As Market Tumbles, Jobs May Crumble

University students face decrease in hours and layoffs

ASHLEY WANAMAKER STAFF WRITER

On February 19, President Bob Kerrey sent an open letter to The New School community, making the case that the university is mostly financially stable, despite a drop in the endowment and the worsen in recession. These are addressed in the letter, which is the future of student financial aid and work-study funding.

Even though Kerrey portrayed the state of student jobs as healthy; some students have said their hours have already been cut back, and others fear that they will soon face fewer hours or layoffs as the rest of the semester unfolds.

"It looked like my work study had run out and could not be extended," said the On Campus Student Employment fund had run out for my department," said Lang junior Samantha Paul. Paul said she worried about the security of her financial aid for weeks prior to Kerrey’s letter.

"I have been here for almost four years and I’ve never had the funding issue before," Paul added. After pleading with her department director, and Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Lisa Eveden, Paul was able to get additional funding and keep her job.

Eileen Doyle, Assistant Vice President for Student Financial Services, said that On Campus Student Employment (OCSE) has been funded as part of the financial aid programs, but is limited to\lineitem on line item on office budgets.

"This means that a department decides how it spends its budget," Doyle said. "There are fixed costs, and some that are more flexible."

Doyle added that work-study funding is less consistent and students can expect increased financial aid in fall of 2009, which Kerrey outlined in his letter.

This means students involved in work-study programs are safe from unemployment, but Doyle receiving OCSE may experience changes, due to decreased department budgets. "There has been a decrease in funding over the University so it is possible that various offices—academic and administrative—have fewer OCSE workers because of this," said Carol Cantrell, Senior Vice President for Human Resources and Labor Relations.

Despite the cutsbacks, Cantrell said that there have been no cuts to student workers that she has heard of. However Macriosa Garcia, MFA student at The New School for Social Research, said she has experienced the cutbacks directly. "My hours were cut back a bit in order to stay on budget," she said, of her job in the Social Science Department. Garcia said that although the cutbacks were unexpected, she sympathizes with the University’s decision because of the economy. "Everyone here was very open about the situation and I understood the need to cut back my hours," Garcia said.

In addition to the university’s increased funding of financial aid, Doyle said she expects to see further support from the stimulus bill. "The recent passage of the $787 billion stimulus bill is a good sign for our students’ financial aid security for the future," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Baghdad Off-Broadway

Zishan Ugurlu wants to bring the Iraq War to New York City.

"I'm directing a production of Baghdad Bath," a play written by Jawad Al-Assadi, an activist known for his struggle in the freedom of thought and cultural expression in the Middle East.

"I really wanted to do something about the war," Ugurlu said. "But I didn't want an angry play or cliché war stuff. When I read the play, I fell in love with it and I pulled all the strings to make it happen."

Ugurlu is the Assistant Professor in Theater at Eugene Lang College and artistic director of Lang productions. She is also a resident actress and director at La MaMa E.T.C. (74F E. 4th St.), and a recipient of the Fox Foundation Actor Fellowship. Baghdad Bath tells the stories of two brothers who work as bus drivers on a route between Baghdad and Damascus. The brothers find themselves in the intimate setting of a Turkish steam room where they share their experiences during Saddam Hussein’s regime as well as the U.S. occupation.

There have been several stage readings of Baghdad Bath in the U.S., but never a full production. "When I presented the play, Al-Assad was curious as to why she was interested," she said. "I want to share the idea that when we watch the pain of others, we watch from the safe side," she added. "Images and stories from the media create the false illusion that we understand the pain of others."

Ugurlu tries to always work with controversial plays or playwrights to create awareness, which, in this case, is the reality of war. Al-Assad didn’t only give the okay, but said he wanted to come and see the production for himself. He was scheduled to travel to the U.S. from his home in Beirut, to see the production and speak at CUNY, but unfortunately the U.S. government has yet to approve his visa. Jawad Al-Assadi has lived outside Iraq for over 25 years. He died Iraq when Saddam Hussein was in power and returned only for a brief period after the U.S. occupation, thinking that he would find a more hospitable situation. During that time, he founded the Gilgamesh Arts Center but it failed—audiences were afraid to go to the theaters because of the threat of violence in the streets. After witnessing the horrors of war in Iraq, he moved to Beirut, where he’s lived since.

Though Al-Assadi was able to get out of Iraq, he couldn’t...
Getting Back to Business

Journalists often say that if neither “side” stands up entirely satisfied with your story, you’ve done your job. By that standard, the New-School Free Press has had a banner year. Still, when someone is quoted out of your work—for example, remove and destroy 3,000 copies of your newspaper, something is obviously wrong.

The question is whether we erred in publishing certain details about the student group New School Free Press in the article “Resign or Else!” in Issue 3. I’ve spent endless hours of the past two weeks—much to the detriment of my senior year—meeting with members of the staff involved with the story, going through their accounts of what happened, and talking with the families of journalists who advise us on these matters.

Based on these conversations, I’ve come to a couple of conclusions. First, we printed the name of an NSIE member who was quite outspoken at a public meeting it hosted himself with a series of false names. Contrary to one of the assertions made at the time, we don’t have a “firm policy against anonymity”—while we generally won’t print unsigned or unidentified letters, we do make exceptions in the case of information gathered from confidential sources. He spoke on the record under a series of fake names, and when we found out his real name he wanted to change the terms of the interviews at the eleventh hour—terms that should have been clarified more concretely by both the reporter and the subject before the interview even began.

Second, our article didn’t rely on any information from “off-the-record” meetings or conversations. When an individual announces herself as a reporter and takes out your work at a public meeting, she is presumptively entitled to print what she hears, and that’s what happened in this case. We reported on an NSIE meeting on February 1 and quoted from a drafted statement which was e-mailed to a reporter, but honored a request not to report on the meeting of February 8.

There was no malicious intent on our part, or any desire to “take down” a student organization.

As of press time, a rapprochement between the NSFP and some members of the NSIE seems to have begun. That’s good news because there are plenty of more substantive issues to cover out there—better ways for all of us to be spending our time. There’s the matter of student space, for instance, which was promised to us after the occupation last semester and hasn’t the move has been deleted and the larger questions of administrative and financial transparency, and shared governance, which hang in the balance.

—Elisabeth Garber-Paul

letters to the editor

RE: Issue 10
In the last issue, Elisabeth Garber-Paul, Kevin Dugan, and Ryan Quigley all harped on the idea of wanting to remain anonymous on political statements. Let’s focus on the main editorial for starters.

“Some commentists insist on anonymity...[saying] that their [sic] not willing to take ownership of their beliefs.” By suggesting that the high horse, but look: people say controversial things, then get unjustly singled out and harassed for it. It’s not a conspiracy theory. It happens. Here, besides, it’s really so hard for you guys to grasp the notion that what’s important is what is said, not who said it?”

“Abbie Hoffman never gave a fake name,” Abbie Hoffman was forced to go underground for years and eventually killed himself. Choose your analogies with care.

“Please don’t. Stop.”

“I agree the Free Press’ editorialist called in the police and had a roster of everyone who has played a part, or any desire to “take down” a student organization.

SEAN ELDER, ANDREW MEIER, SARAH LAZARO MEDINA, COREY MULLEE, RYAN PAUL, KIRSTINA MONLO'S, SAMANTHA PAUL, KEVIN DUGAN, AND ROBB MAYNARD.

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Spécial thanks to Ryan Douglass for Design Assistance

The New School Free Press

New York, NY 10011

March 9, 2009

EDITORIAL

To see the NSFP letter with an grievence policy along with our bylaws, Please visit:

thenewschool.org/nsfp

NSFP Crossword

By Kate Halsenman

Across
1. Faded over (5,5)
2. Gallaghers’ band
genre (5,5)
3. NS office
game dranen sloed
down (5,5)
4. Failed to
class skippers
5. Genetic instruction
6. Courtoiside cheer
7. Saef’s campaign
8. Easy-Bake
9. Campaign
10. Model Kate
11. Cheap event
12. “Fris T”
13. 60’s
14. Three-screw gun
15. Ref.
16. 503
17. 46 P.R.
18. Dom

Down
19. Central B.ta
20. “The Sponge
21. “We’ll meet the—”
22. Zaphod Beeblebrox
23. To take task
24. Po Pimp” rap group
25. Sacred Hindu text
26. Time zone
27. Subtitle ext.
28. Errand runner
29. Boyfriend
30. 3 sickness
31. Sheltered
32. The Smiths’ guitar
33. 42
34. Pretend

Solutions for the New School Free Press crossword puzzle may be sent to newsschoolfree@newschool.edu or dropped off at The New School Free Press office located on the lower floor of 33 West 13th Street.

The Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not of The New School Free Press. Please send any letters, art, or photo contributions to the attention of the managing editor. The New School Free Press does not publish unsigned letters; Letters & submissions will be edited for length and clarity. The New School Free Press Is not responsible for unsolicited letters or submissions.
It's Evolution Baby
Lang freshman Matt LaClair defends his views
MISHA BEISER REPORTER

Lang freshman Matthew LaClair entered high school as a 15-year-old freshman in New Jersey. After influential experiences during his Kearney High School career, he now speaks frequently across the country and internationally about educational integrity and religious proselytizing in schools. LaClair also panels discuss over morality and religion, fueling his passion for broadcast journalism and law.

LaClair's junior year commenced on the Wednesday of September 11 with a long speech given by the New York City Mayor. He was soon asked to publicly speak about his experience, and now has talked on multiple times, LaClair has talked on national radio shows, the story has been covered the story multiple times, LaClair has talked on National Public Radio, and he was interviewed by CNN's Anderson Cooper.

"I was motivated on a personal level by unanimous support from outside our town," said LaClair. He was asked to publicly speak about his experience and now has made a career out of speaking and paneling discussions while going to the New School.

LaClair then discovered extreme bias and false comparisons in his senior government textbook. He went after the authors and publishing company with wide support, but no change has been made yet. His teacher continued to deny everything in a final board meeting late in the 2006 spring semester, but an agreement was made to have three speakers come to his school to talk about separation of church and state. “I set up a framework for students to report what might offend them,” said LaClair. This was seen in the Student Education Assembly on Religious Freedom, in which the speakers came to his school, and the education system now has a reference for their rights and responsibilities.

It is not that everyone outside Kearney sees the injustice of his teacher's actions and has supported him. LaClair's story, he met immediate talk over each other. “We are merely..." said LaClair. “I learned so much about how..." LaClair in all he’s done. Letters of support from a warning to arrest. "The aim is to have all the students of The New School be able to voice their desires, to voice their needs," said Jacob Blumenfeld, NSSR student and NSSIE member. "There's an effort to reach out to students, and that's why Parsons is important."

Mary Grace Stiffgramm, a Parsons senior freshmen for the year, said that although some Parsons students are sympathetic to their cause, others could feel alienated by the group's tactics. "We need to figure out a way that works for the students, not against them," she said, referring to Par- sons students who have complete final work because all campus buildings were closed during the December occupation, which had been spearheaded in academic quality, and the lack of student space, student representation on the board of trustees, and financial disclosure.

The events were part of an ongoing campaign to increase student participation in the NSIE and build momentum going into the April 1 deadline, when NSIE representatives have said they will "shut down the university." Roughly twenty students attended each meeting, but many outstanding comments from students have been made.

Kerrey’s office. "There is no one master plan for April 1," said Jacob Blumenfeld, NSSR student and NSSIE member, "but a thousand secret plans."

On the weekend of February 27, 2009, concerned, young Americans from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C. to take part in the largest gathering of citizens fighting for a clean energy future in the United States history, ending with a peaceful protest on March 2. People came to discern, learn and find solutions to global and local environmental issues. They also came to lobby for jobs and bold climate legislation as well as to protest against plants around the United States. This gathering was a significant moment in the beginning of a new era of clean energy and social justice. "Let us not waste this oppor- tunity. It was a key moment that has empow- ered us and set us ready to go back to our campuses and our communities with the love that we felt this time..." said Van Jones during his speech. He went on and said, "the love that we felt this time was a par- ticularly sensitive to social issues. It is the love that we felt for each other, for our planet, and the love for our people that all brought us to Power Shift and as Van Jones said it is this love that will give us the power to fight for our future, to fight for the future of our children and our planet."

With the Copenhagen Climate Congress coming up soon, it was a perfect moment to unite and coordinate our efforts to make sure the movement grows and has our voices heard in Washington. Some people perhaps have not realized that our generation really does care and is committed to justice. We need to ensure that our issues are not just a key moment that has empowered us and set us ready to go back home with new ideas and a firm motivation to make our community a place where justice stands.
Mannes Student Sings her Way to the Top

On Sunday February 22, Mannes student Nadine Sierra was one of four victorious competitors in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Grand Finals Concert, one of the highest regarded competitions of its kind internationally. Sierra is the first Mannes student to be enrolled in the college to win since 1969.

Nadine Sierra said, "It was a wonderful experience it is for Nadine not only to sing on the legendary stage of the Metropolitan Opera," said Joel Lester, Mannes Dean, "but also to win one of the signal awards in the field of opera." Sierra won $15,000 and the opportunity to perform with the Metropolitan Opera on the opera house stage before critics, directors and executives. Auditions are held annually in 15 regions of the US and Canada and are designed to discover promising young opera singers and to aid in the development of their careers. The auditions are considered the most prestigious in North America. Sierra was one of nearly 1800 competitors.

"I tried to look at the audition as a window of opportunity, not a competition," she said about her preparation for the audition. "My primary goal was never to win, but to sing on the Metropolitan Opera stage for the semi-finals." "I think that's how I got through this with feeling very nervous or anxious about the end result," she added in comment.

Sierra said that preparing for the auditions was a scrupulous task. "Big competitions like this have to be approached in the right way, mentally as well as vocally," she said. "I had to prepare myself to sing in four different rounds with five arias on my repertoire list," she added.

Sierra began studying vocal performance at Mannes in 2006 after being recommended to work with Ruth Falcon, a vocal teacher at Mannes and Sierra's current teacher. "I agreed to take a lesson just to try it out, and I fell in love with her teaching techniques," she said. "Coming to Mannes has been the best decision I ever made." "I had a great victory at the Met, Sierra said she has received endless e-mails in regards to her future as an opera singer. "I have answered over seventy e-mails in two days!" One of those e-mails was an invitation into the Lindemann Young Artist Program at the Met after I graduate," she said. The LYAP would assist her with training and future performance opportunities at the Met.

Sierra plans on spending the $15,000 cash prize, "I am planning to travel to Florence, Italy," she said. "I want to stay there for at least four to six weeks." "Of course, it's Nadine's success that we celebrate," Lester said. "But we hope it also brings continuing attention to the wonderful voice and opera programs at Mannes." Looking forward, Sierra hopes that the attention she will bring about more opportunities. "I have dreamt of being an opera singer for a long time and now it is finally becoming a reality," she said. "I hope it lasts forever!"

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Provost Finally Appointed
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
School for Social Research; and Jay Bernstein, Philosophy Chair at The New School for Social Research; and Appadurai.

"Arguing that the community's opinions over the bike lane should be considered due to women's clothing. The City's plan eliminated approximately 300 parking spaces, including spaces next to the legislature's parking lots. Pilates is so expensive that "all the international businesses don't tolerate it," Pingeon said. Unfortunately, Pingeon said, "it's really hard to buy their energy at a rate that fluctuates according to the season." (During the 2007 sectarian civil war, Pingeon was hired by the Defense Department to participate in a private sector task force that sought to prevent violence by enticing international companies away.)

"It's exactly what a provost's office should have: the authority to make the key academic decisions."

"The approval of the minimum requirements document is a job achievement. It is a significant point in the history of this institution," Marsh said.

"The minimum requirements agreement marks a break from the governance style of the present administration, which many of Kerrey's critics view as top-down and bureaucratic," said Appadurai.

"President Kerrey's open and exploratory approach to the contentious business of academic values is in the best interest of the University," said Pingeon. "It's impossible to work with him." In regards to the stipulations of the controversial requirements document, Kerrey said, "I hope to begin a process that will restore faculty and student confidence in governance of the institution," said Marsh. "The question is how to do that."

"Tim is a fierce thinking, very analytical," Travis added. "He is very good at breaking complicated ideas into simple truths. Tim is also very funny, which makes him easy to get along with."

"I'm collaboratively creative and passionate about his work. He is one of the most self-revealing people I know. Quick to learn, respectful of a diversity of views, and passionate about his work. He is the best."

"I'm happy to be on this board," said Kerrey. "I'm also confident that L-3 Communications, we decided to interview someone who could explain what non-military contracting looks like."

"Robert Pingeon, former lobbyist and ex-chair of the Republican committee and any notori- ous boondoggles, like that of Par- sons Global, whose negligence due to rampant subcontracting, produced hospitals with such severe architectural defects, that sewage seeped everywhere. One of his cli- ents, for example, managed their Iraqi subcontractors from their French headquarters via closed-circuit television. In any event, conditions set Pingeon up as the intermediary between big firms and local tribal leaders who could vouch for their workers' technical competence while ensuring security and protection for projects and workers. But there was a line that Pingeon could not cross. Iraqi businessmen, he explained, "are afraid that no one will believe they don't have process and they don't have a lot of procedure—they have to do something to pay for the costs."

"More fundamental (and positive) change has occurred at Parsons, in technology at Parsons, and its special place in the world of architecture."

"Without such a clear and explict message, no provost at The New School could make a difference."

"I also think that the city needs to increase institutional financial aid by nearly $9 million to help students in meeting their educational expenses," said Kerrey. In addition, Kerrey said The New School has paired with Quarterbridge, a non-profit organization that offers full-four-year scholarships to low-income Parsons students.

"Increased support for work-study programs seems to secure socially current employed students, but Garcia suggested that OCSE students should be prepared for part-time jobs. "I was already looking for more permanent employment, so it's a bad change," said Garcia, who works for the Department of So- cial Sciences. "I'm currently in a graduate program, so the extra time to study and write has really helped out. But I do pay attention to my spending much more now."
ARTS & CULTURE

Screaming for (Vegan) Ice Cream

JORDAN KATZ REPORTER

Whether you have demonized dairy (a vegan) or it gives you diarrhea (a lactard), there is hope that you can once again add ice cream to your limited diet. Stogo (145 2nd Ave. entrance on East 10th between Second and Third Aves) is non-dairy, which means it won’t violate your ethics or give you a tummy ache. It’s a sweet dairy-free alternative to Sun Dancers and Cones or Ben and Jerry’s. “Vegan products are dreadful,” says Rob Sedgwick, one of the founders and owner of Stogo. Sedgwick and his business partner Steve Horn wanted to create deli’s, and even though it’s as bland as a plate of black beans or rice at the Big Enchilada (28 E. 12th St.) and three falafel balls for a dollar at University Pita (21 E. 12th St.). For those willing to risk the treacherous journey on the L-train, Oasis (161 N. 7th St.) in Williamsburg features five falafel balls for a buck. Those New Yorkers who can get off the whole “triple-organic, fair trade, vegan/firegan/whatevers” trip will have the most luck in this quest, because the fast food industry has jumped on the “dollar foods” revolution like it jumped on the childhood obesity epidemic. Here’s the rundown: Taco Bell on 14th Street has a veritable smorgasbord of foods under $1, with multiple burritos and tacos to choose from, all clocking in under 59 cents (I recommend the beef and potato burrito). KFC’s $1 Buffalo Chicken “Snackers” are a pretty solid bet as well. Of course, McDonalds and Burger King can hook you up with some cheeseburgers or apple pies from their dollar menu, but experience has proven Wendy’s to have the best selection of items from spicy chicken wraps, to nuggets, to fries and sodas. Most importantly, the 61 Jr. Bacon Cheeseburger is unbeatable, especially in comparison to White Castle’s insignificant 79 cent Sliders. The dollar-diet can get you by for a surprisingly long while, as long as you show down an apple or two to keep your digestive system from total collapse. There’s no reason to let New York’s snotty restaurant scene sneeze out of your wallet for inedible table scraps. Keep ‘em in check and make those dollars count.

Recession Ingestion
Where to score cheap food in NYC

MAX GUINN REPORTER

If you’re gonna live low, you gotta be in the know. You’ve been there: get out of class, craving a bite to eat in a hurry, but you shake out your crusty jeans for cash and all you find are a couple of loose nickels and dimes. What’s a dude to do? Well, if you can scrape up 99 cents from the laundromat, or nab a manly dog, and hit the change circuit for a minute or two, you’re golden, because all around the Village are opportunities for the venturing down-and-outer to get grub for just a dollar. So check between the cushions, and find some change you can believe in.

Your first stop on this mission is of course Two Bros. Pizza (599 Sixth Ave., off 11th Street) where the dollar slices flow like wine, and the lunch special ($2.75 for two slices and a can of soda) is definitely going to put “Famous Ray” on the fast-food map. The pizza is mediocre, but with a Dommie-like consistency, it’s a comfort to know you’ll get the same piping hot, plastic slice every time. For a comparable dollar slice, but without the brand recognition, be sure to try the Gourmet Pizza Villa (509 Sixth Ave., at 14th Street) which is a little closer to home. Now its time to get ethic, and expand into the area of Chinese foods. If you’re heading downtown, Chinatown has a collection of Dollar Dumpling joints, which are sure to please, and with $1 white rice a staple of most Chinese food establishments, maybe China can get us through the recession after all. Most cheap deli-style bagel boutiques like The Giant Bagel Shop (120 University Pl., off 11th Street) or Bagel Buffet (510 Sixth Ave. off 11th Street) will offer you a bagel with butter or cream cheese for one bone. The basic buttered roll is also an option at most Manhattan deli’s, and even though it’s as bland as a Coldplay record, it’ll get you by for an afternoon.

There’s a nice little setup on 12th Street where you can get a selection of moderately priced items like a plate of black beans or rice at the Big Enchilada (28 E. 12th St.) and three falafel balls for a dollar at University Pita (21 E. 12th St.). For those willing to risk the sensational journey on the L-train, Oasis (161 N. 7th St.) in Williamsburg features five falafel balls for a buck. Those New Yorkers who can get off the whole "triple-organic, fair trade, vegan/firegan/whatevers" trip will have the most luck in this quest, because the fast food industry has jumped on the “dollar foods” revolution like it jumped on the childhood obesity epidemic. Here’s the rundown: Taco Bell on 14th Street has a veritable smorgasbord of foods under $1, with multiple burritos and tacos to choose from, all clocking in under 59 cents (I recommend the beef and potato burrito). KFC’s $1 Buffalo Chicken “Snackers” are a pretty solid bet as well. Of course, McDonalds and Burger King can hook you up with some cheeseburgers or apple pies from their dollar menu, but experience has proven Wendy’s to have the best selection of items from spicy chicken wraps, to nuggets, to fries and sodas. Most importantly, the 61 Jr. Bacon Cheeseburger is unbeatable, especially in comparison to White Castle’s insignificant 79 cent Sliders. The dollar-diet can get you by for a surprisingly long while, as long as you show down an apple or two to keep your digestive system from total collapse. There’s no reason to let New York’s snotty restaurant scene sneeze out of your wallet for inedible table scraps. Keep ‘em in check and make those dollars count.
As Hollywood continues to turn to superheroes for inspiration for its next blockbusters, Marvel and DC keep close to those same iconic characters month after month. Unfortunately, corporate comics have long left publishers from the same problem that has strained television: artistic incoherence.

It’s not just aesthetic concerns that keep the average reader away from corporate comics, but also the overly complex plot lines with a deluge of enemies satisfying. (See DC’s Injustice: Gods Among Us for an example of the pains that are taken to fix continuity problems—the follow-up went on for 25 weeks!) So it’s refreshing when a belliciant writer like Neil Gaiman is allowed free reigns with a super hero for a couple of issues. In Whatever Happened to the Caged Crusader? Gaiman recreates the events surrounding the “death” of a villain from Batman’s various perspectives. The story concludes on April 15 when Detective Comics #853 arrives in stores. In part one, Batman #486, it abounds in interest, leaving readers wanting more. Is that a sign that Gaiman isn’t about to beFIXED or perhaps signalling vengeful menace—he’s a mystery is all.

Outside of a few anomalies like Ed Brubaker’s gripping crime book Inconscience, an ex-super-pervillain in the Witness Protection Program, there’s little reason to bother with the corporate comic scene. And at $3.99 an issue (as opposed to $2 or 80 cents a year, it’s hard to afford a court. The number of issues one has to buy just to keep up with a single storyline can be overwhelmingly.

There is a whole comic world outside of the corporate realm, however: Creator-produced work can be just as action packed as the men-in-tights books: Jeff Smith, of Bone fame, launched his new series RASL, chronicling a dimension-traveling art thief under heat from a lizard-faced assassin. The plot may prove to be too outlandish for its own good, but for now it remains an invigorating read.

A pig going “oink.”

Fantagraphics’ anthology MOMIX is perfect for someone new to contemporary comics. Each issue is brimming with eccentricity, featur- ing artists new and old. The winter 2009 issue includes the first significa-
tive work from Gilbert Shelton, of The Fabulous Furry Freak Brother-
s fame, in 20 years. The new work, Last Gig in Shnagrlig, in-
volves the story of the worst band in the world and how they’re hired by the U.S. government to prove an overseas ‘incident’ and, hope-
fully, a war. His work is character-
istic of the alternative comic boom of the 1970’s—represented most archly by the transverse art of R. Crumb—and is unrelent-
ing in its satire and grossness.

Some of the most beautiful and arresting comic books go completely unnoticed in such a large sea of work. Mike Curnoe recently re-
collected Paradis (with fire-
works) is visually stunning in its portrayal of rural bikers that decimated a family in 1920s Italy. The lush and stylized book is one of its strongest features, and it’s unfortunate that it got swept under the rug by so many other books. Image. Selling only 799 copies in its first month of release, Ca-
va probably means the book is just waiting to find a larger audience.

But the most striking book of all must be the recently released Baloney. A Tale In 3 Si-
mpathetic Comics by Pascal Blanchet. Its art de
cor style and anti-mus-
cial allusions create a dreamy atmosphere that is as bitter as it is sweet. The tale involves a vil-
lage butcher in Russia and his daughter—who’s lost a leg, arm, and arse—how as they struggle to live in a world where the sun is permanently blocked out by the self-obsessed Duke Shota-
kov. The delightful typographical layout reminds one that, when you’re talking about an animal pro%
totype traditional pieces with the周边

Theatricality of the Jewel is key. Like some blood-borne ill-
fections, this comic book is morbid and repel-
ning than ever. Though Hollywood would like to think that the magic of comics rests in their cinem
al qualities, you’ll never get that same magic on the screen. In a...
In the past, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs were cool. Lead singer Karen O made their live shows infamous by getting wasted, wearing skimpy, outrageous outfits, and pouring beer all over herself as she growled her way through songs about sex, drugs, and heartbreak. After reaching mainstream success with their tearjerker hipster anthem, “Maps,” they released the obligatory dark follow-up album, Show Your Bones. Gone was the frenetic energy that had made them so memorable. In its place were drab, albeit beautiful, odes to the downside of fame. Predictably, the members disbanded after touring and dabbled in solo projects, pawning an uncertain future for the band. After a lengthy absence, the YY’s have reemerged, offering up their third full-length album, It’s Blitz!, ensuring the public that it may be 2009 but the YY’s are still f**king cool.

The album opens up with the synth-charged dance tracks, “Zero” and “Heads Will Roll Will.” The songs are evocative of their older material, dripping with attitude and the YY’s Oyster’s Oyster’s lyrics tell us like, “Off with your head, dance till you’re dead!” One crucial change, however, is the absence of a guitar. In favor of synthesizers, a move that is implemented throughout most of the album. The exclusion of guitars on a YY’s record can be seen as a bold move and overall, it works favorably to the band’s advantage. The swinging beats at the start of the album could easily be told just through their movement. West Side Story is the most anticipated release of the year, and it may well be the best, so take advantage of the rush lottery and try to get a ticket to see them perform. Karen O will be seen all over them. —Ryan O’Connell, Reporter

**THEATER**

*West Side Story*  
Dir. Arthur Laurents

For the first time in 29 years, West Side Story is back on Broadway. One of the most beloved American musicals, West Side Story is a retelling of Shakespeare’s classic, *Romeo and Juliet*, in 1950’s Hell’s Kitchen. This new production is being directed by the original librettist of the musical, 90-year-old Arthur Laurents. Laurents is fresh off the success of his Tony award winning musical of *Gypsy* last year and he has another, even greater hit on his hands this time around. In order to update the play and make it more authentic for modern audiences, Laurents enlisted Lin-Manuel Miranda, the author and star of last year’s Tony-winning barrio musical *In the Heights*, to translate the play’s songs and dialogue into Spanish. This new production also boasts a bright young cast of relative newcomers. The standout in the cast are the two female leads, Josefin Scaglione as Maria and Karen Olovo as Vanessa, Scaglione, who has previously only worked in her native Argentina, is making her Broadway debut on American theater. She’s a classically trained soprano, and her vocals are one of the highlights of the production. Karen Olovo, previously best known for her role as Vanessa in *In the Heights*, shines as Anita. Her electrifying rendition of America earners her a place in the canon of great performers who’ve portrayed Anita (Rita Moreno and Chita Ri vera). The beautiful re-staging of the original Jerome Robbins choreography by Joey McKneely will mesmerize audiences. The swing ing teens at the school and the leaping, braiding gangsters dance with such force and precision that you could easily be told just through their movement. West Side Story is the most anticipated release of the year, and it may well be the best, so take advantage of the rush lottery and try to get a ticket to see them perform. —Charlie Levendig, Reporter

West Side Story is currently in previews at The Palace Theater at 1564 46th Street. It officially opens on March 19. A lottery for $26-25 tickets will be held two hours prior to each perfor mance. Names will be drawn at random for the seats, which are situated in the orchestra’s first row. There is a limit of five tickets per person, lottery tickets are each only.

**BOOKS**

*Revenge of the Teacher’s Pet,*  
By Darren Doyle

Darrin Doyle’s Revenge of the Teacher’s Pet is a novel that pokes the messy, unglamorous, and overall repulsive aspects of life. The couple in question are Mary Ann and Dale Portwitz, middle-aged elementary school teachers who meet late in life. After spending most of their lives apart and sad, Mary Ann is an overweight woman of 40, has no self-esteem, and is easily swept off her feet by the airheaded and boy-crazy Darrin Doyle, a would-be science teacher who fancies himself a genius. They go out to Char lee’s Crab Shack where Mr. Portwitz orders for Mary Ann and tells her, “You look beautiful when you chew.” This is expanded into food sex scenes which are graphic—and a little bit difficult to get through. The plot is significantly heightened by aids and insights into Mary Ann and Mr. Portwitz’s pasts, which reveals much about the history of their relationship and why they are brought together. The book is filled with vulgarity, sex, and violence. It is a must-read book for anyone who enjoys reading about sex and violence.

**FILM**

*Miss March*  
Dir. Zach Cregger  
Dir. Trevor Moore

Are you still trying to shed the pesky holiday pounds that are preventing you from spending a b jelly belly? Summer in New York is mers you throw those high school days in which too much weed, wild hormones, and overall tastelessness helped you go through your terrible twenties? Do you think your liberal arts education is overwhelming, unglamorous, and overall repulsive aspects of life. The couple in question are Mary Ann and Dale Portwitz, middle-aged elementary school teachers who meet late in life. After spending most of their lives apart and sad, Mary Ann is an overweight woman of 40, has no self-esteem, and is easily swept off her feet by the airheaded and boy-crazy Darrin Doyle, a would-be science teacher who fancies himself a genius. They go out to Charlie’s Crab Shack where Mr. Portwitz orders for Mary Ann and tells her, “You look beautiful when you chew.” This is expanded into food sex scenes which are graphic—and a little bit difficult to get through. The plot is significantly heightened by aids and insights into Mary Ann and Mr. Portwitz’s pasts, which reveals much about the history of their relationship and why they are brought together. The book is filled with vulgarity, sex, and violence. It is a must-read book for anyone who enjoys reading about sex and violence.

**SPECIAL REPORT**

*SuperSense*  
New School Free Press

In a related story, Baby, we've got Daft Punk agree to do soundtrack for *Tron 2.* Arrested Development was cool. Lead singer Karen O made their live shows infamous by getting wasted, wearing skimpy, outrageous outfits, and pouring beer all over herself as she growled her way through songs about sex, drugs, and heartbreak. After reaching mainstream success with their tearjerker hipster anthem, “Maps,” they released the obligatory dark follow-up album, Show Your Bones. Gone was the frenetic energy that had made them so memorable. In its place were drab, albeit beautiful, odes to the downside of fame. Predictably, the members disbanded after touring and dabbled in solo projects, pawning an uncertain future for the band. After a lengthy absence, the YY’s have reemerged, offering up their third full-length album, It’s Blitz!, ensuring the public that it may be 2009 but the YY’s are still f**king cool.

The album opens up with the synth-charged dance tracks, “Zero” and “Heads Will Roll Will.” The songs are evocative of their older material, dripping with attitude and the YY’s Oyster’s Oyster’s lyrics tell us like, “Off with your head, dance till you’re dead!” One crucial change, however, is the absence of a guitar. In favor of synthesizers, a move that is implemented throughout most of the album. The exclusion of guitars on a YY’s record can be seen as a bold pitter to swallow at first but overall, it works favorably to diversify their sound. Songs like “Runaway” and “Skeletos” exceed five minutes in length and exhibit a layered and rich sound. The music starts off with either a simple piano or a drumbeat and climaxes into a beautiful explosion of sound.

Tracks like “Shame Fortune and Dull Life” show glimmers of their raw rock n’ roll energy, whipping out the guitars and saucy vocals. However, the sound feels restrained, not allowing the YY’s to fully cut loose the way we know they are capable. It’s Blitz’s is the sound of a band that has grown up. Instead of getting drunk and writing off stages, Karen O is probably drinking tea and is in bed by midnight. But that’s okay. The sound of a new album shows, a more mature and adult YY’s is not necessarily a bad thing. The band has grown that they have many tricks up their sleeves. Let’s hope they stick around long enough to see them all of them. —Ryan O’Connell, Reporter

**THEATER**

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For the first time in 29 years, West Side Story is back on Broadway. One of the most beloved American musicals, West Side Story is a retelling of Shakespeare’s classic, *Romeo and Juliet*, in 1950’s Hell’s Kitchen. This new production is being directed by the original librettist of the musical, 90-year-old Arthur Laurents. Laurents is fresh off the success of his Tony award winning musical of *Gypsy* last year and he has another, even greater hit on his hands this time around. In order to update the play and make it more authentic for modern audiences, Laurents enlisted Lin-Manuel Miranda, the author and star of last year’s Tony-winning barrio musical *In the Heights*, to translate the play’s songs and dialogue into Spanish. This new production also boasts a bright young cast of relative newcomers. The standout in the cast are the two female leads, Josefin Scaglione as Maria and Karen Olovo as Vanessa, Scaglione, who has previously only worked in her native Argentina, is making her Broadway debut on American theater. She’s a classically trained soprano, and her vocals are one of the highlights of the production. Karen Olovo, previously best known for her role as Vanessa in *In the Heights*, shines as Anita. Her electrifying rendition of America...
On February 28, I snowboarded for my first time, and although my backside was bruised for two to three days afterward, it was surely a worthwhile experience.

I joined 30 other New School students and the head of the recreation department, Michael McQuarrie, in an escape from the City, we traveled in a bus to the Butternut Ski Resort in Massachusetts. For only $850, almost everything was included: rentals, lifts, and first-class bus ride.

On the way up, students talked in anticipation. I sat next to Garret Hurley, a photographer for the NSFP, he grew up in Colorado where he snowboarded often. He was to be my teacher for the day. As we neared the resort, students exchanged stories “Last time my friend skied, he ended up breaking his entire shoulder.” Overhearing this particular one, I felt uneasy.

On arrival, I was greeted by Garret, who kindly waited. He taught me the method of “falling leaf”, where Ikept both feet even and not one in front of the other; this helped my balance and allowed me to control the speed. I would glide left to right, with my weight on my heels in order to slow pace. I spent most of the day on Nut Hatch, the easiest of the routes.

When I got hungry I ate at the cafeteria with other New School students. Some were experienced skiers and boarders, others were not. All seemed to be enjoying themselves. Toward the end of the trip, Garret, a senior, BAPA student at Lang College, Together, we debated over the track routes to board. I wanted to stay on Nut Hatch for fear of hurting myself. “Don’t be such a pussy,” laughed Anna.

After hearing her out, I decided to try the Applejack. One that was more difficult than the Nut Hatch, but I ended up doing well. Even Anna said so.

After apologizing, I tried catching up to Garret, who kindly waited. He taught me the method of “falling leaf”, where I kept both feet even and not one in front of the other; this helped my balance and allowed me to control the speed. I would glide left to right, with my weight on my heels in order to slow pace. I spent most of the day on Nut Hatch, the easiest route of the slopes.

At 11:40 on a typical morning, the Courtyard is packed with students, standing in conversation pods and smoking. One would be hard-pressed to find a route through that did not place him within shoulder-brushing distance of a lit cigarette. The last time many of these students exercised was high school gym class. Is The New School more attractive to cigarette smokers than to any other group of smoking athletes?

Non-smoking adversaries would have you believe that smoking negates one’s ability to do physical activity. Their assertion is that smoking cigarettes causes instantaneous death. Non-smoking public service campaigns focus primarily on scaring smokers straight with either an elaborate stunt or a sad older person with no vocal chords. On the other hand, advertisements for cigarettes don’t feature a star athlete lighting up a smoke, nor the food delivery man who smokes while he bicycled to your house. Smoking and exercise are treated as polar opposite ideologies. Don’t believe it, smoker. I’m writing to tell you that you can have it all.

As an example one Lang student’s current situation. She’s a smoker and she decided to take running up to you, know, be healthier. A friend then asked her, “Well, are you going to quit smoking?” She was taken aback. “Of course not,” she said. She hasn’t even considered it.

She has been running pretty reg- uilarly for a few months. She wakes up at around 6:30 a.m. and is out the door by 7 or three times a week. She turns the music up as she goes down her stairs and out the door. “I hate being alone, I love being in the fresh air.” She runs for a half hour, or little bit more than two miles. Running is challenging. With every step forward she has to convince herself to keep running. She becomes out of breath and a little bit light-headed, but she knows that she has the power to keep going. She’s doing something good for herself and often times it feels terrible, but she has all the equipment she needs, and she does have a great support mem- bership.

She has noticed herself getting stronger as she runs more. She’s also able to run farther now than when she started. Smoking cigarettes might be preventing her from reaching her full athletic potential, but she’s really not trying to be the best or the fast- est, and since she decides to smoke, she doesn’t know what this running thing would be like without cigarettes. She dreams one day to train for a road race. She wants to get an entry into a company. She’ll run in a course in a flashy spandex cigarette outfit and when she runs by people will say, “Hey! That cigarette girl!” I feel better about my own choice? Why not?

She is sweating when she gets back to her apartment after a run. Her heart rate has been raised and she feels accomplished. It’s great to have actually done some- thing before 7:30 a.m. She pours herself a cup of coffee and sits down at the kitchen table. As she sips, she lights up a ciga- rette and smokes it. She is doing both. You can too. Try running and smoking. It feels great to have it all.
Israel Is Not The Problem
Don't mix university issues with world politics

SANDRA FOX GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Anti-Israel sentiment has been a part of the lives of many friends of mine at other universities but now, with student protesting increasing and the recent war in Gaza, Israel has become an issue on NYU campuses. As one of the few openly pro-Israel students at The New School in Exile, I feel the need to explain why.

Student empowerment must unite us, not divide students like TBNYU did during with their occupation.

CHRIS CREWS GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

There are even more fun ways to protest. Make it into a playground where you can flush nooses you know will work! New, Used Nooses sells nooses you know you'll love!

Don't mix university issues with world politics
We sure as hell aren't gonna get jobs

HELEN BUYNYSKO STAFF WRITER

The economy is floating belly up and we’re so poor we can’t even pay attention. We can’t afford even the slightest alcohol and our drug deal- ers have stopped letting us buy on credit. We can’t go out to bars and no one has the money to throw house parties. I don’t even want to have a good time under these circum- stances. How can a group of at- tractively disaffected young people have fun when the cost of living is so high? Let’s, like, demand change or something.

Student activism has a long and noble history, but that’s irrelevant. Now, after several ’60s fashion revivals have come and gone, the protest revival is finally getting its due. Universities all over New York are rushing to snap up this season’s hottest causes. No matter who you are—rich or poor, social butterfly or wallflower, artist or accountant—finding a cause to protest is even easier than finding a matching out fit, and so much more rewarding. What’s not to love?

Protesting isn’t just cool—it’s free! And since everything from organ transplants to dark alleles has be- come safer since the sixties, bodily harm is a thing of the past! Demo- nstrators no longer have to worry about being shot by overzealous Na- tional Guard officers or tracked down by the FBI. True, some cam- pus security guards can seem im- posing, and tasers are scary, but my hope that NSIE does not follow Take Back NYU's lead and expand their demands outside of university issues

The protest revival is a fabulous opportunity for artists, too. Poets can realize their dreams as they give dramatic readings of their demands. Musicians can write catchy protest songs, and sing them over and over in the occupied caf- eterias. Even dancers can flourish in this environment, conducting cheerleading routines with poppy rhymes and exciting dance moves. If you can no longer afford your gym membership, protesting is a great way to burn off all those calo- ries.

Of course, you don’t have to be too visible in the protest revival to be chic. If spearheading a building occupation is the running, student strikes are the ready-to-wear of the new protest style. By refusing to attend classes, do homework, and otherwise behave academically, you are positively overflowing with soli- darity. Talk to the hand, Professor My-Tuition-Dollars-At-Wark! I’m making a difference! There are even more ways to protest. Make it into a playground game. If college has killed your inner child, a protest is the perfect occasion to let it out to play. A re- cent teach-in in the Lang courtyard had students learning how to form a “human chain,” standing in a solid line with arms linked, and this can only lead to one thing—Red rover, red rover, let Rob Kerrey come over!” After we found out the hard way that he doesn’t like dodgeball.
Some Mammal Species in Danger of Extinction

CAMPUS JOHNSON
ASSISTANT CONTRIBUTOR

Imagine every cheetah, ape, tiger, every mammal and animal you grew up watching on nature shows, suddenly disappeared. That day may soon become a reality. According to a study of Earth's 5,487 species of mammal, "Science" journal reported that at least one in four land species and one in three marine species are facing an unnatural and accelerated rate of extinction.

"Extinction is normal and natural," said Michael Hoffman, member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. "But what we are facing is a very rapid, accelerated rate of extinction happening right now that is very unnatural." The IUCN is the world's largest consortium of environmental organizations. Its members consist of 11,000 scientists from 160 nations.

Extinction continues to be exacerbated by human behavior. In South and Southeast Asia, deforestation and human expansion into wildlife habitats have left 79 percent of monkey and ape populations under attack or simply ignored. Mammals have fewer places to live, breed, hunt, and forage. Sybil Delmore, the chair of the World Wildlife Fund claims that 30 percent of all species are facing extinction. The threat of these mammals continues to diminish proportionally to the erosion of their natural habitat.

Critics often argue that this accelerating rate of extinction is not just bad for mammals but rather a process of natural evolution. According to a report from the National Academy Press, DNA taken from preserved hairs of two Tasmanian tigers does suggest that they were a species of marsupials to die off since decades ago.

However, most scientists agree that many of the processes that accelerated extinction are man made. We all have the power to reverse with proper attention given to protecting the environment and wildlife habitats. Though farmers now use better farming methods to produce foods, less environmentally friendly farming methods that damage and pollute land and sea are still standard practice. As a result, dolphin, dolphin, sea otters and elephant populations are in danger.

The corruption of the environment is destroying the beauty that's in this planet with other living forms. My 16-year-old daughter, Imani, who aspires to be a veterinarian, asked me the phone: "To reverse the damage we are doing, we must strengthen laws and have even more funding for wildlife reserves, increase captive breeding programs, and protect wildlife habitats and the environment." Other wise, nature channels will be the only places where a cheetah can be spotted.
Thirty aspiring designers from Parsons School of Design and Fashion Institute of Technology pushed for space in a cramped apartment at 6 p.m. on March 1. They frantically pinned their fashion creations to various student models in this last fitting before the 10th Annual Fusion Fashion Show. The Parsons, FIT, and NYU students who responded to open model calls looked spectacular in everything from bug-like futuristic gowns to neon one-shouldered tanks. “Crunching for time has been most challenging,” said Parsons sophomore Alex Sweterlitsch. Alex is one of 15 Parson students who will go head-to-head with 15 FIT designers on March 7 and 8 for Fusion’s Best Designer Award. Judges include Mary Kate Steinmiller from Teen Vogue and Horia Azoita from The New York Times Style Magazine. “I’m learning so much from the whole experience,” said sophomore Parsons designer Arielle Salkin whose “exoskeleton” collection is meant to arm a woman facing the battle of each day. “It’s defensive dressing inspired by medieval armor and spiked animals,” Salkin explained.

Last year’s Parsons winner, Sam Hyman, said she will show “ten pieces inspired by New York graffiti and street art.” Her clashing patterns and fun colors contrast greatly with designs by Eun Sol Lee. “Everyone is longing for fantasy,” explained Lee, whose lime green dress flips to reveal a rainbow bubble of traditional Korean fabric.

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There is much talent to look forward to from FIT as well. Second-year designer Maria Houck from Sao Paulo Brazil explained, “I was inspired by the Brazilian festival Bumba Meu Boi.” Her ribbon-based pieces explode with colors of a fiesta. “I am very passionate about how fashion relates to history and culture,” said Houck. Past competitors’ work has appeared in Vogue, America’s Next Top Model, and Women’s Wear Daily. With only a minute and a half to impress the five judges and audience, designers’ adrenaline will add to the intensity that makes 2009’s Fusion Show an event not to be missed.