Students Protest ‘Irresponsible’ University

By Kevin Dugan

The New School Chapter of Students for a Democratic Society held a rally in the Vera List Courtyard on March 12 to protest a number of university policies, saying they represent an unacceptable disconnect from the school’s liberal history.

The speakers, eight in all, were united by their disenchantment with The New School. Some of the main topics they brushed were the undisclosed nature of university investments, the dismissal of a long-time Gender Studies professor Dr. Barrie Karp, and the lack of student representation on the Board of Trustees.

By New School standards, the rally drew an unusually large crowd, partly because much of it took place during the 20-minute break before 4 p.m. classes. At one point, an estimated 100 students and faculty gathered to listen to the speakers, who stood on the courtyard’s stone bench and spoke through an old amplifier.

“Do we want a culture of people at this school who have no problem making money off death? Making money off torture?” asked Lang Junior Robert Eletto, referring to board member Robert Millard, director of L-3 Communications, a defense industry contractor with ties to Abu Ghraib. “The progressive legacy of this school has been hijacked.”

Eletto cited a quote from a previous Free Press article in which New School President Bob Kerrey said that Millard had no control over investments, and that no New School money was invested in L-3 or any of its subsidiaries. He then questioned whether the administration was more interested in the legal or the moral implications of its investments.

“We do have moral standards for board membership, which is why we asked Norman Hsu to step down last summer,” Kerrey told the Free Press in an e-mail. “How Board of Trustees. Up to now, DiFrancesco said, attempts to change the university’s direction have been met with ambivalence from the administration. She added that students should “refuse to be heard by our trustees,” said DiFrancesco. “The final list has di- verse selections such as Tennyson’s ‘Charge of the Light Brigade,’ The Arabian Nights, the Gospel of Luke, Goethe’s The Sorrows of Young Werther, and Sei Shyla- gi’s Pillow Book. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 students. In the question and answer period,

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ever, I do not believe Bob Millard’s involvement with L-3 is even close to being immoral.”

Janum Thompson, a Lang senior, spoke to the filled courtyard about Dr. Karp, whose contract was not renewed for next year despite her 26-year tenure. A loose coalition of students has formed an effort to persuade the university to renew Karp’s contract. Multiple administra- tors have declined to comment on the matter, citing privacy concerns.

“If it can happen to Barrie, it can happen to anybody,” Thompson said. “Our voices are not valued.”

The university’s alleged deva- luation of student opinion was a leitmotif running through the entire protest. In response, Lang junior Pamela DiFrancesco called for student representation on the Board of Trustees, to up now, DiFrancesco said, attempts to change the university’s direction have been met with ambivalence from the administration. She added that students should “refuse to be heard by our trustees,” said DiFrancesco. “The final list has diverse selections such as Tennyson’s ‘Charge of the Light Brigade,’ The Arabian Nights, the Gospel of Luke, Goethe’s The Sorrows of Young Werther, and Sei Shyog- gi’s Pillow Book. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 students. In the question and answer period,

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Iraq by the Numbers

It is admirably very difficult to write an editorial or an article about the Iraq War, especially for a student newspaper. In attempting to write this, I found myself frustrated. I can’t find words to express my anger with this war or America’s lack of interest in it. To the millions of Iraqis dead, injured or displaced as a result of this war, words mean nothing.

But despite this frustration, and the feeling that I can’t make enough sense of what’s happening over there in Iraq, it’s important to keep talking. No matter how frustrated I or the rest of you may be, we must continue to protest this war, in whatever capacity we can.

If we keep seeing Iraq as a “boring issue” that “doesn’t affect us,” or Iraqis as not human enough to garner any compassion, the war is going to last as long as our politicians want. Washington has no reason to bring our troops home unless we demand it.

That said, to mark the fifth anniversary of the Iraq War, I thought the numbers could speak for themselves. The statistics are taken from The Brookings Institute, the New York Times and Iraq Body Count.

Money Spent on War: $800 billion
U.S. Monthly Spending in Iraq: $12 billion in 2008
Mismanaged and Wasted in Iraq: $10 billion
Internally Displaced Iraqis: 2,225,000
Iraqi Refugees in Syria and Jordan: 2.1 million to 2.35 million
Iraqis Civilian Killed: 1,194,935
Cost of Deploying One U.S. Soldier for One Year in Iraq: $150,000
Iraqi “Insurgents” Killed: 55,000
Iraqi Police and Soldiers Killed: 8,000
U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq: 4,000
Major U.S. bases in Iraq: 491
Percentage of U.S. casualties under 25 Years Old: 51 percent
Years at War: Five

- Hannah Rappleye

Letters to the Editor

Re: Arts & Culture, Confessions of a New York Geisha

Dear Editor,

This past issue of the NSFP about girls, who are students by day and sex workers by night, made for some interesting reads. The thing is, it really got me concerned. Most of the features focused on the overall happy life of call girls. I wish someone had discussed the ugly side of the situation. What’s going to happen if these women get caught? How will they explain that ugly blemish to a future employer? Why are they putting themselves in a profession that puts them at high risk for STDs? Just because it buys them a new york geisha, they are in very vulnerable positions—and not the good kind.

Sincerely,
rebecca carriero
Lang Senior

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently learned of Lang College’s plan to terminate Barrie Karp’s contract after this semester. I have been a student at Eugene Lang since Fall 2004, and have been proud of my school and its administration for the majority of my stay there. However, I have to say that I am now appalled and disappointed in this completely misguided decision. Barrie Karp is an irreplaceable soul, and an unforgettable teacher. Never in my time at Lang have I found a professor that more embodies the type of progressive learning that Lang claims as its mission, than Barrie. She teaches her students simply to think and to always be open to learning. I have never worked harder in a classroom in Barrie’s class than in Barrie’s. I dug through all the readings four or five times, wrote and re-wrote papers, got so involved in class discussion that I was brought to tears and I will remember those times for the rest of my life, because I knew I was doing something; I knew I was learning something, and I was coming awake. Barrie is a true artist, and her teaching comes off as a creative expression. In my classes with her, I have not only read memorable texts and been introduced to authors, I will follow for the rest of my life, but she has always exposed me to different songs, sculptures, paintings, films, photographs, and more that have increased my understanding of this world, and of myself. She has introduced me to artists and thinkers like Carolee Schneemann, Louise Bourgeois, Zora Neale Hurston, Adrienne Rich, Patricia Williams, and so many others that I wouldn’t have been exposed to otherwise.

I can tell you that when I look back on my education at Lang, it will be Barrie Karp’s classes that I remember the most, because those were the times I felt the most alive, most with it, and engaged. I can’t imagine how Lang could see fit to let go of such a spirit, such a mind, and such a heart. If perhaps she is considered too “radical” for this increasingly conservative administration, then not only are they imposing an unforgivable censorship on the education of Lang students, but they are naive in thinking that her lessons in critical thinking have not resonated deep enough into the student body and that they will go away in her absence. I am leaving Lang as a graduate in May, and I wish to keep only good-will and respect for this place in my heart, but if the administration goes through with this decision to terminate Barrie, then my memory of this school as an open and innovative place of higher learning will most certainly be tainted.

Sincerely,
Ashley J. Jacobson
Lang Senior
New concentration this fall
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

students raised issues such as the negative impact of more requirements on Lang's self-directed rep.

"The benefits I saw of coming to Lang were that the requirements were so loose I could explore other areas of study," said Zach Walter, a freshman at Lang. But he said that the meeting made him less wor-

ried. "After talking about it, I don't know. They seem flexible and open to new ideas."

"I think this means they're con-

forming to a more rigid educa-

tional structure," said Ian Phillips, a Lang senior in the Writing con-

centration. "I think in theory it's great," said Rachel Downs, a freshman dual-

concentrating in Writing and Reli-

gious Studies. But, she added, she thought the requirements would make it more difficult for students with more than one area of study to design their schedules."

"I'm jealous of the kids who get to take those classes," said Sean Carlson, a Lang senior in the Writ-

ing concentration and head of the Lang Reading Series. "Too many kids go through school without knowing who Don Quixote is."

Gordon described the new re-

quirements as "not terribly dra-

cine."

"It would be a great thing for

us as a community if our students had a common set of texts," he said. "We're not changing, really, what writing students do or litera-

ture students do."

SUPREME COURT

The first case, Philippines v. Pimentel, was about whether a court must dismiss an interpleader action (i.e. when a third party needs to decide what to do when stuck in the middle of a dispute) involving a foreign country that has claimed sovereign immunity. Although this case will prob-

ably just go down as a footnote in the Roberts Court, it was still pretty exciting to see how the lawyers pro-

ceeded before the bench. The defense lawyer didn't have the TV law-

yers' glitz and glamour, but for two days, all adrenaline rush. -Kevin Dugan

The second case we heard, Gillespie v. Rothbury, was about whether a court must dismiss an interpleader action (i.e. when a third party needs to decide what to do when stuck in the middle of a dispute) involving a foreign country that has claimed sovereign immunity. Although this case will prob-

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ceeded before the bench. The defense lawyer didn't have the TV law-

yers' glitz and glamour, but for two days, all adrenaline rush. -Kevin Dugan

New School students outside of the Supreme Court

New School Free Press

Popular Internship Advisor Fired

By Peter Holslin

In a development over spring break, which caught many Lang students and faculty by surprise, Brandon Graham, Lang College's Internship Director, Transfer Ad-

visor and Junior Class Academic Advisor, was abruptly fired on March 20.

Graham, 27, who had worked at Lang for three years, was beloved by some and unpopular with oth-

ers, students said. The reasons for his departure are unclear. Most Lang administrators involved in the decision declined to comment, citing confidentiality issues. Gra-

ham and his wife, a lawyer, also declined to discuss the exact reason for his termination.

But an accusatory message that Graham posted on Facebook last Monday, which he lengthened two days later, allude to a long-standing conflict between Graham and others in the advising office.

In the post, Graham suggests that personality conflicts, not his job performance, were behind his ter-

mination—an assertion that Lang Dean Jonathan Vetich challenged in a brief e-mail to the Free Press. "I find [Graham's] comments on Facebook hurtful, inaccurate and

unfortunate," Vetich wrote. Other administrators also doubt-

ed the veracity of Graham's claims. "The postings are vindictive and, in some places, alarmingly person-

al in their characterizations," Neil Gordon, the Chair of Writing, who will take over as Dean this sum-

mer, wrote over e-mail. "I see no reason to take them as a reliable record of what really happened and, to the contrary, many reasons to doubt them."

In a brief phone interview Thurs-

day, Graham confirmed that the end came after a 45-minute meet-

ing with his former boss, Asso-

ciate Dean of Students Jon White, and A莫斯 Himmelstein, Assis-

tant Dean of Admissions and Planning. According to Graham's Facebook post, after the three discussed Graham's "flex-time scheduling, off-site internships vis-

is, regretable management style, student reviews [some very good 

some bad]," a heated exchange occurred at the end of the meeting. Graham claims that White gave him five minutes to evacuate New School property, and says that a New School security guard escort-

ed him off of campus.

In his posts, Graham defends his approach to his job, saying he was responsible for almost 500 students, routinely handled more than 250 e-mails a week, and regularly puts in a 50-hour work

week. Because of an outpouring of sup-

portive Facebook and blog com-

ments, phone calls and e-mails, Graham said, Carol Cantrell, Se-

nior Vice President for Human Resources, agreed to meet with him last Monday to discuss the reasons for his termination.

He said that he does not intend to open legal litigation against the uni-

versity because he was fired.

New School President Bob Ker-

rey said, "We had a disagreement with the matter and had received doc-

zens of e-mails, but had not read them. I fully support the Dean in this decision," he wrote over e-mail.

Graham's duties will be divided among other advising staff. White sent an e-mail to the entire stu-

dent body with information for students on whom to contact with advising issues.

"We will begin to search for an academic advisor soon, but we are all fully committed to ensuring overall service doesn't diminish for students during this interim time," White wrote.

New School Crashes the Supreme Court

Over spring break, New School President Bob Kerrey ex-

tended a gracious invitation to the New School Free Press staff to accompany him to Washington, D.C. At a time when we would normally be hashing out story ideas and arm wrestling with our fellow writers, we sat quietly in the pews of the Supreme Court and listened to lawyers battle over law and semantics with the Justices. Although Clarence Thomas was waving at us from the crowd and playing the crossword behind the bench, the rest of the Justices impressed me—even Scalia, Roberts and Alito. They questioned (or hedged) both sides equally, giving the impression that the final judgment would be the result of thoughtful deliberation. Whether the conservative members of the court decide cases based on real deliberation or solely on their Republican animal instincts, I don't know. But the intense round of questioning made the process seem at least a little more fair than I had imagined.

The trip was amazing, for many reasons. The first was simply being in the rooms and halls where our laws are made. Skip-

ning through the Senate chambers like a little girl was a surreal experience, to put it mildly. As Mr. Kerrey walked us through the ornately decorated halls, he pointed out all the important people's offices, the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the private balconies of big-shot representatives like Nancy Pelosi. We tried to get on the Capitol balcony but for some reason, Kerrey wouldn't let us. The second cool thing was that we got to bypass all the lines at the Capitol and the Court, simply be-

cause we were with Mr. Kerrey. In fact, as we were going through security at the Court, a group of sixth-graders mistook us for lawyers. Had Stupid sixth-graders. The last and most important, of course, that we got to go to the Supreme Court. We'd like to thank Mr. Kerrey for bringing us there. Unless one of us becomes a court reporter, a lawyer that's all we can say, but sure we'll get another chance to go. -Hannah Rappeleye

THE CAPITOL

I had never been to Washington D.C., and going to the Capitol building with Bob Kerrey was like getting a backstage pass to a concert. The corridors had portraits of presidents and senators, and at the end was the Sen-

ate chambers. The security guards didn't have a prob-

lem with us entering the room but advised us not to take pictures. Once we were all in, Kerrey told us to look around. We looked through the drawers of the senators, finding messes and candy inside. -Elsa Delahunty

Dick Cheney's desk smells like a mix of rosewood and hickory-smoked bacon. It was pleasant and distin-
guished. Barack Obama's Senate desk is empty. Another

desk on the Democratic side held a prayer book for Bill Clinton's impeachment hearings. The hall is smaller-

er than I expected, about double the size of the Lang
court yard. Before moving on to the Supreme Court, we

walked through the National Statuary Hall Collection, which features 100 statues, with each state in the Union choosing two. The state of Georgia chose Alexander "Little Alick" Stephens, former Vice President of the Confederate States. -Joe Veix

In the left-hand drawer of Dick Cheney's desk, he keeps a pack of Georgia Peanuts and a set of quiz cards titled What Happened Here? Events that Shaped American History. On the right is a copy of the Pledge of Alle-

giance, just in case he forgets. Hillary forgot her glasses in her desk. They're brown-rimmed, with a strong pre-

scription for her nearsightedness. I would have looked for more, but Kerrey noticed Kevin leaning back in Cheney's chair with his feet on the desk, and told us it was time to move on. -Elisabeth Garber-Paul
Lang Professor Off to Berlin

By Emily J. Nelson

Lang literature department chair Noah Isenberg wrote a book to be published this summer about the renowned esoteric dancer and the electrified noir film Detour. Detour, a quickly-made 1944 B-movie, is the story of a naive young man who attempts to evade prosecution for the murder of his driver, an amphetamine addict, by disguising himself in the other man’s clothes. Isenberg himself will make a more fortunate detour as he goes on sabbatical for the next academic year to do research at the University of Berlin, under a fellowship granted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Initially a literature scholar, Dr. Isenberg studied European history and German literature at the Universities of Pennsylvania and Washington. While pursuing his doctorate at U.C. Berkeley, he was a TA for a course on Weimar cinema taught by Anton Kaes, the director of film studies at Berkeley.

Isenberg said that under Kaes, he became interested in Berlin “street films,” such as Detour, which depicted the temptations and paranoia of metropolitan life. His interest was temporarily stymied during the nine years he taught at Wesleyan University, when his appointment virtually was split between film studies and German studies.

While in Berlin, Isenberg intends to study Paul Kohner, the film agent represented by G. Ulmer, Detour’s director. He will work extensively on Kohner’s papers to examine his role in the Berlin-Hollywood migration of the mid-twentieth century. Kohner also worked for several years as a strung writer in Nazi-occupied Europe by promising employment in the Hollywood studios. “Kohner” represented me for the bridge between Weimar Germany and Hollywood,” Isenberg said. “His career is so checkered, so unbelievably eclectic, that it struck me as a very different trajectory from that of the better known, more successful cases, including Fritz Lang, Billy Wilder and Otto Preminger.

Kohner was responsible for US immigration to the United States in 1926, as well as the migrations of many artists prominent in Hollywood’s Golden Age. The Czech-born agent was the son of a cinema owner, a self-starter whose ambition and charm made him considerably an impression on the head of Universal Studios when he met him while he was on vacation in Berlin.

Berlin street films depict the paranoia of metropolitan life

Hardcore At NCOR Radicals meet up in D.C.

By Pat Korte

From March 7-9, radicals and revolutionaries from around the world including New School students attended The New School—gathered at American University in Washington, D.C. for the 12th annual National Conference on Organized Resistance (NCOR).

According to its website, NCOR seeks to promote organized action amongst participants against the injustices and inequalities that we confront in our daily lives and in the world.

This year’s conference had approximately 750 registered attendees, including prominent activists like former Black Panther Ashanti Alston, labor organizer Lisa Fritschi, and radical economist Michael Albert. The conference agenda included workshops and panels on participation economics, black liberation, political prisoners, youth and student organizing, and lessons from the environmental justice movement, the anti-corporate globalization movement, and the movements of the 1960s. A panel entitled “The Bus To Seattle” described the months of planning that went into the shut-down of the Seattle meeting of the World Trade Organization in 1999. The panelists were all participants in the mobilization. Their discussions focused on democratic decision-making during actions, property destruction, the role of the media in framing the mobilization, and coalition building.

Members from the Lancaster, Pennsylvania chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) facilitated a “Youth & Student Organizing” workshop that grappled with questions of leadership development, infrastructural support, and campaign planning for youth and student organizations centered on participatory economics, black liberation, and radical economist Michael Albert. "It could relate better to movement building if workshops weren't as focused on tactics, but more focused on strategy,” said Cline. “The workshop on youth and student organizing was educational and expanded my understanding of leadership development, membership retention, campaign strategy for campus and community groups.”

Despite the criticism, most attendees viewed the conference as a positive contribution to the development of the progressive movement in this country. "I’d encourage everyone to experience NCOR for themselves,” said Cline. “It’s not required that you have any organizing experience to enjoy an event like this. All you need is hope that a better world is possible, and the will to bring that better world into existence.”

The 12th annual NCOR will be held in March 2009.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A local resident, and a member of Community Board Two, appeared surprised over the model for the new proposed building.

Sam Lewis

Village locals protest expansion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

projected a $4000 million price tag, but the figure now hovers around $500, 37 floors, but because the is supposed to help to accommodate the 4,000 new students expected to do research at the University addi- tion to the 9,000 already attend- ing. According to plans by universi- ty administrators it should be completed by 2011.

The New School presented three possible designs for the building. Two of them were in accordance with neighborhood and zoning restrictions, but would not allow the roof over the Greenwich Village church if built. These buildings would be 550 to 770 feet in height, rising to about 31 floors. The third design, preferred by New School admin- istrators and displayed on the of- ficial webpage devoted to the new building, is only about 300 feet tall.

Still, Village residents and New School administrators have yet to compromise on university expansion

Historical Preservation, (GVHHP) succeeded in blocking an earlier proposal that seemed to col- ored lights projected onto the side- walk, many residents still objected to other aspects of the proposals. “Some people in the neighbor- hood don’t like the type of building we are proposing and some would prefer a different design,” said New School President Bob Kerrey in an interview after the meeting. Kerrey did not comment on how much was raised.

Members of the audience, mostly Greenwich Village resi- dents, asked questions to a panel of speakers which included New School administrators and archi- tects from Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill (SOM). Residents’ grievances ranged from issues with the building’s height to a breach of the neighborhood’s character to aesthetic concerns. Though the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVHSP) succeeded in blocking an earlier proposal that seemed to color lights projected onto the sidewalk, many residents still objected

Village residents and New School administrators have yet to compromise on university expansion

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NEWS
April 1, 2008

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Sam Lewis

A local resident, and a member of Community Board Two, appeared surprised over the model for the new proposed building.

Village residents and New School administrators have yet to compromise on university expansion

newcomers from Columbia and Prin- ceton offered gross square footage numbers, but they are not compa- rable because of those exclusions. According to Gartner, gross square footage for The New School was not available.

Still, Village residents and New School administrators have yet to compromise on university expansion.

Some offices from the current building at 65 5th Ave. have temporarily been moved to 70 5th Ave. Murtha said the new build- ing is meant to create “meaning- ful and innovative space.”

Even with the GF’s demolition date closing in, many New School students are still unaware of the political deadlock. "The fact that the project is going to be extremely expensive is common knowledge, but that’s the only thing everyone is aware of," says Audrey Quaran- dano, an English literature major.

"There is a difference between what we want and need and this is a want."
treat the class, and act as advisors and help to guide the station as opposed to shaping it themselves. Montague, who has originally sought the BBC and WNYC, caters to the aesthetic, creative side of the class, providing a platform for each and content. Jim Briggs, who has worked with Hit Factory Record- ing, has recently done documentary sound editing and scoring for dance, focuses on the aesthetic, creative side of the station, helping students edit and finalize. Both Parsons and Media Studies plan on offering courses next semester that tie in to different aspects of the station. The involvement of students with a wider range of specialties will aid an independent atmosphere at the station.

The Involvement of Students with a Wider Range of Specialties Will Aid an Interdependent Atmosphere at the Station

From semester to semester, it has been difficult to get the station up and running, Montague said. The 16 students in the class take various roles in the station, from Music Editor to Web Lason. Sarah Montague and Jim Briggs teach the class, and act as advisors and help to guide the station as opposed to shaping it themselves. Montague, who has originally sought the BBC and WNYC, caters to the aesthetic, creative side of the class, providing a platform for each and content. Jim Briggs, who has worked with Hit Factory Recording, has recently done documentary sound editing and scoring for dance, focuses on the aesthetic, creative side of the station, helping students edit and finalize. Both Parsons and Media Studies plan on offering courses next semester that tie in to different aspects of the station. The involvement of students with a wider range of specialties will aid an interdependent atmosphere at the station.

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IRAQ'S DEADLY MILESTONE
Five years and 4,000 soldiers later, students reflect

"These are the times that try men's souls." The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."—Thomas Paine, The American Crisis

In January of 1971, over 100 Vietnam veterans gathered in Detroit, Michigan to give public testimony about their experiences during the war. It was called the “Winter Soldier Investigation”, a play on lines of Paine’s Crisis. The event organizers, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, intended to illustrate the connections between culpable military policy and war crimes the soldiers witnessed or committed themselves.

With the exception of Pacifica Radio and a number of independent journalists, the event was not covered by national media. A complete transcript was later entered into the Congressional Record by Senator Mark Hatfield, prompting the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to convene the Fullbright Hearings in April, 1973.

In March of 2008, over 100 young veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan gathered at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Maryland to give their own Winter Soldier testimony. With the exception of Democracy Now! and a few independent journalists, the event was not covered by national media.

A sad and tired cliché comes to mind: “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

Transcripts and documentary video of the new Winter Soldier testimony can be found online at DemocracyNow.org.

-Ryan Wood, Guest Contributor

London Calling: Protests Abroad

Exiting the London Underground station at Trafalgar Square last Saturday, we happened upon 40,000 people carrying signs, shouting into bull horns and handing out fliers. The UK’s Stop the War Coalition организирован a demonstration to mark the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq. The crowd was assembled in front of a large concert stage with protesters from various organizations such as the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, the Nuclear Disarmament Committee, and Make Wars History, an organization seeking the arrest of Bush and Tony Blair for war crimes, making speeches.

The rally stated at noon, and by the time we arrived, it was well under way. The crowd was diverse in age, with children in strollers accompanied by their parents, college students and elderly couples. Organizers from various organizations had booths set up and were handing out picket signs for the Socialist Party, pulling troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan and to end the siege of Gaza among others.

By 3 p.m., the massive group began marching south toward Parliament Square. The police set up barricades along both sides of the street and watched as the crowd passed by. Once at Parliament, the crowd rallied for more than two hours. Not a single arrest was made.

-Lincoln Tren "Kayley Hoffman
OUTER BOROUGHS EXPOSED

QUEENS

New York City wouldn’t be what it is without the participation of Queens. The largest borough takes up 35 percent of the NYC area, hosting the city’s largest immigrant population. A recent American Community survey revealed that 54 percent of Queens’ inhabitants speak a language other than English at home, and the total of 138 languages spoken within the borough makes it the unbeaten champion of linguistics in the world.

No specific race towers over the others, resulting in a generously flavorful international buffet of cultures. With more reasonable real estate than busy Manhattan, students can more easily find apartment owners who are more lenient about credit history because most recall their earlier hardships as immigrants.

There is no better place to check out authentic offerings of foreign pop culture, lifestyle necessities and gourmet delights in NYC on a moderate budget. Greek, Spanish, South American, Eastern European, Middle Eastern, East and South-East Asian, Italian and many other cuisines have gradually produced a platform for fusion restaurants such as Michelin-rated Greek-Turkish Aqannts and Basque-French 718 near the N, W Astoria Ditmars subway station.

So you can excuse two man-made structures visible from space, alongside the Great Wall of China. So you can excuse this forgotten borough for being, well, different.

The best thing about the island is its neighborhoods’ ridiculous names.

Toot Hill.

By Yuri-Jennifer Kirumi

Brooklyn

I fell in love with Brooklyn on my first day of high school. Every morning, I would breathe a sigh of relief on my ride over the Manhattan Bridge to what Furry Brown once called “the throughest boro.”

After leaving my parents’ Midtown East apartment and surviving a year of the Manhattan rental hell, I finally transplanted myself to Brooklyn where the rent is cheaper and digs are roomier.

On an average Sunday morning, I wake up in my sunny apartment off the Grand Street L stop, hop on my white Peugeot and zoom over to every Williamsburg’s favorite greasy spoopy, Jimmy’s Diner. Located at 577 Union Avenue, the diner boasts friendly owners and free donut holes—enough to have me hooked. A few blocks away is the beautiful McCarren Park (Bedford Avenue & N 12 Street), perfect for sunbathing and cutie watching.

Next, I work off the doughs at Na maste Yoga and Tranquility Center (359 Metropolitan Ave.), a Belgian beer and wine house where everybody knows my name.

I’ve heard converting boroughs is harder than converting to Judaism but all the glam, food, and fun for half the cost ain’t bad. In fact, it’s the best.

Now I live by the words of Brooklyn Borough President Mar tis Markowitz: “Leaving Brooklyn? Fuggedaboutit!”

By Julia Schweizer

STATEN ISLAND

Staten Island is like the awkward third grader who doesn’t have any friends and eats lunch alone, talk ing to himself and playing with his fingers. It’s always been a little detached (it was almost entirely farmland until the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge opened in 1964), and parts of it still smell horrible (Fresh Kills was once the largest landfill in the world, and one of two man-made structures visible from space, alongside the Great Wall of China). So you can excuse this forgotten borough for being, well, different.

The best thing about the island is its neighborhoods’ ridiculous names.

The real estate office in New Brighton is complete without the aroma of coffee connoisseur at the Egyptian Coffee Shop on Steinway Street?

By Kevin Dugan

THE BRONX

The Bronx is like Manhattan’s attic: whenever you wander up there, you can find all sorts of things you either forgot about or never even knew were there.

Start by taking the 1 train to 231 St. for a heavy, warm and inexpensive breakfast at El Economico (559 Broadway). The fried cheese, eggs and mangu (mashed plantains) are delicious.

Take the Bx J bus to Fordham Road and you’ll end up near the New York Botanical Garden (4:00 featuring an Orchid Show ($20) until April 6).

But if flowers aren’t your thing, stop by “Tiger Mountain” in the Bronx Zoo. It’s easily accessible from the 2 or 5 trains at the West Farms Square stop. On Wednesdays, you can pay a suggested donation.

For fine cuisine, the West Bronx offers several options: there’s Arthur Avenue, Bronx’s Little Italy, and three different White Castles.

If you take the Bx J back towards the Kingsbridge area, you can visit Edgar Allen Poe’s Cottage (Poe Park Grand Concourse at Kingsbridge Road), where the “spookier at night, but you’ll also be treated to an in-depth tour of the Bronx County Courthouse (851 Grand Concourse). And after you’re arranged, you’ll only be four or five blocks away from Yankee Stadium (161 St. & River Ave). No trip to the Bronx is complete without the aroma of beer, peanuts and urine.

By Kyle McGovern

By York Good
Book A Reservation With Motel Motel

By Matthew Wilson

On the first floor stage of the Knitting Factory, a new rock band called Motel Motel performs for an eager audience. Their energy has integrated the small crowd, spiced with friends and classmates, is clearly engaged in the refreshingly joyful display on stage.

"This is the first time I’ve seen Motel Motel,” he suggested, "and they pressed," says one audience member. "These guys have a good, solid presence a lot of young bands lack.

Band members Eric Engel, Mickey Theis, Timo Sullivan, and Jeremy Duvall dance about the stage with a youthful energy. Behind them, a newly-added string quartet plays a dynamic emotional layer into the music. "Without trying to sound conceited," remarks guitarist/keyboardist Mickey Theis, "I’d say we’re a band to see live. I would go see us live. That’s where I get my catharsis: from the band. Recording is fun, but after it’s done, it’s like ‘Let’s play some music now’.

Motel Motel formed last September, after Engel, Theis and Sullivan met as students at Lang. In a short amount of time, the group has formed a distinct sound, which they sometimes find difficult to categorize. "I used to say that we’re like a garage country band. We were planning on being a garage rock band, but they had rock energy," says lead vocalist Eric Engel. "It’s like country music from Africa and the Middle East. On 5th and 7th avenues, between the Irish pubs and the Catholic churches, are mosques and Islamic centers. Halal groceries and bakeries, and restaurants that serve Moroccan, Egyptian and Palestinian cuisine."

Syrians and Lebanese began emigrating from downtown Manhattan to Bay Ridge in the 1960s, and an influx of new immigrants followed them, including Christians and Muslims from countries such as Egypt, Yemen, Palestine and Jordan. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 70,965 people reported Arab ancestry living in New York—the third highest Arab population in the country—and Bay Ridge has been the second largest Arab population in the city.

Over spring break, four curious Free Press reporters took the R train to Bay Ridge Avenue and ate at Arabesque Café (713 5th Ave.), a smoky Egyptian café with sabih, a dish consisting of meat and plump red chairs. Arabesque has no menu, so we asked the owner to give us whatever was good. She served us fresh moroccan mint tea and heaps of delicious lemons (ground lamb mixed with spices and onions), homemade hummus, falafel, and pita bread turned out to be only 83¢ for four people—a small price to pay for home cooking.

At Furun Bakery (6726 5th Ave.), is owned and operated by the Palestinian family from East Jerusalem, and sells traditional Arab and Mediterranean desserts and bread. Bashar Najjar, 27, and his brother Yousef work full time at the bakery—alongside their mother who offered us a slice of knafeh, a traditional Palestinian pastry filled with honey, cinnamon, and shredded pastry noodles and crushed pistachios. Knafeh comes from Nablus, in the northern West Bank. According to Bashir, it is impossible to run a successful bakery in the Middle East without knafeh. "It’s a staple in the Arab world," he said.

After we loaded up on halal food from Al Furun, we ventured into El Amira (6919 5th Ave.), an Arab ice cream store, and bought two Algerian roj records by Abderrahmane Djalti and Cheb Khalel. Roj, a musical genre from Morocco and Algeria, means "opinion" or "point of view," and combines traditional percussion instruments with uplifting vocals and horns.

The owner of El Amira, Nahid Zaghán, is a 45-year-old Palestin ian from the ancient city of Hebron. He came to the United States in 1995, two years after the First Intifada ended. The Intifada, generally translated in Arabic to mean a ‘shaking off,’ or an uprising against perceived oppression, began in 1991 in response to growing discontent around Israel’s military occupation of Southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, and the Palestinian Liberation Organization’s (PLO) inability to establish a Palestinian state.

The uprising began in the Jaba ha refugee camp after an Israeli army tank crushed four Pales tinians in Gaza Strip, and soon spread to encompass all the Pales tinian Territories—including East Jerusalem. Palestinians used an array of protest tactics, including non-violent acts of civil disobedience like boycotts and strikes and low-tech forms of violence like the stone-throwing of villages. As the ta lentless escalated to include suicide bombing and armed resistance.

It was a success. Israeli soldiers died in mass numbers in Bay Ridge, a quiet neighborhood tucked between 65th Street and 7th Avenue. The neighborhood is also home to some 800 Israeli settlers. According to the 2000 census, there are 168,000 Palestinians and 2,033 Palestinians and Jews. After 1967, Israeli settlers began to flock to Bay Ridge, claiming the land. Israeli soldiers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

The Best of Small Presses

By Lauren Taylor

Conglomerate publishing presses are not interested in first time writ ers. Small presses, which are often non-profit organizations, have garnered notoriety by relieving writers of potential financial difficulties. They offer profit-sharing arrangements, coupled with originality. A representative of Tin House, claims “As editors, one of the most offensive things a writer can write is ‘straightforward.'” As a quarterly publication featuring a variety of writing from non-fiction to poetry, Tin House's focus is on evolving “narrative flow.” In this case, sumptuous writing seems to flow together.

In contrast, Ugly Duckling Press is a haven for poets, specifically for aspiring translators. Receiving over 3,400 annual submissions, UDF relies on volunteers to sieve the good from the bad, in their “en deavors to create spaces in which people can have experience of art free of coercion, coercion and utility.” It is a result of that, in broaching a chil dic discussion about submissions, the UDF presses’ reputation is unshakable. Any strong poet is a school of one,” to encourage wary writers. Small presses, which are sometimes older press as small publishers go, Greyness will turn 35 next year with 27 titles published annually. Defining the press as “singular,” the discussion finally unearthed worthwhile sentiment. From the invention of the printing press in 1449 to the conception of librarianship in 1796, small presses make the critical choice to stay small, in an effort to personally a movement that teams writers with mentors, to nurture budding tal ent.

McCrae wisely points out, “If you are interested in editorial work, maybe it is advisable to work as a bookseller.” After a brief pause that suggested she, herself, didn’t find the comment surprising, she continued, “You don’t want always that you start from where you end up.”
New York in Tokyo
Japan co-opts our landmarks

By Yuki-Jennifer Kurumi

Upon seeing the Statue of Liberty standing in front of my local Tokyo shopping center, I think I’m hallucinating. Was it because of the exhaustion from my 14-hour NYC to Tokyo plane ride? Or was it because I was vision delirious, getting ridiculously drunk off the free on-food booze, passing out for a few hours, and waking up and repeating the procedure once more? Thankfully, it was neither.

I revisited the Japanese replica of the Statue of Liberty incorporates a re-creation of the Pedestal Base of the Liberty Island Bridge in the popular shopping area of Odaiba.

I flew back to Tokyo over spring break, and saw the Japanese city’s recent additions of recreation- and entertainment-based tourist attractions. They’ve started to adopt European and, later, American concepts and themes, and tweaked them to their liking. This “Japanifying” phenomenon began as part of Emperor Meiji’s long-term modernization plan in 1868, successfully proving that a nation could modernize without abandoning its cultural identity to Westernization. To me, Tokyo’s abandoning its cultural identity long-term modernization plan in the name of Emperor Meiji’s “Japanifying” phenomenon be-tweaked them to their liking. This was always been proud of their culture, theme. Although the Japanese have been recent additions of recreation-

Tokyo’s NYC fascination soared after 9/11

Those who operate the institutions will do their best to keep out what the wealthy would consider ruff.

The other panelists had their own methods of easing the snobbery of museum milieu: Fred Mason, the Former Director of Regeneration and Environment in the London Borough of Southwark, proposed that getting the townspeople involved in the decision-making allows them to feel comfortable in the institutions once they’re con-structed. He described a project which he headed called the “Bank-side Urban Forest.” Cultivating in a under-used city plan takes the opinions of the people of Southwark, London into consideration—they wanted parks, congestion pricing for cars, and a number of other ‘green’ options. The result was a museum frequented by the locals because they felt they were a part of it, not that they were shut out by the art elite.

While the New Museum was being built, its neighbors were never noticed by the locals because they felt they were a part of it, not that they were shut out by the art elite.

One must feel comfortable physically walking through the museum

New York in Tokyo—Japan co-opts our landmarks

The admission fee isn’t the only thing upholding a museum’s elitist image. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, for example, is suggested donation, but their air of snob-}

Museums: Walk the Talk

By Julia Schweizer

In the United States, museums are elite institutions. The average citizen makes $35,000 a year and probably doesn’t have the means or the time to see as a part of his or her everyday life. Even if she did, she’d feel welcome inside museums.

On March 12 at 7 p.m., Wollman Hall, Kinshasha Holman Center, 11 South Willard, will be the site of a panel called “Museums and the City: A Creative Combination?” As part of the Changing Times: Exploring the Metropolitan Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C., she works within the system somewhat awfully. She cited an instance where she brought her son.

“rudywob” nobs to a museum only to have a curator “turn up their nose” at them, making them feel unwelcome. The panel agreed that this sort of attitude is unac-
ceptable, and only perpetuates the cultural divide between the upper and middle to lower classes in our country.

In his January 26 blog posting entitled “Art: who is it for?”, Dam-
ian Langan, a writer for the Daily Telegraph online, pointed out that the American playwright “is de-pendent on the desire of rich peo-
ple to lose money.” The truth is the artist in America. With no reliable infrastructure for cultural institutions to fall back on, visual artists scramble for placement in museums or prominent galleries with rich donors. If museums rely on these millionaire donors, then

The Gangster of Love

By Robb Maynard

Spring break is over, and now is the time to come to terms with each and every decision one might stand you over the had. The Gangster of Love is here to as-
st you with how to look into the mirror and not feel like the bot- tom-feeding where we both know you are. We’re in a sordid, salty, guilt-ridden conscience wrangled you into a relationship with one that we’ve rubber-stamped as cool and hip on the first day in summer fun in Florida. If so, it’s time to shake him out of your life like the sand in your favorite Speedo. Long-distance relationships are. There are three or four words, put altogether, that inspire more fear in the hearts of young lovers? With the exception of chronic erectile dysfunction, I can think of none. The Gangster of Love is no stronger to relationships with lovers outside of his own zip code. There was the young brunette from Palm Beach. Our love was constrained to only talking on the phone. This didn’t last very long, because at 92.5 a minute, I don’t care how “hot and horny” her ad said she was, it was just not worth the effort.

Sometimes we can’t choose to get involved in long-distance relationships. We’re involved with some-one we deeply care about, and they need to move across the country or another, and we can’t stand to end it. I remember when my ex-girlfriend would fly to New York and we tried to make the distance work. I didn’t have very many op-
portunities to see her, so when she did, the prison guards were always watching us like hawks. Maybe if she had just flown through a security check without a tooth ander down a flight of stairs, we’d still be together, but at least we’d al-
ways have conjugal visits.

If you happen to be shackled into some form of a long-distance relationship, my best advice is to let them go and move on. The rela-
tionship will never be as strong as it was when you lived in the same area, and all that will happen is you’ll begin to resent and despise each other for ruining what used to be a great thing.

If you are in a long-distance re-
lationship and you want things to work out, I’d recommend just being hon-
est with your partner. This sort of break-up has nothing to do with rejec-
tion; it’s just practicality and common sense, and thus is the easi-
est let down. There’s other fish in the sea, and maybe they can’t swim as fast, but at least they’re in your school. Long-distance relation-
ships hold you back from the cute guy who’s always starting at you in your courtyard. His name is Robb. Go and talk to him sometime.

Have any romantic queries you need help with? Write To The Gangster of Love at thegangstero-
love1975@gmail.com, and he might write a piece in the next edition of his column.
It doesn't matter how you acquired the car, and it's an improbable tale anyway. But you've had it since last summer at least and, as your out-of-state driver's license has long since expired, you only use it for emergencies, or to go to Brooklyn, or for late night drives to Astoria's paltry shore, Hallett's Cove.

It started with driving to cafés just a few blocks too far to walk. Then you decided that interborough travel would be safer by car than on the subway. Once, in the early morning hours, you drove all the way from 38th Street and Northern Boulevard to LaGuardia Airport to rid yourself of a houseguest who'd long overstayed his welcome.

Of course you cannot deny that the car is one of the primary vehicles of your image, either. You are the answer to “Who has a car in New York City?” You are able to play both damsel in distress when the transmission falls out as you're pulling into a parking garage on East 59th Street and brave heroine when one of your friends is too drunk or poor to grab a cab home on Saturday night.

And if you ever did get pulled over, it would be an opportunity to dust off your charms and see if you couldn't convince a burly, mustached motorcycle cop to let you go. Or, at the very least, it would provide you with a Jane Fonda-style mug shot and an amusing anecdote.

Recently, someone remarked in a sweet and low tone, “You should pick me up sometime and take me with you,” which you could never do. Your late-night solitary drives are less an act of romantic whimsy than of desperation. You are failing at each of the seven tasks you are fumbling to juggle: escape. The towers of books on your desk and on your floor and on your kitchen table are threatening to topple at any moment, and more than likely to crush you in the process: escape. The place smells of cigarette smoke, you keep finding liquor bottles in the most curious places, the telephone rings: escape, escape, escape.

So you find the keys and try to remember where the car is parked. As in your every endeavor, you systematically pursue how far you can go without getting into trouble. Funny how this time you're doing it literally.

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**How to... Avoid Someone at Lang**

By Erika Allen

Step 1. I've found that taking breaks to smoke a cigarette during class is a vital step in avoiding anyone worth avoiding at Lang. The ability to steer clear of the Courtyard rush and to walk from one class to the next without the twitch for nicotine is key. However, please be discreet. Don't leave class with your cigarette behind your ear, lighter in hand. That's just rude.

Step 2. Take the stairs. This is a step that is not just necessary, but may also strengthen your leg muscles and lungs. One avoids elevator waiting areas and crowded and unpredictable elevator rides, and both the 11th Street and 12th Street stairwells provide somewhat discreet exits from the buildings.

Step 3. The bathroom is a convenient place to stop between classes when trying to avoid teachers, even and weirdos. Nobody but the continuing education crowd uses the bathroom between classes. Every one goes during class, I swear.

Step 4. If forced into a fishbowl class room, always attempt to sit on the outskirts against a window or wall. Noisy passers-by generally look first at those sitting at the table in the middle of the aquarium.

**Slumming It**

High-end low-life tales

By Amber Sutherland

It doesn't matter how you acquired the car, and it's an improbable tale anyway. But you've had it since last summer at least and, as your out-of-state driver's license has long since expired, you only use it for emergencies, or to go to Brooklyn, or for late night drives to Astoria's paltry shore, Hallett's Cove.

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So you find the keys and try to remember where the car is parked. As in your every endeavor, you systematically pursue how far you can go without getting into trouble. Funny how this time you're doing it literally.
In an age of effects-drenched overdubs, reverberated howls, and quasi-hippie sing-a-longs—all of which fall under the umbrella of “freak folk,” the New Bloods side-wipe you with a stripped-down jolt of catharsis. The Secret Life, the New Bloods’ debut full-length album, is all saving fiddle, creative drum beats, rubbery bass, and dissonant harmonies, cast in a blanket of recorded-in-basement production quality. Sometimes, the band follows meandering grooves with high murmurs and monologues. Other points are arcing and confrontational. In the title track, over a cascade of tom-toms and a dramatic fiddle solo, one of them sings, “Sadness and jealousy and every insecurity. Why don’t you believe in me, why don’t you believe in me?”

It sounds as though the aura of Bascom Lamar Lunsford, The Supremes and Erase Errata have avoken inside these three women from Portland, Oregon. Such a radical deviation sings from that terse “genre” idea is a promising sign for future things to come.

Someday Recommended

Music

Bauhaus. Go Away White.

By Helen Buyenski

When a “legendary” band returns from extended hiatus, long-time fans are often afraid their expectations will be disappointed.

Go Away White, Bauhaus’s first studio album since 1983’s Burning from the Inside, follows two short-lived reunion tours to deliver an updated but not-quite-authentic Bauhaus, as if the intervening 25 years relegated the band to the unenviable position of Bauhaus-covering-Bauhaus. Peter Murphy’s sonorous baritone remains instantly recognizable, nizible, and there are some standouts—“International Bullet-Proof Talent” and “Endless Summer of the Damned” boast the creep harmonies and solid guitar-bass instrumentation of Bauhaus’s most memorable work—but the album as a whole lacks the powerful, cohesive sound of earlier albums.

Updating the band’s seminal early goth-rock sound for 2009, the album at times veers into almost Pearl Jam/Smiffy indie rock territory—a regrettable move indeed—but by the brooding, atmospheric “Saved,” halfway through the album, they are firmly in their element. Go Away White improves with repeated listenings, and long-time fans shouldn’t be disappointed, but Bauhaus can’t quite revive their glory days here.

Recommended

Although beautiful, Kingswood is not worth the money needed to dine. With drinks, a delicious meal and a pitiful dessert, the meal cost around $89. Save your money and order in.

Not Recommended

Theatre


By Ashley Burritt-Archer

I’m not a performer, but Richard Foreman cast me in his latest production, Deep Trance Behavior in Potatoland. As an audience member, I felt as though I became a part of the cast.

With lights bright in the entire space, and booming recorded drums meant to direct the view- ers’ thought processes, Foreman inserts the audience’s minds into his world. The audience is sucked into visuals projected onto large screens, and into motions performed by the cast. The disorienting flashes of symbols, and recorded phrases, like “I, too, am always in the same place,” accompanied by filmed scenes drug the audience into a trance of comatose confusion.

High on Manhattan’s orchestra of visuals and sounds—gunshots or quick, shrill cries from live performers, viewers are lured into the same trance experienced in modernity’s high-speed and ab-}

 featured music review

the young and privileged students of Manhattan, sipping lymphce mart- tinis and discussing “Marie’s new line,” and more established urban professionals with blonde arm candy. My friend and I were instantly cramped, both socially and physically. Kingswood doesn’t offer much space, with the bar offering about 15 seats. After being told that we would be wait- ing an hour for dinner, we decided to have a drink at the bar…stand- ing up.

The décor is innovative and inter- resting, decorative butterflies have been added to the restaurant’s tin ceiling, a bright, aesthetically appealing detail. The large win- dow behind the tables allow for a charming view of the Village that encompasses the Australian eat- er, which makes the restaurant all the more quaint.

The food is best in consistent.

While my friend ordered the same burger that she loves at Ruby’s (Kingswood’s menu has the exact same one, most likely place), I ordered the mis- cellaneous wall of sugar was a lumpy mix- ture that tasted like it had been sitting out for days.

The New Bloods. The Secret Life

By Peter Holtsen

Restaurants

Kingswood. 121 W. 10th St.

By Jake Weinert

Last Fall, the owners of famed Bar & Grill Ruby’s opened King- wood, a new restaurant in Man- hattan’s West Village. Located at 10 W. 10th St. and Greenwich Avenue, Kingswood is crawling with the city’s social elite, not much else. As I made my way into Manhattan’s new “it” spot, I passed a group of glumamas dressed in black from head to toe; the title track, over a cascade of tom-toms and a dramatic fiddle solo, one of them sings, “Sadness and jealousy and every insecurity. Why don’t you believe in me, why don’t you believe in me?”

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High on Manhattan’s orchestra of visuals and sounds—gunshots or quick, shrill cries from live performers, viewers are lured into the same trance experienced in modernity’s high-speed and ab-
As Mortgages Fail, Who's to Blame?

By ADAM SOLOMON

This was a clear case of mortgage failure, but it's not just a question of Obama's experience; it's an issue of the voter's responsibility. People are enamored with the idea of an Obama White House, which is understandable. He's young, charismatic, articulate, he believes in transparency, and wants to move beyond partisanship. After the reality of Bush, it's a great change—but one named a single accomplishment.

"That's my point! They just like the personality," Sean Hannity said. "They can't name a single thing and they're going to vote this guy president."

Barack Obama is winning supporters because of his character, not because of his career. In early February 2008, a focus group of democrats was polled by Fox News consultant Frank Luntz on an episode of Hannity and Colmes. Luntz asked the audience to name one specific accomplishment made by Obama.

They named Obama's attributes—he's inspirational, he's a great communicator—but no one named a single accomplishment.

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Less Stars, More Stripes
Who are the one percent?

By Robb Maynard

According to a study conducted by the Pew Center on the States, one out of every 100 Americans are behind bars. Normally, this is the moment where I'd throw my proverbial cap in the air in celebration, but I can't for two reasons. One, I've already lost my cap from the last time I tossed it up, following the news that Shaq & the City: The Movie would be released in late May. The other is that, and I bet you'll be surprised, I'm not very happy about the fact that 1 percent of American adults are behind bars. At least, I'm not very happy about which one out of 100 Americans are in jail. I don't think we're incarcerating the people we need to.

We currently have the highest incarceration rate in our history, and more people in prison than any other country in the world. But let's step over the corpse of someone whose been bludgeoned to death. The people producing these corpses aren't in prison. They're allowed to run free, murdering at their leisure. So if we aren't filling our prisons with the dangerous and violent, what are we filling it with? Incompetent embezzlers and thrift-store drug addicts. In 2002, white-collar crimes, like fraud, made up 32 percent of the prison population, and as you guessed, drug trafficking and possession comprised 31 percent of the total. More than half of the prison population is made up of victimless and nonviolent offenders.

The United States spends an estimated $60 billion each year on corrections. This isn't quite as much as the $69 billion dollars wasted on education each year, but let's fight one injustice at a time. Sixty billion dollars is a lot of money to spend on keeping crackheads locked up. I'd like to see that money go to better causes, like locking up murderers, rapists, skateboarders and communists. These are the people who are the real danger to society, not the two-bit runnners of our generation. Life is worse for these nonviolent offenders on the outside anyway, where they can't hold jobs or own a home. Toss them back on the streets where they belong. No more cushy prison cells and three square meals a day for them. I'm not surprised that one percent of the adults in this country are in prison. I'm just disappointed we're not doing more to make sure they're the people who actually deserve it. Maybe this is one category that we don't need to be Concerned about. It seems our prisons are not being filled with the dangerous and violent.

More than half of the prison population is made up of victimless and nonviolent offenders.

Ten Reasons You Shouldn't Quit

By Sam Denlinger

This was going to be an article about quitting smoking. Then I realized something. Yes, smoking has a lot of downsides. The smell. The cost. The grim shadow of death drawing closer and closer with each puff. Stained teeth. But do you know what the worst part of smoking is? Quitting. That's why I've decided against it. Now, you may say to me, 'Sam, certainly lung cancer is reason enough to avoid cigarettes?' You'd think so, wouldn't you? But in today's fast paced, e-commerce, dot-com world, who has time to worry about lung cancer? Statistically, you are far more likely to be killed by not smoking than by smoking. So I've prepared the following list in response to smoking's detractors.

Reason 1: It Looks Cool
Despite what Hollywood wants you to believe, smoking does make you look cool. Just because all the hottest movie stars and teen idols tell you it isn't, doesn't make them right. Don't buy into the hype.

Reason 2: Barack Obama Smoking
"You jittery yet?"
So there's that.

Reason 3: To Piss Off Your Parents
PARENT: "(Your name), have you been smoking? You smell like an ashtray!"

Reason 4: Bummin' Bumming cigarettes is a great way to bond with your fellow students, and break the ice with that cute (guy/girl/professor) you've had your eye on.

Reason 5: Lung Cancer, Shmang Cancer
The way I see it, there'll probably be a cure for lung cancer before the time you have it.

Reason 6-10: Because You're Addicted, You Pathetic Twit
You jittery yet? See? Ten whole reasons why you should continue smoking. So now you don't have to feel guilty each time you light up. Tell the Surgeon General he can kiss your ass, and take a drag for me.

*This statistic may or may not be true

15% Student Discount with student ID

Shampoo/Cut $22.50
Shampoo/Style* $25.20
Shampoo/Cut/Style* $55.50
COLOR
Root $44.20
Simple Process* $44.90
Double Process $94.90
Additional Process $30.00
HIGHLIGHTS
Half Head $64.90
Full Head $110.00
PERMS
Shoulders Length* $64.90
Hair Treatment $10.00
EXTENDED PRICING LIST
Extensions $250 & up
Japanese Straightening $250 & up
Hair Weaves $200 & up
Relaxers $64.90
Up Do's $65 & up
Twists $64.90
Dreads $64.90

Makeup Artist Available

15% Student Discount with student ID
**Vatican Goes Green**

**More reasons for Catholic guilt**

**By Spike Schwab**

On Monday, March 10 the Vatic- an officially announced its rec- ognization of several new “modern sins.” Included on the list are items such as drug use, gener- ic manipulation, and, most surpris- ingly, harming the environment. Yes, apparently God now frowns upon low gas-mileage. Still driving that gas-guzzling SUV? Straight to hell! According to Archbishop Gi- anfranco Girotti, there are certain

**Point Counterpoint: A Return to Rivalry**

**When the season starts, whose side are you on?**

**By Eric Killelea**

Our New York Yankees are on the hunt for their 47th World Series Championship. Major League Baseball’s regular- season is upon us, and winning should be easy enough for the Yan- kees with All-Star players such as Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera and Jorge Posada on our side. Some may question the Yankees’ stabil- ity due to Joe Torre’s departure af- ter eleven seasons as head coach. Fortunately, ex-Yankee catcher Joe Girardi has taken over with com- plete confidence, style and class. Girardi was named Manager of the Year during his one season stint as the Florida Marlins’ head coach in 2006, and is the perfect addition to our Yankees, who are looking to make their 14th straight playoff appearance. Yankee fans are classy themselves. We are the cream of the crop—the best looking, the wealthiest and, dare I say, the most intelligent. And we know what we want. If a Yankee doesn’t perform, we let them know that they need to turn their act together. Yankee owner George Steinbrenner gets rid of all the butts, while making sure he provides us with the successful athletes we deserve. Our cross-town-rivals, the Mets, are a team that doesn’t know much about winning and have only won a miserable two World Series. In 2007, Yankees locked up 968 runs, over 150 more than the Mets score more runs, win more games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially in games, right? This year, our bats will be just as strong, especially

I wouldn’t want to admit to either, like how, even though I know it’s wrong, I still keep my phone char- ging plugged in at all times. Eternal de- nomination! In all fairness, this move does have the potential to do a lot of good for the environment. There will be plenty of people who will take this to heart and begin living a more eco-friendly lifestyle, but, then again, the people who believe polluting will end them up in hell are probably the same people who believe that Hurricane Katrina was God’s reaction to sexual- ity. And, hopefully, how much pull do they really have? The church has a firm enough hold on our country already; these new sins are merely new reasons for religious fanatics to hate the rest of us. Nevertheless, the power of the Church is undeniable, so just remember this: every time you toss that cigarette butt on the ground, leave the faucet running while brushing your teeth, or drink out of Styrofoam, God is watching you. And he’s very disappointed.

**Fruit Fly Life—**

**The Sexual Sweet Tooth**

By Courtney Nichols

Some like it sour. Some like it crunchy. But as long as it melts, any candy will suffice. A few days ago, a certain friend of mine had an unexpected one- night stand. When he stumbled to me the next morning, he tossed a box of Mike & Ike’s my direction. I thought it was a code, though—it was simply a present. However, the gracious act created a new language, a language based upon candy bars. No longer do gay men and straight women have to di- vulge distasteful secrets. All they have to do is rip open a sugar treat and all details are defined.

Uns: Self-gratification with your own best lover and your own two hands.

Generic Chocolate Bar: Vanilla

**By Fruit The Foot: A man who lives up to his reputation**

Mounds: Round and plush ass that is ready for some thrustin’

Take 5: Orgiastic and plentiful

Gum: Tasteless and useful

Mr. Goodbar: Older gentlemen who can teach his way around the bedroom

York Peppermint Patty: A sin- gular and fulfilling closed-circuit experience

Tootsie Roll: It’s not about the size; it’s about the girth

Good & Plenty: Self-explana- tion

Butterfinger: A part of the hand went in easy, like melted butter

Airhead: A blower who never sucks and/or someone who cannot navigate the penis

Three Musketeers: Threesome

Nutri-Gram: Fueled a vegan

100 Grand: Sugar daddy

Baby Ruth: Small penis

Peyday: A paid sexual transac- tion

Whatchamacallit: Indefinable sexual encounter

Milkbudhe: He just couldn’t cum

Sour Patch Kids: Erotic endan- germent of a minor

Hot Tamales: Latino experience

Mike & Ike: A good lay with your own personal Mike & Ike

Sno-caps: Black men with coke on their nipples

Abba Zabba: Sex with me, your own personal fruit fly

Right now, I am looking for a package of Sno-caps, and most of my gay friends are wishing for a 100 Grand, though at Lang we are stuck with a Nutri-Grain or night-

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are now stationed in Hebron to protect the settlers. Palestinians argue that the settlements in Hebron and the rest of the West Bank are illegal under international law.

Zighan said the last prison term he served lasted nine months. Upon his release, he moved to the United States with the help of a friend.

"I felt there was nothing more I could do there," he said, adding, "When you come to this country, you just try to find a place to be safe, to be free. Because we are not free there."

Although six years have passed since the September 11 attacks, Zighan said, people still view Arab Americans with suspicion.

"They look at us like we are the ones that did it," he said. "We are not that tight-knit. After September 11, everyone stopped talking. No one wants to talk about politics."

This was a common sentiment among the Palestinians we spoke to in Bay Ridge, but not a universal one. Bashir Najjar, for instance, pointed out that the children of immigrants are oftentimes more political than their parents.

"Me and my father get into arguments all the time," he said. "He says you're saying too much. I say I'm not saying enough."

But, Najjar added, his interest in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not necessarily common among people his age.

Young Palestinians "see themselves as American first, Palestinian second," he said.

Zighan, for his part, is visibly proud of both his native and adoptive homelands. Outside El Amira, a Palestinian and an American flag wave side by side in the breeze. In his office there are photos on the wall of his family in Brooklyn and Hebron, and a snapshot of him standing next to Yasser Arafat, the former leader of the PLO.

"Sometimes you have to explain who you are," he said.

Recommendations:

Arab-American Association of New York (7311 5th Ave.)
Najjar Pastries (7207 5th Ave.)
Tarboosh Café (7222 5th Ave.)