies of Baath crimes. All of it is available for perusing on the group’s website, www.iraqmemorry.org. “We are on our way to creating a living history,” Makiya says. But their work faces numerous roadblocks. Over two million people have escaped Iraq—including level-headed professionals integral to building a free and fair society. That has left the Memory, and its 170,000 internally displaced families, largely under the control of warring Shiite militias and the homegrown terrorist group, al-Qaeda in Mesopotamia. Shia militias, posing as police, have extinguished Sunnis. Al-Qaeda terrorists have assassinated reconciliation advocates.

And the Memory Foundation mostly runs on grants. Last week, Makiya told me via phone that the television program will be shut down at the end of September because its funds have run out.

Last week, the Senate passed a resolution to impose a “soft partition” on Iraq, dividing it into three semi-autonomous regions to make “breathing room” for reconciliation. Forcing Shia, Sunnis and Kurds into new borders will not end the ethnic cleansing, but it may. Lawmakers should focus their attention on groups like the Memory Foundation, because Iraqis need a unifying force.

Comment at Pohadin.blogspot.com

Unity Through Horror

By Peter Holsin

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Comment at Pohadin.blogspot.com
Racist Rapists
West Virginia’s Dirty Secret

By KATRINA N. NORVELL

On September 11, articles report-
ed that Megan Williams, 20, had been kidnaped and tortured for a week. Imprisoned in a shack out-
side the assailants’ mobile home, she was raped multiple times, forced to eat rat and dog feces and drink the urine of two of her attackers. Williams, who is black, encased with chains, while being burned with hot water, choked and stabbed. Thus far, six adults, all white, have been arraigned on a combination of charges all in-
cluding kidnapping.

Logan County, West Virginia, has a population of about 40,000 people, in which less than one thousand are black. In 2009, the average household income was $23,030, strikingly low, con-
sidering the na-
tional average is $45,446. The statistics, along with the desolate photos of the assa-
illants’ mobile home portray a town plagued with poverty.

No one can fully understand the national behind this ter-
rific crime; however, I maintain enough youthful naiveté to believe that there are consequences inherent-
evitably. Rather, they are disen-
franchised, uneducated, and de-
mo- cratized, and have raised to believe conservative and mis-
informed ideologies. 2000 data shows only 65% of those older than 25 had graduated from high school, and just shy of 9% com-
pleted college. Logan County rep-
resents other areas of the United States completely devoid of Federal aid. Social problems such as poor education, lack of healthcare, and high unemployment rates are in-
cluded. Those involved in Megan Williams’ case represent extreme manifestations of racism, but rac-
ism undoubtedly exists amongst the other less overtly violent and criminal town members.

President Bush assures the nation that our war on terrorism abroad will prevent a war at home, but terrorism in the United States is alive and well. White su-
premacist organizations like the Ku Klux Klan continue to develop. College students proclaim their desire to reinstate slavery in the pes-
dous documentary Bowling for Zeitgeist, and the University of Alabama raises the Confederate flag, celebrating the antebellum years during the Old South festival. The two twin- girls of Prussian Blue are the post-
ter-children for white supremacist pop music, and the Jena 6 case in Louisiana displays racial inequality.

As both races stand legally equal, the foundation is now set to make strides toward social and econom-
ic equality. Education has been a pivotal force in over-
coming the disparity between blacks and whites, yet it is clear that some ar-
eas of the United States have gone untouched.

Megan Williams’ horrifying ex-
perience highlights the presence of racism in the United States. In addition to government-sanctioned programs minimizing pov-
erty in the U.S., the nation must engage in open and honest dis-
course. Blacks and whites must come together and unite on the common ground of equality for all races – and what the hell, let’s throw in gender, and maybe get crazy by adding sexual orienta-
tion. As Barack Obama said of the Jena 6 case, “it’s a matter of black and white but a matter of right and wrong. We should stand as one nation in opposition to this and any injustice.”

My esteemed colleagues and fel-
low artificians of Lang, I have a gripe. I am slowly descending into a rant, but unfortunately, that is what I do. Luckily for you, what you do is lis-
ten. Or, in this case, read. Unless this is being read out loud, and I pray it is, as then you will get the full force of my tone.

I’m pretty much tired of hearing my fellow uppercrass com-
plain about how annoyed they are at the freshman class. I know sophomores and juniors that are annoy-
ing too, so annoying that I struggle not to jam a pen through my temple once they start talking. But soon, the freshman class will begin to assimilate into the name-
less, faceless mass of liberals that comprise Eugene Lang College.

Students who attend Lang, you all know, are very liberal. That’s not their fault; people are born liberal. Science is currently working on a pill to put this phe-
nomenon to an end, but science is so unreliable as it is, I’m not hold-
ing my breath. These freshmen are coming out of high school, where they were the stereotypical “lib-
eral kid.” In high school, maybe these types of students can stand out by dying their hair and being ve-
hemingly anti-war. But this is Lang. Nearly every student is like this. If you think this doesn’t ap-
ply to you, it applies double.

There are two very simple rea-
sons why you cannot stand out in the crowd at Lang. Number one: everyone is 90% liberal. It’s hard to be an individual when everyone is trying to stand out. These types of students can stand out.

The point is that very few in the crowd will have the courage to stand. It’s hard to be an individual when there’s a dozen other kids trying to do the exact same thing. And numero dos (that’s number two in Spanish), nobody is going to identify you as an individual. With each student striving to stand out and failing miserably, there is no way some-
one is going to label you as dif-
f erent. That’s a tremendous blow to the ego of Johnny Liberal: he needs to be the special one. He won’t think you are.

So, give up. You to Lang. Ev-
erbody gets it. You’re liberal. Got it, I marked it in my notes when I met you. Join the club. I’m sure Lang has one.

Slowly, you freshman, and hope-
fully some of the uppercrass, will start to realize what’s truly im-
portant at Lang; academics. That’s where you stand out. I’d say more than a majority of students at this school cannot coherently put to-
gether a comment in class that doesn’t make me want to swallow my tongue. If you can, therefore, say something intelligent in class, congratulations. You’re already different from many, many others here. So do your work, and real-
ize that is why you’re here. This isn’t Who Wants To Be A Super-
Hippie? It’s school. Do what your parents are overpaying for, and go to class and learn. Make some art. If it’s good, then you’ll get recog-
nition. If it fails, start smoking. You’ll make lots of friends.

The Inevitable Assimilation of Every Freshman

You’ve Not Special

By BOB MAYNARD

During the 2000 presidential campaign Karl Rove, acting as Bush’s strategist, organized a campaign to bring down then-
Republican forerunner John Mc-
Cain. According to allegations, Rove had volunteered with South Carolina residents, telling them not to vote for McCain because of his “negative campaign” towards Bush. The future president won the primary by a margin of 53 per-
cent to 42 percent lead.

While I am no fan of Rove’s practices, he’s a shining example of the Republican Party’s greatest strength: playing politics. I hate to surrender to such a sport, but if the Democratic Party is com-
mitted to winning back the coun-
try, it’s time they start playing the game with a little less sportsmanship,
ship, like their Republican coun-
terparts. In 2004, Howard Dean headed

a project through Grassroots Cam-
paigns to fundraise for the Demo-
ocratic National Commit-
tee. The goal was to draw away from big business by encourag-
ing dona-
tions from smaller businesses and in-
dividuals. Since 2004, the project has gained momen-
tum. And during the 2006 elections, about eighty percent of all campaign do-
nations came from small donors.

Last semester I interned with the Grassroots Cam-
paigns for the DNC. While I find this objective to be ethically su-
perior, as it supports small busi-
nesses as opposed to large cor-
porations, I find it hard to believe that this is a time for ethics. Most of my co-
workers disliked Hillary not because of her politi-
cal goals, but because she accepted corporate dona-
tions. Though perhaps this was not the most ethical campaign tactic, wasn’t the most important thing to the DNC to get any Demo-
crat into office?

The bottom line is that politics is by no stretch an ethical business. Both sides have proved as such. If we are to dislike Hillary, she should be for her politi-
cal positions as opposed to her lack of morality in fundraising—certainly there is enough to criticize there. But in terms of fundraising, she has only been doing what Repub-
lican politicians have been do-

For Ethics or Money? Let the DNC Decide

By NORA BURKE

lishing for years: taking money from whichever source will give them the most. In a business where eth-
ics are virtually nonexistent, there should be no shame in adopting a practice that has been working beautifully for the Republicans for many years.

While I recognize that these prac-
tices do not solve the larger prob-
lem of corruption, I also realize that you have to work within the system to change it. Right now, Republicans play the game harder and tougher, and are rarely repri-
manded for bad sportsmanship. I fear that the Democrats cannot beat them until they strop to their level. It’s time they stop hiding behind their ethics, because there won’t be any changes until there’s a Democrat in the White House.
Finding a Place in the Community

As Students, Where Do We Fit In?

BY ADAM SOLOMON

By eric Marchese

I-69: The Road That Was Never Meant To Be

NATO's Plan to Promote Globalization

I-69 is a proposed interstate highway meant to facilitate corporate globalization in North America. Although the interstate already exists between Port Huron, Michigan and Indianapolis, construction came to a halt in the early ‘90s due to opposition from a diversity of interests and groups including small businesses, farmers, anti-capitalists and environmentalists. If completed, the road will continue through Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and end just across the Texas border in Matamoros, Mexico.

Dubbled the “NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) Superhighway,” its only purpose is to expand “free” trade throughout the continent. This will allow big corporations to more easily transport products from sweatshop to store shelf. The proposed highway would roar through thousands of acres of America’s already dwindling forests, wetlands and nature preserves. Construction plans include a ten-lane highway which will attract at least 80% truck traffic, demonstrating the highway’s primary aim as a commercial interstate.

“The highway’s primary aim is a commercial interstate.”

In Mexico, the road will connect with the Atlantic corridor highway associated with Plan Puebla Panama (PPP), a development project in Central America announced in 2001 by then Mexican president Vicente Fox. Made up of roads, dams and other large-scale infrastructure projects, the PPP is displacing indigenous people, furthering environmental destruction, and helping U.S. corporations externalize resistant cultures like the Zapatistas of Chiapas.

The road will use eminent domain to evict thousands from their homes and usurp property along the route, which has been met with resistance. Despite stalled construction due to said opposition, the funds have reportedly been raised by the state of Indiana, which will allow construction to continue next summer. In Indiana, however, where the road will evict 400 families from their farms and destroy 3,800 acres of forest and wetlands, radicals are working to defeat the highway by any means necessary. This past summer in Indiana, eco-activists made the road the focus of the annual Earth First! rendezvous. People from across the country congregated in the woods to discuss strategy for defending our planet at a rate the Roman Empire could only dream of. This infrastructure project is going to be met with a multi-faceted resistance that utilizes a diversity of tactics everyone can plug into. Planning to spend next summer on the couch or at the mall? In

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I-69: The Road That Was Never Meant To Be

NATO’s Plan to Promote Globalization

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As transnational capitalism expands its influence to every corner of the world, a new form of globalization is emerging: the globalization of liberation. From the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Chiapas, Mexico, to East Harlem where the Movement for Justice in El Barrio is bringing the fight to capitalist landlords.

The Movement for Justice is an organization of immigrants who work and live in El Barrio and are committed to fighting gentrification, a process best described by community organizer Tom Wetzel. “Upscale condos are erected, houses are rehabbed,” Wetzel said. “Rents rise as landlords realize they can attract professionals and business people as tenants. An area of ‘valuable city real estate’ is being cleansed of its working class residents.”

The Movement for Justice sees gentrification as intrinsically linked to the capitalist system. They work to make a space that is welcoming to women, immigrants, queer folks, people of color and people of low-income economic status. This, combined with a focus on community control of business and housing, has resulted in substantial support from both the people of East Harlem and progressives in New York City. In the tradition of groups like the Black Panthers or the Young Lords, the Movement for Justice is rallying the community around the demand for self-determination.

On October 21, the Movement for Justice will hold a dinner event called a “Encuentro for Dignity and Against Gentrification.” According to a press release, the organization defines Encuentro as “a space for people to come together. An Encuentro is a way of sharing developed by the Zapatistas as another form of doing politics: from below and to the left. It is a place where we can all speak, we will all listen, and we can all learn. It is a place where we can share the many different struggles that make us one.”

For more information, email movementforjusticeinelbarrio@yahoo.com