Max Adler Remembered

BY CONNOR MOLLAY

Max Adler never spoke a word in his life, and yet was always able to communicate. Whether through a translator, his Sidekick or sign language, the Lang sophomore— who died in an accident on February 20—brought both a leader in classroom discussions and an active member of the debate team. Physical challenges began for Max at birth. He was never able to breathe or eat on his own due to micrognatia, a rare form of cranio-synostosis, a condition where the sutures of an infant’s skull close too early.

He didn’t leave the hospital until he was two and a half months old. Before he did, he had a tracheostomy which, by inserting a tube into his throat, allowed him to breathe but made it impossible for him to speak. Max was also given a gastrostomy so he could ingest food through an incision in his stomach. He would use both of these for the next two decades of his life.

But as a baby’s, Max’s eyes, “large and deep blue and expressive,” as his mother Beth described them, gave an insight into the person Max would become. His father Jerry said that he “saw a serene in-telligence in his clear blue eyes.”

With the help of nurses and translators, Max, who grew up in Park Slope, was able to regularly attend school. As he was finishing middle school on East 25th Street, his parents were interested in sending him to St. Ann’s for high school.

Without letter grades or class distinctions, St. Ann’s self-labeled “unusual education” makes it a unique place to learn, but can also be a hectic space to be in. Because of this, Head of the High School Sarah Brousal elected to drop out and observe Max in middle school, to see if he would be equipped for the St. Ann’s lifestyle.

“When I got there, I saw Max tell the teacher he didn’t have his homework,” Brousal said during an interview in her office where she used to eat lunch. “Then he was talking to his interpreter when he wasn’t supposed to be, and then he laughed. I thought, ‘Oh, he’ll be fine.’”

Brousal was right. Max did well at St. Ann’s, involving himself in activities like sculpture and playwriting. One of his playwriting classmates and former Lang student, Lena Dunham, said she was “particularly impressed when he acted in one of my plays...because he was unable to speak, it was all- ways incredible to see him engage in what are traditionally spoken mediums.”

After graduating from high school, Max took some time off before enrolling at The New School in the fall of 2006. Max actively took part in class discussions and propositions with the assistance of his translator, Amy Rubinger. He would sign to her and she would speak almost simultaneously. This chnessness echoed the relationship Max had with his translator Laurie Robin- son in high school where he would joke around with her, but also be- come frustrated if his expressions were not translated exactly, in- cluding every “like” and “um.”

On Dec. 31, 2006, Ren invited his new girlfriend Dana Goldstein to a party at the Adler’s home in Park Slope. Dana remembers: “While I sat anxiously on the couch,”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Shake Your Shapke
On the Scene at the Russian Hat Party

BY YURI-JENNIFER KURUMI

Fedoras, rabbit-trimmed Hasidic streimels, Boston Red Sox caps, and furry Soviet Uhandske army hats harmoniously teamed up for the first New School Russian Hat party on Feb. 27, held in the Lang Cafeteria.

All hats, called shapke in the Russian language, felt at home in a cold winter’s evening. Propaganda posters of a military cap-wearing Stalin hung beside images of Rene Magritte’s trademark bowlers, both watching over students and faculty members sporting various headgear. Using newspaper as material, helpful hat-makers accommodated those who came without headgear of their own.

Lang College writing professor Inessa Medchibykovskaya imagined the idea for the party one freezing day when she lost her favorite hat on the way to a Heidelberg class. Noticing her dismay, her philosophy students presented her with a new winter Dasein hat. The in-

Russian delicacies included blinys, caviar and kasha

Approximately 60 attendees crowded into the cafeteria, drawn at least in part by a generous buffet of Russian delicacies such as Borodinsky breads, blinys, caviar and buckwheat kasha, followed by Smetanovskie pies and Margaritovna Torte for dessert. The Russian hat presentations started as the well-fed audience sipped Tsar Nicholas rose-petal tea.

The festivities began with a scene from an absurdist play, and continued with singing and folk dance performance and classical and contemporary Russian music. Later, costumed actors and read-

ers taught the audience about the importance of hats in the Russian culture and read a comic historical lecture on Ivan the “Fashionable” (instead of “Terrible”), a reading of an excerpt from student Anthony Giordano’s work in progress, and lastly, an essay by Lang alumnus Ross Lipton.

Lipton entertainingly presented a lecture of his work on the etymology of the word “hat.” What

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

SDS Protests “Torture” Ties

BY AMELIA GRANGER

As the sixth largest defense company in the nation, L-3 manufactures missiles, airplane parts and, among other James Bond-esque gadgets, security cameras that digitally remove the clothes of anyone who walks in front of them. It also is one of the leading contractors in Iraq.

The treasurer of The New School Board of Trustees, Robert Millard, from is the director of L-3 Communications. “This is a major proposal to SDS to call for the removal of Millard from the Board of Trustees. Some SDS members believe that, in ad-
EDITORIAL

Revenge of the Nerds School

According to the Princeton Review, Eugene Lang College is the school with the most dodgeball-tough Dodgeball! It has the most dodgeball-tough dodgeball team. This is mostly due to our school's lack of intramural sports, but it made a must see for ESPN's newest reality show, "America's Best Dodgeball Team." We are all just a bunch of nerds! While pondering this, a small amount of jello fell unnoticed around us. We wondered if there was anything wrong with being a nerd. Being a nerd is not what one might think. It doesn't matter if you're male or female, gay or straight, black or white, Kingdom or Vulcans: everyone is implicated. Looking beyond clichés—like the large glasses, pocket protectors and socially awkward mannerisms—nerds take many forms. It could be that you argue the merits of post-modernism in a discussion class; you have a quote from Nietzsche posted lovingly above your computer; was once president of the chess club in middle school; lost a retainer during elementary school lunch, spent hours organizing an iTunes collection; religiously followed a sports team online; or browsed a naked photo of yourself on a Xbox 360 rather than play "Checkers." This is perhaps more important than any other in this paragraph. The ways in which one can be a nerd are numerous and exhausting. Rather than hide these guilty pleasures, it is of our opinion that we should embrace them. You, sir or madam, are a nerd.

Josh Karp & Joe Veix, Special Section Editor

Letters to the Editor

Correction:
Re: Issue 10, Reviews
Random Acts
The byline incorrectly stated that the Lang Theater Collective had produced this production. This play was a production of The New School for Drama.

Re: Issue 10, Reviews
August Orange County
The byline incorrectly stated that Christopher Marley was the director. The play was directed by Anna Shapiro.

Re: Professor Barrie Karp
A former student at Lang, currently studying at Wesleyan University. I was shocked to learn that Professor Barrie Karp is not being invited back to teach next semester. I took two classes with Professor Barrie Karp and found her to be one of the best professors I had at Lang. Not only is Karp deeply committed to her field of study, but she is more dedicated to her teaching than any other instructor I've ever had. Her classes have had a huge impact on my life, providing me with a fuller, deeper education than almost any of my other college courses.

In making my decision to transfer to the graduate program at University of Pennsylvania is deeply committed to her teaching than any other instructor I've ever had. Her classes have had a huge impact on my life, providing me with a fuller, deeper education than almost any of my other college courses.

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In making my decision to transfer to the graduate program at University of Pennsylvania is deeply committed to her teaching than any other instructor I've ever had. Her classes have had a huge impact on my life, providing me with a fuller, deeper education than almost any of my other college courses.

As an alumni of Lang who cares deeply for the school's legacy, and the on-going quality of education, I am seriously troubled by the perception of losing the passion and critical thought that is inspired within the classroom of Dr. Barrie Karp. I urge the university to reconsider its decision to terminate Dr. Karp.

Elizabeth Miller, 2006 Eugene Lang College recipient of the David Woods Award for Humanitarianism.

I wish to voice my incredible frustration with this institution's decision to fire Dr. Barrie Karp. I have gained more valuable insight in her courses—about intersectional feminism and critical race theory as Profes- sor Karp. The low regard in which Gender Studies is held at Lang is already an embarrassment, and if administration goes through with Karp's removal, it will break down the integrity of the minor, sending the school's lack of commitment to the Gender Studies program. Eugene Lang loses a fair num- ber of students— I should know; I'm one of them. If Lang has any interest in honoring the kind of com- petitive edge that will retain more students, the answer is not new buildings and increased homo- geneity with NYU. Rather, Lang should strive toward building up strong academic programs, listen- ing to its students, and keeping talented, dedicated professors like Barrie Karp on staff.

Elizabeth Tong
Former Lang Student

I can remember only two teach- ers in my life who have exploded the parameters of my thought: my eighth grade English teacher who began the year with Plato, and here at Lang, Dr. Barrie Karp. The former was promoted. I am deeply troubled that the administration is failing to reappoint our irreplacable- able Dr. Barrie Karp. Administriva- tion, listen to your students as they plea to keep Dr. Barrie Karp.

Cynthia Laplaige, Lang Sophomore

Correction:
Re: Issue 10, Reviews
Diamanda Galas
The headline incorrectly stated that the performer's name was Diamanda Galas. Her name is Dia- manda Galas.

Re: Issue 10, Arts & Culture, Tsaaurah Litzky
The caption on the photo incor- rectly spelled Tsaaurah Litzky's name.

Letters to the Editor

Dr. Barrie Karp's courses have pro- vided me with the tools and knowl- edge to strive toward becoming a feminist philosopher. It pains me deeply to see Dr. Karp dismissed for a class that was deeply educa- tional and meaningful to myself and other students. With all my heart, I urge the university to re- new Dr. Karp's teaching contract.

Nick Krebs, Lang Alumn 2007

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Max Adler
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
chatting with just a few people, I watched Max circulate around the room, talking to almost every- one at the party. His comfort and confidence was awe-inspiring. At midnight, Max took me up to the roof to see the fireworks.

Last summer, Max got his tra- cheostomy tube removed. It had been plugged up a few years ear- lier, so he had already been breath- ing on his own, but life without it was something to celebrate.

This year, Max continued his path of learning and studied journalism with pro- fessor Sarah Saffian, who is also a member of the Adler family. “Max’s essence can be summed up by how he was as a student,” said Saffian.

Breidenbach added, “It’s something we can do,” said Breidenbach, “It’s because of infla- tion and The New School is not the only university suffering from this problem.” Breidenbach added that tuition costs are beyond the dean’s control. Another controversial topic was brought up by freshman Al Han- son who wanted to know if stu- dents were involved in choosing the new dean.

“When we make decisions, we make them based on experience,” Gordon said, but added that fu- ture student involvement was not out of the question.

Vetch pointed out that there had been student representation at one point through LSIU, but he said “the last couple of years we had a very difficult time staffing them [with students] because there is little interest among students and they don’t want to be that involved.”

By the end of the night, one stu- dent expressed his frustration to Wollman Hall to be tuned. “That is something we can do,” said Brei- denbach.

“It turns out the deans have a lot of control over little things and li- ttle things become big things,” Vetch added.
Vito Acconi, Architect: Commencement Speaker

By Peter Holsilver

Vito Acconi, an internationally recognized architect and multimedia artist, will be the commencement speaker and receive an honorary degree at The New School's Spring 2008 graduation ceremony on May 16 at Madison Square Garden. “I thought his life’s work and intellectual approach spoke directly to what we do at The New School and to our students,” New School President Bob Kerrey, who chose the speaker, wrote in e-mail. Acconi, an Italian-American born in the Bronx and now based in Brooklyn, began in the 1960s as a poet and as co-editor of the miniaugmented art magazine, OT/0. Later, he used his own body as a template for confrontational performance and video art projects and created striking, mixed-media paintings. He recently designed “Walkways Through The Wall,” a bus shelter made of giant, cylindrical walls of concrete, which stretches into the Midwest Airlines Center in Milwaukee, where the sculptures serve as public seating.

Honorary degree recipients this year also include the Polish sociologist Zygmunt Bauman; Ma-jora Carpenter, Executive Director of Sustainable South Bronx; Henry Mintzberg, an author on business and management; and Elizabeth LeCompte, a founding member of the Wooster Group, a theater collective. The University in Exile Award will go to Wanda Nowicka, a Polish women’s reproductive rights activist.

Volunteering in NY: Food Pantries in Times Square

By Kristen Wilke & Kevin Dugan

With food and living expenses rising, food pantries and soup kitchens across the city are in need of volunteers to help feed members of the community.

The Holy Cross Soup Kitchen, located near Times Square, has called for 20 volunteers. The pantry opens every other Saturday, and volunteers begin at 9 a.m., unloading boxes and collecting food for distribution. Help is also needed at free clothing tables and setting up tables and chairs.

The pantry is open to residents from noon to 3 p.m. of the last weekends of the months are usually the busiest times.

Location: 329 W. 42nd St. in Manhattan

If interested, contact Yvonna Russell (212) 246-4732 or sign up online at www.volunteerenny.org

Sharin’ McCarren
Pool drained of hipsters, filled with water

By Wendy J. Biddlecombe

After decades of neglect, McCarren Pool, on the Greenpoint–Williamsburg border in Brooklyn, is becoming a pool again. In mid-February, the city announced its plan to budget $85 million for the McCarrren Pool Park project. The restoration, expected to be completed by 2011, includes a recreation center, a restaurant, and a space for an ice rink in the winter, in addition to the pool that will hold 1,400 swimmers.

“There’s been a demand for a pool, but we’re not doing this just because people are moving to Williamsburg,” Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Julius Spiegel told the Daily News. “This also ends a huge civic embarrassment. It’s been derelict for 24 years now.”

For the last two years, the pool has been the venue for free Sunday day summer concerts, nicknamed “Pool Parties, and free film screenings on Tuesdays.”

The pool was built in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration to boost community morale during the Great Depression. The 50-foot square pool foot with the capacity of 6,800 people was designed

SDS demands Trustee resignation

Continued from page 1
tions to donating funds to The New School. Millard is investing the school’s funds in his own corpo-
rate interests.

“We don’t know that he’s investing [The New School’s] money,” McFellin said. “It seems likely that there is a connection.”

But New School President Bob Kerrey denies those claims. “He is not a member of the investment committee and they have not in-
vested in L-3. That would violate our conflict of interest rules,” he said in an e-mail.

In 2007, L-3 was listed as one of the top five contractors in Iraq, in data released by U.S. Central Com-
mand and published by the Los Angeles Times. Until March 2007, L-3 held an almost exclusive con-
tact to provide translators to the U.S. military in Iraq. In November 2007, their subsidiary company, L-3 Titan, was named as the de-
fendant in a class action lawsuit filed by the Center for Constitu-
tional Rights, a left-wing advocacy group, on behalf of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison. The suit al-
leged that L-3 Titan translators had been complicit in the abuses there. A judge dismissed the case against L-3 Titan on the grounds that the L-3 Titan translators were under the complete control of the military. In the same ruling, the judge allowed a similar case against contractor CACI Interna-
tional to go forward, since his employees at Abu Ghraib reported up to an internal chain of command.

“I think the majority of the stu-
dent body would not want some-
one like Robert Millard on the Board of Trustees,” McFellin said.

In addition to asking that Mil-
lard be removed from the Board, the proposal also demands stu-
dent financial disclosure from the university. McFellin wrote, “I do not believe a student should be a trustee,” Kerrey said in an e-
mall article, written in the wake of the Hsu scandal, quoted Kerrey as saying that he seeks trustees who will donate at least $25,000 to the school annually.

But, as Kerrey said in the e-mail, “the most important requirement for trustee service is not financial. It is the willingness to do the work of helping plan the future of the university. In that regard, Mr. Mil-
lard is among our best trustees.”

McFellin did not want to com-
ment on the specifics of SDS’s plan to protest Millard’s trust-
eeship. “Maybe we don’t get any-
where and we have to occupy an office or something,” McFellin said.

“It’s been derelict for twenty-four years now

Students picketed to protest the war at the Iraqi Monument in Washington Square Park, March 11, 2008.

By Robert Moses. It was one of 10 Works Progress Administration pools opened in New York City that year.

In 1979, the city approved $100 million to restore the city’s ten WPA pools in time for the 50th anniversary of the pools’ opening. According to The New York Times, underlying racial issues were raised when the pool closed in 1964 for repairs. Groupsearch residents, who were largely Pol-
ish, Italian and Irish, wanted to reduce the capacity of the pool to 2,000 swimmers. Residents from Williamsburg, which was predominantly African-American and Latino then, said that the size reduction was to keep out people of color. A political deadlock en-
sued, and the six-acres complex has mostly languished, encapsulated by a chain linking the buildings.

Regardless of the space’s popu-
ularity as a venue, city officials felt that the proliferating graffiti, bro-
ken cement, and decaying infra-
structure of the pool needed to be addressed.

McCarrren Park restoration plans have been in development since the 1990s. Last summer, the Hello and Jelly NYC, a Brooklyn arts col-
lective, hosted free and for-profit events at the pool. Acts like Sonic Youth, Feist and TV on the Radio have all performed there. Spiegel also said that the resto-
ration project doesn’t necessarily mean the end of concerts. “They just may not be in the pool,” he said.

New York Times
Harlem Braces for Facelift
Community groups oppose city plans

By KEVIN DUGAN

It's 7:30 p.m. on a Monday and 125th Street is packed. Residents—young and old—black and white—walk the street shopping and look- ing for a place to eat. Harlem Pizza on the corner of 125th and 7th is almost at capacity. Likewise for Pee Dee Steakhouse and Soul Food & Salad Bar. But the Starbucks is quiet; there isn't seeing much business.

This apparently means that Har- lem is dying.

Harlem’s main artery, 125th Street is slated to undergo the most drastic change in nearly 50 years. The Department of City Planning (DCP) plans on build- ing new high-rises along the cor- ridor of 125th Street, which would increase residential density and business.

City advocates of the plan say that Harlem is in need of redevel- opment to offset the staggering unemployment rate, but a plural- ity of neighborhood groups saw that the plans will displace current residents and drive out local busi- ness, such as one of national chains and franchises.

The new zoning proposal by the DCP suggests remaking the cor- ridor between 124th and 126th Streets, from Broadway to 2nd Avenue, as a "special purpose dis- trict." This seeks to replace the last rezoning plan from 1961, which, according to the proposal, "no longer accommodates or supports recent development trends along the corridor, resulting in isolated, piece-meal zoning changes and development without a coordi- nated plan.

The proposal calls for higher den- sity, mixed-use buildings. Eighty percent of new residences would be priced at market rates, and 20 percent would be affordable for families earning up to $35,000 per year. But the average income in the area is less than $25,000, according to Community Board 10, the neighborhood mouthpiece to the city. The DCP plans to vote on the proposal on March 10. For some, an influx of new busi- nesses and high-rises would be welcome. "It's something that people in the community say ‘no’

Last month, Lang sophomore Lance Moore, a smoker of three years at half a pack a day, decided to try to quit smoking. "I don't want to wake up with my lungs hurting anymore," she said. When she explored her options to quit smoking, she discovered Chantix, a drug that blocks nicotine recep- tors in the brain, rather than other routes of nicotine that use smaller doses of nicotine to ween one of the habit.

In the fall of 2007, The New School’s Health Services depart- ment started offering Chantix. According to Pfizer, the company that developed and distributes the drug, 25 to 45 percent of patients quit smoking following a 12-week course of treatment, com- pared to a 3 to 20 percent of Zy- ban patients.

Chantix is taken twice a day, and works in two ways. it blocks the nicotine and the release of the chemical dopamine, which regu- lates the feeling of pleasure, and controls the chemical itself, allowing the brain to shelve off of the addiction. But there is still no consensus among the medical community. "If Chantix (whose chemical name is Varenicline) is used as a stand- alone quitting aid without ongoing counseling, because four chance of quitting smoking for one year are probably less than 1 in 11," said John R. Polito, editor of whom.com, in a statement on the pill. But Polito said, "when accompanied by 24 to 25 weekly counsel- ler sessions which range from 124th and 126th Streets, from Broadway to 2nd Avenue, as a "special purpose dis- trict." This seeks to replace the last rezoning plan from 1961, which, according to the proposal, "no longer accommodates or supports recent development trends along the corridor, resulting in isolated, piece-meal zoning changes and development without a coordi- nated plan.

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The stop smoking pill!

By JAKE WEINGARTEN

On February 23, Brown Univer- sity announced the elimination of tuition costs for students whose parents earn less than $60,000 a year, following the footsteps of Harvard, Yale, Stanford and Princet- on. This new provision will add a $7.4 million cost to the school’s financial budget for 2008 alone, which offered $57,400 to 40 percent of its students last year.

The new policy will likely draw in applications from students who would never have considered the school, regardless of financial qualifications, due to their inability to pay.

Ariella Guerra, Lang freshman, says that she would have consid- ered applying to Brown if these changes had been made earlier.

"I would have been too far in my depth to the student body of a school known for having preppy, wealthy students, coming closer to creating the same diverse atmosphere that attracted me to Lang," she said.

"I would hope it would welcome a new demographic, that’s the goal," said Melanie Dech, a junior at Brown and Managing Editor of Post, an alt-weekly at the university. Brown is still a pretty wealthy school. I would hope that the stu- dent body will change a bit and be a little more diverse."

But these changes are not a pan- acea for all students.

"I have heard that [other Lang students'] families struggle to pay tuition because on paper it looks like they can, but in reality they can’t," said Lily O’Donnell, a Lang sophomore. "These middle-class families pay many additional expenses which are not taken into account, in addition to paying for their children's education una- assisted, forcing them to make ex- tremely sacrifices and in some cases take on additional work."

Parents of students with an ex- ceptional GPA upon entering The New School receive $2,500 a year, excluding housing costs. Because Ivy League schools receive sig- nificantly larger endowments than smaller colleges like Lang, they are able to offer aid and administration at Brown declined to answer questions regarding en- dowments and tuition.

"Certain families definitely need financial aid more than others; it’s just the fact that Brown is there," said Lang freshman Neferitta LaRue. Lang sophomore Antwaun Simms was rewarded to $6,523 degree stu- dents.

"We’re going up pretty steadily," said Carolyn Oyama, Director of Communications and External Af- fairs at The New School.

Harvard was the first to an- nounce the plan to expand fi- nancial aid for families earning less than $40,000 a year in 2004, and recently extended their cutoff point to $60,000 annual income per family. Last March, Yale an- nounced that all fees would be waived for families who earn less than $45,000 annually, and Stan- ford is eliminating the $47,000 annual fee for students whose families make less than $100,000 a year.

Brown’s endowment of $1.9 billion is the smallest of the Ivy schools, well below Harvard’s $22.6 billion, Yale’s $15.2 billion and Princet- on’s $5.9 billion.

"I think that’s the reason for this decision because Brown definitely does not have the same resources as Harvard and Yale," said Dugan. "But that fact that Brown is mak- ing an effort really makes me believe in the school."
Food For Fuel

By Adam Solomon

Over the week of February 13, customers at Murray’s Bagels saw a discouraging sign as they exited. Due to rising wheat prices, Mur- ray’s has been forced to increase prices of several items.

What happened? In a nutshell, the price of wheat rose dramatically by 23 percent in an hour. While no one factor can explain those kinds of price increases, a single issue looms above all others. Over the past several years, the demand for ethanol, a fuel made primarily from corn, has skyrocketed. Etha- nol, tagged as an “alternative” energy source, has been mixed with petroleum-based gasoline in an attempt to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The result of etha- nol demand is the reallocation of large portions of farmers’ acreage away from wheat and towards corn production.

The U.S. is the largest supplier of wheat in the world. However, as wheat supply dropped this year and corn supply...the result was a wheat crop barely able to meet the demands of India and China, the world’s two biggest customers. As the international community realized this shortage, countries like Russia decided to keep their wheat to themselves by imposing heavy tariffs on wheat exports.

The high wheat prices have ramifications far beyond prices at Murray’s Bagels. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a govern- ment agency that provides food to impoverished nations, has run up $120 million of unexpected debt this year partly due to wheat price in- creases. USAID will soon have to decide which nations it will no longer be able to feed.

You may be wondering why the U.S. Government has not stepped in to help farmers. After all, wheat is one of five crops, along with soybeans, corn, rice and cotton, that are considered a “commodity” by the U.S. Depart- ment of Agriculture. These com- modities receive significant sub- sidies to keep prices low and food cheap for Americans.

The subsidization of these com-modity crops is determined by the Farm Bill, a bill passed every five years that determines the budget for the U.S. Department of Agri- culture. The 2002 bill expired last September, and the House and Senate have been slow in passing a new one. With no Farm Bill currently in place, draconian laws written in 1938 regulate agricul- tural policies instead. These laws result in strict policies as to where wheat, but not other commodities, can be planted with subsidies.

Farmers will want to see the vari- ous subsidies available in the new Farm Bill. A good example of what is happening next year is the so-called ethanol subsidy. The ethanol program subsidizes every five years. Every five years, in a way that is designed to keep feeding people. The result would be further misallocation in im- poverished nations.

The current debate in the House and Senate over the Farm Bill in- volves, among other things, the allocation of subsidies away from corn farmers making a profit in 2002 and towards struggling farm- ers instead. The powerful agricul- ture lobby in Washington is actively fighting this, and slowing the passing of the bill.

The longer the Farm Bill debate goes on, the harder it becomes for many organizations, including the United Nations, to combat malnourishment. The longer poli- ticians listen to special interests, the longer subsidies here will be taken from inflated bagel prices. Passing the Farm Bill soon will not solve the global hunger problem, it will just increase the price of wheat, but it will be a good start.

The House and Senate should shake their ties to agricultural lobby- isats, roll up their sleeves, and produce a Farm Bill that makes sense. And the should do it quickly.

NYU’s new 12th Street mega-dorm towers over surrounding buildings

NYU’s Building Boom

Extensive expansion enranges village residents

By Helen Busnisky

The purple plaque is upon us. Anyone who lives, works or breathes in Greenwich Village knows NYU is extensive and with a massive six million square foot expansion plan in the works, NYU is getting even bigger.

Many Village residents and groups like the Greenwich Village Society for Historical Preserva- tion (GVSHP) have long stood in opposition to the school’s expan- sion, which they feel is robbing the neighborhood of its character. NYU currently occupies around 900 buildings in the Village, though Alicia Hurley, NYU’s Head of Community Affairs, insists that the university is not as extensive as NYU, part of Greenwich Village. Yet, while some of NYU’s tentative expansion plans include street-level retail shops and cafes, much of the university remains inaccessible to non-students. En- trance to most NYU buildings requires an NYU ID, or an NYU student to sign a visitor in as a guest. To residents, the constantly expanding university is staging a hostile takeover.

Village residents aren’t the only ones concerned; even NYU stu- dents worry about their school’s impact on the neighborhood that they call home. Jody, 19, an NYU film student, says “the ‘personality’ of its Village location strongly influenced her choice of school. “I never would have wanted to go to NYU had I not seen the Village and had just seen the rest of the city,” she said.

Jody says that there is little contact between students and administrators, and that official mailings to students often sound pompous sentiments like “NYU continues to have a high ratio of dramas to resources” in place of concrete facts.

To residents, the constantly expanding university is staging a hostile takeover so that we might find ourselves in any room, with any one, anywhere, anywhere. We believe that her reappointment is es- sential to the success of Lang, and are deeply troubled by the sugges- tion that her contract may be ter- minated without just cause. And as her students, frankly, we are shocked and angry. We call on all students, faculty, alumni, depart- ment chairs, and members of this institution to join us in demanding that the administration does not reappoint this critical professor.

To join the cause, contact Anna Bean at annabeann23@gmail.com
On Sunday, March 2, Russians went to the polls to select their next president. The result could have been predicted weeks in advance: Dmitri Medvedev won overwhelmingly. He captured 70 percent of the votes in what could safely be called a one-sided campaign. Vladimir Putin, Russia’s outgoing president, hand-picked Medvedev as his successor months ago, announcing his support in December of 2007. Medvedev has already announced that he will appoint Putin as Prime Minister. Many in the Western media have been crying foul for some time now regarding the fairness of Russia’s election—and rightly so. Certain candidates were not allowed to run, and there have been constant reports of ballot-stuffing and the forcing of government employees to vote for Medvedev. This insult of an election is nothing more than another one of Putin’s attempts to solidify and expand his own power. He wouldn’t be stepping down in the first place if he were not legally required to do so, as Russia’s constitution specifies that a president may only serve two consecutive terms. Additional terms in office are allowed once another president has served, however, leading many to speculate that Putin may return to the presidency following Medvedev’s tenure.

Putin’s standdown on Russia’s government has become tighter in recent years. He has split Russia into new, larger federal districts and replaced direct elections of their governors with political appointees by the president. He has consistently stilled and consolidated the Russian media to the point where televised political opposition and inconvenient news stories are hard to come by. The Kremlin refers to this semi-dictatorialship as “sovereign democracy.”

Strangely enough, many Russians are perfectly comfortable with their political system. Vladimir Putin remains one of the most popular world leaders among his own people, with approval ratings as high as 81 percent. While the theme of the American presidential race has become “change,” Putin’s puppet, Medvedev, has emphasized “stability” as the central theme of his campaign. He is frequently pictured alongside Putin in his own campaign ads, and has made it clear that he will be little more than a surrogate for the outgoing president.

Russia is no more than welcome to whatever form of government it would like. However, under the current system, its citizens are exactly making an informed decision. In a free and fair Russia, Putin’s cronym and political consolidation would most certainly be rejected, and he and his Kremlin-backed thugs would soon find themselves out of work.

By ROBB MAYNARD

I too had been on a thirteen day drinking binge

1965, he completed the nationalization of Cuba by transforming it into a one-party socialist hellhole. On July 31, 2006, after undergoing in a so-called revolution that toppled the beneficent dictatorship of Fulgencio “Babyface” Batista. In 2003, people worldwide used 15 quadrillion watts of electricity, and this number rises every year. For comparison, it would take roughly 150 trillion square meters of panels to produce this. Too bad Earth has only 149 billion square meters of land surface area. Don’t laugh, but putting solar panels in space to power the planet has actually been proposed to solve this capacity dilemma.

Biofuel (like biodiesel and ethanol) isn’t all it’s cracked up to be either. Why can’t we “pay farmers to grow fuel” or use waste oil, as some have suggested? First, because the amount of waste oil produced is a very small fraction of the oil that would be needed to meet our automobile needs, let alone our entire economy. Second, do we really want to give our best land to farm fuel instead of food? The grain it takes to fill a 25-gallon tank would feed one person for a year. Whatever, we won’t eat. Even if we devoted all of U.S. grain harvest. The EPA concluded that, while the biofuels would satisfy just 16 percent of our power for their own production—only 100 watts of electricity are produced per square meter of panel under peak conditions, when they are receiving direct sunlight. In 2003, people worldwide used 15 quadrillion watts of electricity, and this number rises every year. For comparison, it would take roughly 150 trillion square meters of panels to produce this. Too bad Earth has only 149 billion square meters of land surface area. Don’t laugh, but putting solar panels in space to power the planet has actually been proposed to solve this capacity dilemma.

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Green Energy, Dead Planet

Why biofuel and solar energy don’t stack up

By ERIC MARCHESI

Over the past few years, scientists have come out of the woodwork to offer a number of “green energy” alternatives to oil depletion and its associated crises. Instead of solutions, we’ve been offered quick techno-fixes like solar energy and biofuel. To begin, solar panels aren’t even green products. In order to make the panels, an intense industrial process (at 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit) is required to wipe out impurities down to the parts-per-billion level. Solar panel manufacture also employs hazardous chemicals like trichloroethylene, ammonium hydroxide, hydrofluoric acid, sulfuric acid, acetic acid, nitric acid, and lead. Once completed, these panels typically last only 20 years and then head for the landfill, where they will contaminate the land and water supply, along with the mountains of batteries and panels charge, mercury and cadmium anyone?).

It’s also doubtful solar panels will ever be able to provide enough power for their own production—only 100 watts of electricity are produced per square meter of panel under peak conditions, when they are receiving direct sunlight. In 2003, people worldwide used 15 quadrillion watts of electricity, and this number rises every year. For comparison, it would take roughly 150 trillion square meters of panels to produce this. Too bad Earth has only 149 billion square meters of land surface area. Don’t laugh, but putting solar panels in space to power the planet has actually been proposed to solve this capacity dilemma.

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competition with food-motivated agriculture is causing grain prices to soar worldwide, putting strain on the poor. If basing our global economy on oil has been a grave mistake and if our hopes for replacements are based on false premises, what are we left with? There is no easy transition. We need to radically re-examine our lifestyles, cultures, and politico-economic systems if we’re going to get through this. Here’s one question to start with: how badly do we really need fossil energy? The masses have only had access to it since the early 1900s. Is it really that radical to suggest that we should stop doing something we’ve only been doing for less than 100 years? The prospect would be uncomfortable. But the blueprint is a blueprint for blackout.
Lovers or Fighters? The truth about pit bulls

By Ashley Burritt After

Pit Bulls switch as their fans tear into flesh in the fighting ring. Will the blues whines get the fans on the streets to take their cravings to the streets? According to a study conducted by Merritt Clifton, editor of Animal People magazine, the pit bull is responsible for 65 percent of all fatal attacks. Clifton also claims that pits are “notorious for attacking seemingly without warning.”

Pit Bulls, descendants of Victorian bull-baiting dogs, have historically been bred to attack. Bull dogs were crossed with terriers to create a dog with a high tolerance for pain and a willingness to fight with little or no provocation. “Today, they have a reputation of being dangerously unpredictable. But is this more a reflection of the owners’ personalities than a characteristic of the dogs themselves? Pit Bulls often fall into negligent hands that desire a machismo status on the streets—or a money-making avenue in the fighting ring. They are the ideal choice for dog fighting due to their strong stature, resilience and obedient nature. But while pits may have the traits to become fighters, they must be trained to utilize those traits to become fighters. The disposition is similar to that of a pit bull, but can be deep to retrieve it, the oil will never sit on its surface. In other words, they are often known as “nanny dogs,” due to their motherly instincts toward children and animals.

Additionally, the American Temperament Test Society, a not-for-profit organization that tests the temperaments of purebreds, released a report in 2007 that gave pit bulls a pass percentage of 84.1 percent. The average of all breeds is 81.5 percent. The process of making a typically well-behaved dog into a fighter is grossly inhumane. Pits are often fed crushed glass and gunpowder, steroids and bated with dead, bloody kittens, according to anumer member of Pit Bull Rescue, Patricia Kostic.

Pit Bulls and other breeds are often known as “nanny dogs,” due to their motherly instincts toward children and animals. Additional stories of the movie without a voiceless animal?

Our society has made a conscious effort to stereotype an entire breed of dog as bad. Media reports andexploit myths have only exacerbated the panic of dog. Media reports and exploitation.

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And according to the New Yorker, other breeds are much more likely to bite without reason, such as German shepherds and, apparently, golden retrievers. Last March, in Texas, a golden retriever mauled its owner to death. So why do the statistics show otherwise? According to the Humane Society of the United States, “Many attacks by other dog breeds are misclassified as pit bulls.”

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The Joy of Masturbation

By Courtney Nicholas

I am now in an erotic recession, and my fingers have become my best friends. In two minutes, I can transform a third-rate fruit fly to a perky woman ready for the day. All I need are my hands and my imagination.

One may wonder how this applies to my life as a fruit fly. The answer is self-explanatory. There are a wide variety of pensions in New York City, but I have yet to find one that deserves me. I have tasted the beer-ridden saliva of many a fine gay man, but making out cannot satisfy my cravings. So I am, a negligible no one would compliment, in a bed half empty, bored to tears. A shaggy coat andship with my arm into motion and proceed with some fumbling action!

Unfortunately, I cannot discuss my trusty hand motions with my friends, gay or straight. Therefore, it is now my goal to publicize jacking off.

We have our naughty secrets in common. Do you go by the name “school work” or in Chanel boxes underneath the bed, but there’s no reason for me to say. I am the same secrecy. Recently, I opened my laptop and discovered pornographic images plastered on my desktop. When I approached my roommate about this discovery, a blush of embarrassment made him want him to look me in the eyes and declare, “Yes, Courtney. I love porn. It turns me on. So there.”

Our fruit flies are not about to enter a cum infused Chelsea sex shop, nor are we willing to justify a $19.99 a month charge on our credit card. We want our kinky desires satisfied for free and at lightning fast speeds. Shall I suggest xtube.com or pornotube.com? With search buttons, one can view a wide range of sensual clips—from vanilla sex cowgirl style to two mature bears giving head in a bar alley.

A friend complained to me: “I need a partner or I become raw with no result. It will take practice, but soon all can be done with an index and a middle finger. So my fruit flies, next time you find yourself in a compromising situation, look at the man and say, ‘I don’t need to have sex with you. I have myself’.”

For more fruit fly wonders, visit www.fruitflylife.com
Ed Halter a.d.v.ENT.u.r.E. force

New School Nerdographer

Kickin' Ass and Takin' Names

LaTEx Lady

Is New York in a sexual lull?
Nerd York City
Places to get your nerd on

By Robb Mannard

With the alarming number of bars and clubs in New York City, it can hard for a nerd to find a place to go where they won’t be ostracized and subsequently wedged. Luckily, I’ve traversed the many “hot spots” in the city to bring you the top places where it’s hip to be square.

When you’re walking alone around Broadway and 13th St., stop in and check out Forbidden Planet, the premiere spot for graphic novels and esoteric pop culture items. Should you ever need to choose between five different styles of Flash t-shirts, Forbidden Planet is your place, though the employees will shoot you looks of disgust for your poor choice in superheroes. I found myself in awe of the overpriced, nearly useless collectibles on the shelves. As you know, nerds love useless things like a Dr. Victor Von Doom bust for the incredibly reasonable price of $779.99. And when wouldn’t I need the complete set of Reservoir Dogs action figures? Actually, that does sound awesome.

But maybe you don’t like collecting things; maybe you’re a nerd of action and adventure. If so, Neutral Ground on 37th between 5th and 6th Ave. is the best spot for nerd gaming. Unlike Forbidden Planet, Neutral Ground isn’t filled with superhero memorabilia. It’s filled with Dungeons & Dragons memorabilia. And there are always organized tournaments for Yu-Gi-Oh! Magic: The Gathering, Pokémon (which apparently still exists), and even leagues for your favorite unpopular board games. So, make like Gene Kelly and dance on over for a rousing game of Dreamblade or WarHammer or another tabletop game you’ve never heard of and enjoyed.

Now that you’ve alienated yourself from society, you’ll need some way to protect yourself, and the best way to do that is, of course, with robots.

Who wouldn’t want the complete set of Reservoir Dogs action figures?

Located on 81st and Broadway, Robot Village even has a hot-building station for hands-on education. Despite the obvious dangers that robots pose to us mortals, it is important we program our own robots to defend against evil cyborgs, like those of the Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em variety. If you need a guardian to protect yourself, Reservoir Dogs action figure collection, Robot Village is a great place to be.
A.D.V.E.N.T.U.R.E. FORCE: Clean Nerdy Fun

By Joe Veix

There are many who choose to avoid professional sports. With this aversion comes the social stigma: how can one relate to family and friends when sports are one of the easiest and most popular connections? Must one memorize complex statistics, the names of players, and every team’s past victories and defeats? If you’re inclined to take the simplest path, it’s not hard to sound informed on such matters.

The trick is to minimize any possible arguments. Start by picking the home team for the city you live in. Fewer people will dispute you. Rather than memorize lists of players and statistics, simply take note of both one major victory and one major defeat. If you’re inclined to take the simplest path, it’s not hard to sound informed on such matters.

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Johnny Sportsnut: Here is how this would apply in your city and learn a little about him.

Next, choose one famous player as your team. Rather than memorize lists of players and statistics, simply take note of both one major victory and one major defeat. If you’re inclined to take the simplest path, it’s not hard to sound informed on such matters.

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To the Nerd-Mobile!

By Kate Hanselman

On the third floor of the 2 W. 13th St. building, I head towards the sound of giggling and Super Mario to find the weekly A.D.V.E.N.T.U.R.E. Force meeting in Room 303. Sam Strick, a sopho-

Nerdy McGee: Why yes I do. My favorite team is the Philadelphia Phillies.

JS: Yeah, they’re an alright team.

NM: Yes, well, ever since their near win in the 1993 World Series, I’ve had an affinity for tragic yet lovable teams.

JS: You mean the same 1993 Philadelphia Phillies that were described by the press as “shaggy” and “durfy”?

NM: Yes.

JS: Well, how do you feel about the current team?

NM: In my opinion, no player will ever outrank John Kruk. He was a fairly flamboyant, fat and aggressive individual, I’ve been picked on more than once. And, honestly, how many people haven’t been bullied? And it’s not just a physical thing. Technology has made it easy to pick on each other: cyber bullying, an increasingly prevalent form of the epidemic, allows bullies to hide behind the protection of their computer screens.

What can be done? One proven method to stop bullying is to turn the insults around. For example, Beini Shi, a chemistry major at UC Berkeley, gets bullied and retaliates. “Hey, just because you’re Asian and spend your entire life crunching numbers and driving badly doesn’t mean you have to fulfill the stereotype of a science major.”

If you’re someone who’s not quick on his or her feet, remember: a strong offense is a strong defense. What I’ve found incredibly successful in turning the tables is spreading gossip about your attacker because, let’s face it, retaliating physically is just tacky, not to mention dangerous. For those who enjoy reeking social and mental havoc on their victims, playing dirty(er) is.

Though these forms of retaliation may seem juvenile, bullies never play fair either. With the advent of the internet, holding bullies accountable for their actions is getting tougher. So don’t play fair! Fight dirty.

Fighting Dirty

Defending yourself in the internet age

By Jake Weingarten

According to researcher Dan Olweus, bullying is defined as “a person exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more persons.” As a fairly flamboyant, fat and aggressive individual, I’ve been picked on more than once. And, honestly, how many people haven’t been bullied? And it’s not just a physical thing. Technology has made it easy to pick on each other: cyber bullying, an increasingly prevalent form of the epidemic, allows bullies to hide behind the protection of their computer screens.

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Around the Courtyard

Written & Photographed By Josh Kurp

Clayton Albachten, Sophomore

If you could have any super power, what would it be?

Spencer Snyder, Sophomore

“Teleportation because of modern convenience.”

Daniele Gagliano, Freshman

“The power to have all powers because I’d be able to kick ass.”

Keep an eye out for our next issue. March 18th...
There are rubber virgins yearning to experiment

not want to pigeonhole, so only one sort of person would come to see me," she says. With her long run-
ning monthly fetish revue, as well as her guest appearance on HBO's

I didn't have anything. ‘My philo-

as her guest appearance on HBO’s

The Baroness of Latex

A pioneer in introducing color to

outside.’

A third of my business is custom

Ranging from a couple hundred to

"A pioneer in introducing color to

"The best outfit I’ve made is the one that used to exist. You don’t see the

my long run-
ning monthly fetish revue, as well as her guest appearance on HBO’s

She initially created and sold

as her guest appearance on HBO’s

has a diverse following—which

The First Lady of Latex

Spring’s hottest look: condom casual

The New York City rubber evan-
gelist known as The Baroness of Latex has been “spreading the la-

The Baroness of Latex

as her guest appearance on HBO’s

She initially created and sold

as her guest appearance on HBO’s
Advertiement

Arts for Advocacy

Artivist @CherylRappeleye and Realize visions: the imagination is a source of change. We’re coming together to orchestrate or ArtKestrate (people’s work for the concept) the movement.

This spring, April 18 and 19, the Woodstock Renewal Center is being secured and began securing a talent for a two-day event centered around “Art as Advocacy for Social Change.” The event will feature a panel and two variety shows featuring artists (not limited to women) in varying mediums including designers, models, musicians, painters, photographers, dancers, film makers, writers, spoken word artists, thesisians and educators showcasing their work with the collective power of social change through art.

April 18 Panel 6-8 (Lang Cafeteria) Performance 1-2 (Tishman Auditorium)
April 19 Performance 9-12 (Tishman Auditorium)

To participate submit cd’s, mp3 files, pictures, or set up an audition by contacting Jamaika or Melody at arkestraart@gmail.com. Submissions are due by March 27.

In Moscow, her best-selling debut memoir, author Terri Cheney reveals her lifelong struggle with manic depression. Cheney juxtaposes scenes from her career as a high profile attorney in the ‘80s who doesn’t know, for example. But it’s incredibly hard to maintain, and it keeps me from the drug trade works.

You come into a little extra cash that you don’t know what to do with, you take it and you don’t know how to make it go the distance, and you don’t know where to put it. You’re being perfectly honest with yourself, you should know that he isn’t a pusher, and all the old good corners have been appropriated by high-rise condominium profiteers. Now it’s all telephone and electron- ic; you know a guy who texts a guy who used to be a hawker at a club where you used to hang out, and when their shift ended at 4 a.m. in order to make some kind of social life.

Your friends call and orders some quantity of cocaine. If you’re in Manhattan you’ll likely be able to contribute to some share of a $100 bag, which will be divided up between any interested, solicitious, par- ties. This will be literally messy early on and figuratively messy lat- er in the evening. Getting several, individual bags in the $20 range is optimal, but you may have to leave the island to get a decent deal.

In either case, there is now a man on his way to meet you at an agreed upon location. You know that he has nearly enough narcotics in his car to send anyone in its vicinity to prison for a very long time. And if you’re being perfectly honest with yourself, you should know that he probably has a handicap under the driver’s seat, too.

When he pulls up, you eschew all of your sensible-girl training and get in the car. You drive for about a block, make your transaction, and get out. There may be a time when it all goes wrong and you end up at the bottom of the Gowanus Canal, but this wasn’t it—and that’s the way it is.

In the evening, you feel a little sick and it’s not from the coca- in itself; you know a guy who texts a guy who used to be a hawker at a club where you used to hang out, and when their shift ended at 4 a.m. in order to make some kind of social life. Your friends call and orders some quantity of cocaine. If you’re in Manhattan you’ll likely be able to contribute to some share of a $100 bag, which will be divided up between any interested, solicitious, par- ties. This will be literally messy early on and figuratively messy lat- er in the evening. Getting several, individual bags in the $20 range is optimal, but you may have to leave the island to get a decent deal.

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Dine and Dash: Three Tasty Treats to Go
Take-out tips for when you’re under-dressed, dateless or just don’t want to tip

BY LAUREN TAYLOR

French-Moroccan cuisine might not seem like a big draw for hipsters, but with only a dozen tables and a Parisian storybook atmosphere, Café Gitane attracts foodies and scene-sisters alike. The meatballs ($12.25), served in a tomato sauce, can be a bit spicy for mild pallets, but the chicken mango sandwich ($9.50) puts a sweet spin on a conventional dish. The price point is average for Nolita, but as a cash-only restaurant, you might want to stuff your own liquor in that McNally’s bag of yours. Expect a wait, but frequent the take-out section and enjoy couscous at one of the sidewalk tables.

Café Gitane
242 Mott Street
(212) 334-9592
Sunday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-midnight
Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-12:30 a.m.

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The corn on the cob makes Café Habana the best Cuban fare in Manhattan. I challenge you to keep your cool while the table an inch to your left is onto their second ear of corn. Authentic ingredients such as cojito cheese top traditional dishes such as pollo mirador ($11.95) and the marinated skirt steak ($11.25). The sweet plantains ($2.95) complement the menu wonderfully, as do the infamous mojitos ($8.50). Expect a crowd, and try to overlook the rude waiters. If it weren’t for them, the kitchen staff would be utterly overwhelmed. If you can’t stand the wait, visit their to-go outpost next door. If you’re lucky, you might snag a barstool or two.

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Big food might be trendy, but Pure Food and Wine better be here to stay. The sexy East Village eatery and wine bar is dimly lit, with gastronomic cuisine made of only organic ingredients cooked at 118 degrees or less. Unbelievably, a menu lacking dairy, wheat and refined sugar can be shockingly gratifying. Get the five-course tasting menu ($59) and agree to eat off each other’s plates. The white corn tamales ($23) are topped with marinated mushrooms and salsa verde. You will find yourself asking repeatedly, “What is this?” With spring near, the takeaway location is perfect for a daytime snack or casual dinner.

Pure Food and Wine
54 Irving Place
(212) 477-1010
Monday-Sunday, 5:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

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Tasty fish tacos from Café Habana To Go.

Café Habana
17 Prince Street
(212) 625-2001
Monday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-midnight

RAW FOOD MIGHT BE TRENDY, BUT PURE FOOD AND WINE BETTER BE HERE TO STAY. THE SEXY EAST VILLAGE EATERY AND WINE BAR IS DIMLY LIT, WITH GASTRONOMIC CUISINE MADE OF ONLY ORGANIC INGREDIENTS COOKED AT 118 DEGREES OR LESS. UNBELIEVABLY, A MENU LACKING DAIRY, WHEAT AND REFINED SUGAR CAN BE SHOCKINGLY GRATIFYING. GET THE FIVE-COURSE TASTING MENU ($59) AND AGREE TO EAT OFF EACH OTHER’S PLATES. THE WHITE CORN TAMALES ($23) ARE TOPPED WITH MARINATED MUSHROOMS AND SALSA VERDE. YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF ASKING REPEATEDLY, “WHAT IS THIS?” WITH SPRING NEAR, THE TAKEAWAY LOCATION IS PERFECT FOR A DAYTIME SNACK OR CASUAL DINNER.

PURE FOOD AND WINE
54 IRVING PLACE
(212) 477-1010
MONDAY-SUNDAY, 5:30 P.M.-10:30 P.M.
Featured Film Review: Be Kind Rewind

Be Kind Rewind. Written and Directed by Michel Gondry. Starring Jack Black.

By EMILY J. NELSON

Michel Gondry's new picture, Be Kind Rewind, celebrates community and unregulated creativity with French whimsy and deadpan comedy. Jack Black and Mos Def are two clerks in a crumbling video/thrift shop in Passaic, New Jersey. When Black inadvertently polarizes all the tapes in the store, his brain is magnetized from a microwave, the pair decides to remake the whole lot, casting the sassy dry cleaner next door (Melonie Diaz) as their leading actress and production assistant. The customers prefer the remade movies to the originals, and thus a community film company is born—using the used car lot across the street.

This success relies on the willingness of the viewer to accept the subterfuge with which its absurd premise is presented. It is shot beautifully. The montage of clips from the company's various productions is delightfully innovative, as are the hand-made props and backgrounds of crumbling Passaic at sunset. The movie is mostly action movies set in the 1990s, with the exception of The Unbliv- ing. This segment is the film's most thrilling, a film noir that exemplifies the off-beat humor of Be Kind Rewind. Most of the films are well-cast as the misfit shop clerks, and Mia Farro is convincing as a fraz- zled customer who does not quite understand what is going on. As Farro ages out of the traditional age bracket for ingenues, he im- presses with her capability to play a broader range of roles.

There is an exhibition in which the company shows the movies now on view at Deitch Galleries in SoHo. It consists of several movie sets, through which visitors are invited to walk, play and even make their own movies. The gallery's website has more information on the way to schedule an appointment for a filming.

Recommanded

The exhibition will be open through March 22. Deitch Galleries is lo- cated at 16 Wooster St.

Books


By JOSH KURP

Only one out of every 500 books on the Beatles is going to be worthwhile to read—especially be- cause, according to Amazon, there are over 20,000 of them. In May Pang's Instamatic Karma: Photog- raphs of John Lennon, she man- ages to find a side of John Len- non that most don't see or think about.

Personal assistant-turned-keeper for 18 months beginning in 1973, Pang got to see Lennon as both boy and man. In her book, something that shows in pictures. They're personal yet slightly removed as if your eyes closed, or another where he's looking ghastly white with his eyes closed, or another where he's godding around and playing the drums. If you're a die-hard Beatles fan, it's worthwhile to skim through Instamatic Karma; otherwise, probably not.

Somewhat Recommended

America Unzipped. Written by Brian Alexander.

By HELEN BUYNISKI

America Unzipped, by Brian Alexander, is a pro- vocative look at how mainstream Americans have embraced sexual exploitation in an age of "conser- vatism." When Alexander actually focuses on the nature of the sex lives mainstream Americans lead, the book is quite eye-opening and engaging. However, he repeatedly confounds the investigative journalist's memoir and often falls back on dull, irrelevant personal anec- dotes rather than letting his compelling subjects tell their sto- ries. Not always as insightful as it could be, Alexander's offhanded examination of the sexual practices of mainstream America laboratory- style, from his own comfortable, cosmopolitan viewpoint in south- ern California —the book does cov- er an impressive range of subjects from a semi-insider's perspective. It offers a comprehensive look at sex from fingerprint-style parties, the clientele and management of a giant sex shop in Arizona, extreme bondage dressed up as "art," and virtual sex of all possible kinds. In "unzipping" America, Alexander reveals that perhaps it wasn't quite as zipped-up as it looked in the first place. The reader might start to look at his or her neighbors dif- ferently after this.

Somewhat Recommended

Preview: Lang Theatre Collective

Close. Written by Patricia Marber.

Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mama’s Hung You In the Closet and I’m Feelin’ So Sad. Written by Arthur Kopit.

By KRISTEN WILKE

From March 11 through March 16, the Theater Collective at Lang College presents back to back performances of Patricia Marber's drama, Close. and Arthur Kopit's comedy, Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mom- ma's Hung You In the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad.

The Collective has been around since 2005, but this is the first time they've produced plays not written by Lang students.

“The scenes are not written or performed by Lang students, almost every scene has been changed in some way. The actors’ names have been changed, and the dialogue has been adapted slightly,” said Kopit.

“Since we decided to work on ex- isted plays, the focus has been more on the process of the actor’s scripting of the text, unlike our past shows where the emphasis had been about creating the show from scratch,” said L.J. Regine, producer of Close and Theater Collective President. The shows are free of charge and will take place at the Richmond Shepherd Theatre on 26th Street at 2nd Avenue. For more informa- tion, contact theatrecollective@ newschool.edu.

Theater

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Directed by Debbie Allen. Written by Tennessee Williams.

BY COURTNEY NICHOLS

Before the actors even pranced on stage, it was clear that the produc- tion was an A-list booby trap. The audience sat on the edge of its seats, giggling in anticipation. The curtain rose and the crowd jumped to its feet, before a single line was spoken. It was apparent the audience was there for two reasons: to gawk at Terrence How- ard’s firm body and and at James Earl Jones stoic, rumbling voice. Unfortunately, the audience was charmed by the set de- signs, which were reminiscent of a high school production. Cracked walls and silhouetted serres pro- jecting firework displays appeared picturesque and vacuous. Such ele- ments did not reflect the grandeur of the estate Tennessee Williams describes in his classic portrayal of wealth and alcohol in the 1930’s South.

The acting was forgettable, as the confused metaphors passed and maintained no pertinence in rela- tion to the remainder of the plot. Main actors, including Howard and Jones, transformed dramatic climaxes into comedic atacks.

While Terrence Howard’s charac- ter drunkenly begins to beat his wife with his crotch, a stream of laughter filled the theater, de- grading the tragedy to a humorous anecdote. The disastrous evening left this critic nostalgic for the 1958 classic and Elizabeth Taylor’s skintight slip. Unfortunately, even representatives of the revival disaster did not erase the disappointing memories of this latest Cat On A Hot Tin Roof. This play truly has vicious and lethal claws.

Not Recommended

Nerd Rock

Being a nerd and liking music doesn’t necessarily mean you have to switch between Houses of the Holy and ‘The Imperial March’ from Star Wars while sitting in a basement eating Funyuns. In fact, being a nerd is at the heart of rock and roll. It all begins with Buddy Holly. The look, the moves, the glasses, everything associated with Nerd Rock is all thanks to Buddy Holly. It’s impossible to think of Holly and not picture the big, large-framed glasses he wore. As with punk, how you look in Nerd Rock has as much to do with the genre as the sound. Nerd Rock (also known as Geek Rock) is exemplified by a few traits: the aforementioned style; awkward lead singers; a heavy reliance on synthesizers and keyboards (it also doesn’t hurt to feature the keyboard); harmonic vo- calists; and “quirky” lyrics. The Talking Heads are the epitome of nerd rock, for David Byrne’s eccentric vocal style and “Butch Trucks” the band’s sound is based around electronic music mixed with gui- tars, bass and drums.

That sound is most closely asso- ciated with New Wave, a late-70s/ early-80s genre that could easily be categorized under the heading of nerd rock. Bands like TWT and Dye Dog may not sound very nerdy, but they have the Buddy Holly factor where the singer looks like (and probably is) a nerd.

Nerd Rock caught on again in the 90s with Weezer, who is most closely associated with the genre. While maybe not the greatest band in the world (although everyone in high school goes through their “Pinkerton is the Best Album of All-Time” phase), lead singer Rivers Cuomo looks like a nerd, and they’re just a nerd band all-around—after all, they’ve got a lyric that goes, “I’ve got a Dun- geon Master’s Guide/I’ve got a 12- sided dice/I’ve got Kitty Pryde/And Nightcrawler too.”

The nerd, quirky lyrics are what make bands like They Might Be Giants (who like to rock out with an accordion) and Barnacked La- dies both popular and respected amongst nerds, freaks and geeks, and we’re more than likely not the only ones. Take the RNL song “Grade Nine,” which gets, “I got into the classroom and my knowledge was gone/I guess I should’ve studied instead of watching Wrath of Khan.”

Nerd Alert!

If you’re a nerd, it doesn’t mean you’re bound to be obsessing over Star Trek or working at an arcade. Thanks to Buddy Holly and Wee- zer, you might just be able to pick up a guitar and start a band. Don’t forget the glasses, though.
HARLEM’S “MAIN STREET” REZONED FOR DEVELOPMENT

Photos by: Sam Lewis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

say no,” said Craig Schley, the Executive Director of VOTE People. Schley said that the community board’s conditional disapproval of the rezoning plan had not gone far enough to protect local businesses and residents. “[CB 10] muddled ‘no’ and it’s not as strong,” he said.

But the Planning Commission denied any wrongdoing in its proposal. “Planning needs to weigh local concerns with city-wide needs,” said Raynoff.

“Zoning does not regulate ownership. It does not recognize the difference between a local bakery and a Dunkin’ Donuts,” she added. Raynoff said that the proposal encourages “more Apollos and more fledgling local businesses” by offering tax incentives and increasing the amount of commercial real estate.

“What we are looking at is the thousands of jobs that would be created in an area that sorely needs it,” she said.

According to the New York Times, the idea to rezone Harlem was proposed by Amanda M. Burden, chairwoman of the Planning Commission. She said she was inspired to re-imagine Harlem when, after attending a concert at the Apollo Theater, a friend suggested that there were no good places to eat around 125th Street.

“There should be a million different eateries around there, and this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to frame and control growth on 125th Street,” Burden told the Times.

But for Schley, these are cultural issues that should be addressed by Harlem residents, not city boards or contractors. Real estate developers, he said, “realize that the community is fragmented and cannot contest what they are pushing down our throats. As long as they believe the community...is not organized, they can do whatever they want.”

Clockwise from top: Professor Marvin Gatiling, a self defense trainer and Vietnam veteran, fulfills his passion for photography by showing and printing photos for pedestrians on 125th Street. Construction has already begun on 125th Street. The city’s plan would allow for private developers to build taller buildings and to institute incentives to encourage the construction of housing for low income residents. The city plans to rezone the section of Harlem between 124th and 126th Streets from Broadway to Second Avenue. Looking east, a view of Harlem’s “main street” from the Metro North platform.