Science Survey

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Science Survey

Girls Swim Team continues a Dynasty

by Greg Metropoulos

On November 25, the Bronx Science Girls Swimming team completed another outstanding season, and capped the year off with a win at the Public School Athletic League (PSAL) Championship over Townsend Harris High School by a score of 74-28. The victory leaves the team with their fourth consecutive city championship title.

Science cruised through the regular season easily winning the Bronx/Manhattan Division. The team crushed its toughest rival, Stuyvesant High School, by a score of 61-41 in the final meet of the regular season. In the Open Championships at Lehman College, Science took first place over Stuyvesant again (413-382). Senior captain Lauren Goldman won gold in the 50 yard Freestyle race, while junior Lucy Liu and freshman Caitlin Aguar each finished first in the 100 yard backstroke and 1 meter diving events, respectively.

Security personnel successful in fight against crime

by Christopher Pae

Due to new technology and the hard work of school officials, the crime level at The Bronx High School of Science has declined since last year. School officials, such as the safety agents and deans, have provided a safe learning environment for their students and report that there have been fewer security incidents this year.

School safety agent Charlie Diaz reports that while the school has always been safe, new features such as the security cameras and the Citywide Standards of Discipline and Intervention Measures have helped to lower the crime rate. According to Diaz, most of the security incidents that have occurred “are usually outside on campus or on the way to the subway station.”

The decreased crime rate is largely due to the combination of a high tech camera system and the diligent work of security officials and coordinators. Every school day, safety agents patrol the hallways and campus to maintain order. They escort intruders out, prevent locker continued on page 2

Shattered Glass, shattered morals

by Jean Son

How far would you take a lie? In the engaging new film, Shattered Glass, Hayden Christensen plays Stephen Glass who lies, extensively. In the late 1990s, Glass was an ambitious young reporter for The New Republic, “the in-flight magazine of Air Force One.” More than half of the pieces he wrote were fabricated. The story of Stephen Glass symbolizes a much bigger national problem: the “epidemic” of “dishonesty and moral d like” (The New York Times) among the younger generations of Americans.

In a 1996 survey, three of four students admitted to having cheated. Ninety-four percent said they were never caught and five of six caught were not punished. Eight out of ten high school students admitted to having cheated. Ninety-four percent said they were never caught and five of six caught were not punished. Eight out of ten high school students admitted to having cheated.

Crossing Cultures: Exchange Experience

by Aliza Simons

As German exchange student Tom Roeschel filled out the “foreign exchange student” questionnaire, in some places his rather neat handwriting lapses into a messy scrawl. While reading his answers, one is reminded of the penmanship of a teenager that could be from anywhere. Does the country you’re from really effect what you’re? Are American teens that different from their European counterparts? What kind of a cultural legacy can you have if these students been through? At least Tom’s handwriting re- ally isn’t that different from most other guys.

As part of the Lauder Exchange Program, Tom Roeschel, Amelie Eichmann, Max Fliker, and Annamaria Nagy have all enrolled in Bronx Science for a semester, staying with four Scienceites. Next semester, all the participants in the program will travel to Germany and Hungary, and students from Bronx Science will get a chance to experience life there. Tom and Amelie are both from Berlin; Max is from Hamburg; and Annamaria is from Budapest. Although their origins are different, all four are from schools with strong programs in English. For instance, Fliker’s school, the Helene-Lange-Gymnasium, offers several foreign languages, but teaches English to students from the time that they first enter the school.

On a day-to-day basis, life for teens can be much the same here in New York as it is in Europe: every- one has to go to school, eat, sleep, procrastinate. Nagy recounts her typical day in both American and Hungary.

“When I came here, I was shy. Now it’s easier for me to talk to people.”

“The alarm goes off, I wake up, roll over, put my right foot on the ground, put my left foot on the ground, stand up…” and says that “life is really the same, but here I am always in a rush.” Like so many other Scienceites Fielker complained about his long commute (two hours from Staten Island) but said that everything else about the school schedule is almost the same.

However, some aspects of American life are definitely different for these students. Both Eichmann and Fliker noted that New York is a physi- cally larger city than Hamburg, Budapest or Berlin. “Everything’s big- ger,” says Eichmann, “houses, meals, every- thing!”

Tom still finds it interesting to see New York from the side of a “local boy” and not “just a tourist.” They both find that in general, Americans are more up-front and overt than German people. “A lot of the people are more open,” says Eichmann, “In Manhattan, they answer continued on page 7
Saying goodbye: remembering Manuel I.A. Rodriguez

How do you begin to say goodbye to such an indescribable, charismatic individual? I said goodbye to Manuel I.A. Rodriguez a long time ago. Even so, I never thought that he would leave my life forever, but I know he is safe where he is. You never forget the first love of your life or the incredible people that you’ve passed the time with. I am lucky to have had Manny as a friend and someone who I could laugh with and turn to.

I still remember one of our first conversations. We talked about music and he asked me if I listened to Incubus and when I told him “No, not really,” he remembered me replying, “No? How do you live?” He convinced me to listen, and I have been hooked on Incubus ever since.

Manny, you were so smart and always wanted to share what you knew with others, and although you will be missed by so many of us, you will always be in our hearts.

Claudia Coronel-Moreno

Manny Rodriguez was one of the most eccentric, lively people I have ever met. I remember meeting him Glory freshmen year and getting along well with him ever since. I took the train with him almost every day and on the ride home, he would perform a random feat, tell a joke, or share a story that seemed far-fetched. I can recall the funniest moments with him. There was a time when he came over to my house, and without my knowledge, he bought me a gift. When I came into my room, he was nowhere in sight, but as soon as I saw the mouse, I immediately knew it was him. When one of our teachers was absent, he somehow got along with the meanest of the substitutes. It amazed me that he was able to do this. Aside from being cheerful, he was also knowledgeable about a lot of things. He used to talk to me about microbiology, music, skateboarding and religion, amongst other things. Sometimes, I didn’t know what he was talking about, but I ended up learning something new. I never experienced death hitting me as close as this and, although we weren’t best friends, I grieve his loss. There are not that many people quite like him.

Ronald Vasquez

There are days when I think nothing will ever be the same. I think that Manny is gone forever and that I will never laugh ever again. However there are others when I think he’s right here next to me watching my every move and guiding me through the obstacles of my life.

No matter the doubts, I know for sure that he will live on in my memories. I will never forget the way it felt when he hugged me, or the way his laughter penetrated my heart. Manny made me forget about a lot of the problems in my life; he also made me remember that there are amazing people in this world. Honestly, without him, I tend to forget.

Manny taught me what it means to be true to yourself. He was never scared to be different. Nor did he stop himself from voicing his opinions in fear of mockery.

I have many other friends and even though I love them all dearly, nobody will ever be able to take Manny’s place in my heart. I know he will remember me too. The last thing he said to me the night he died was “I love you…ok.” I love you too, Manny.

Nadia Sminovna

Shattered Glass, shattered morals

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students admitted to cheating; furthermore, they say that their teachers often make it easy. (globalethics.org)

In my experience, plagiarizing and cheating are tolerated, if not applauded, by some students; friends bend heads over old tests from former students before class, and it is not uncommon to hear peers, grumble - or boast, depending on which way you want to look at it - about how late they had to stay up last night working on a term paper before they finally succumbed to swiping information off the Internet or faking bibliographies. Cheating isn’t just a way for students to pass English or Biology anymore. It has become a mode of human bonding.

In one of the most excruciating scenes from Shattered Glass, Glass and his editor Chuck Lane (Peter Sarsgaard) are confronted by the Internet publication Forbes Digital about the anomalies they had discovered in one of Glass’s articles. As Glass and Lane are made to answer to the small, threatening box before them, all the facsimiles of “Hacker Heaven” are expelled. “I’ll get my notes,” Glass answers, a mantra by now.

Glass spews out lies after lie to stave off his self-imposed destruction. He makes characters of his own inventions, like teenage hacker Ian Restill’s deathly painted as the biggest non-existent sham in the world. His eyes glower under sweaty eyebrows, daring others to disbelieve him. The agony of watching Shattered Glass was that I knew Stephen Glass so well.

In one instance, I embodied the essence of Stephen Glass. I tried to sneak on to the Gagnon bus using somebody else’s name but forgetting that “Kaitlyn” wasn’t “Kaitleen’s” real name. Upon being caught, I squirmed with the same fear, indignation, and ignobly, the same determination that Glass displayed. I plowed on until the very end trying to defend myself, when instead I could have used the five minutes to start my walk to the subway station.

Is there any way that we can stop this plague before it progresses too far? Has it already become too powerful to stop? After all, what did Stephen Glass really learn from his banishment from journalism? After he was fired from The New Republic, Glass seemingly escaped unscathed. He went on to graduate from Georgetown Law School and wrote a book based on his experiences entitled The Fabulist.

My own disinclination to lie or to ever take the Gagnon again is as laughable as it is futile. I know there will be times when I just have to copy somebody else’s homework or try to my luck with the Max’s of this world. The temptation is just too great.
For obvious reasons, high school students are highly prone to irritability. School, teachers, grades, girlfriends, boyfriends, fair weather friends, parents—the list is unending. All of these stress factors are having a strong negative impact on today’s teens, even right here at Science. The week before last, I noticed that a friend of mine was wearing a brace on her wrist. When I inquired as to the source of her injury she explained to me that in a fit of rage she had punched a wall. The teachers may not understand, but I explained to my friend the point was of wasting paper protected from unnecessary disturbance and the rights of the students and teachers. Shouldn’t they have behavioral standards, too? Apparently they do. There is a rule of conduct for teachers that must be followed and it is very clearly stated in the Regulation of the Chancellor's Office. In the “Student’s category under the subject, “Pupil Behavior and Discipline-Corporal Punishment.” Here it is mandated that, “Language that belittles or subjects students to ridicule or is abusive or threatening is a violation of policy.” This explicitly states that a teacher may not make any inappropriate comments that are abusive, insulting, or violent toward students. However, with all the regulations that the teachers must follow, and all the precautions that are taken to prevent events where students are put into uncomfortable situations, violations still occur. I am sure that most people have heard about an instance in which a teacher made inappropriate comments.

Not long ago, there were many accusations from students regarding a teacher calling students “stupid,” “idiotic,” and “retarded.” This teacher was also said to have made derogatory comments about female students. For the most part, stories of this ilk are a rarity in our school and we have an excellent staff. For instance, as Ms. Valerie Reilly reported, “every teacher is finger printed and background checked.” However, while Bronx Science may not experience many behavioral problems among teachers, this is not necessarily true in the realm of the Public School System. My own sister was in a situation where one of her teachers would constantly tease her about her name, her race, and her behavior. She made rude comments, referring to her as “Baboon” rather than Babu. I still believe that the Department of Education does its best to protect the rights of the students and teachers. We just happen to live in a world where there will always be people who aren’t able to follow rules. These strict punishments must be enacted for them.
New chairmen take their seats at Science

by Catherine Chan and Lena Gottesman

This September, two additions were made to the Science faculty: Alan Borer and Harry Rattien.

Alan Borer was hired as the new Assistant Principal of Papil Personnel Services. Borer is a veteran in the field of guidance: before coming to Science, he was the Director of Guidance at Mahopac High School. He also served as Director of Guidance Support Services for the Division of High Schools of the New York City Board of Education.

Borer’s duties range from mentoring students with special needs to aiding in conflict resolution. He runs staff development, informs students if their promotion is in doubt and advises students about the college process. Borer takes pride in being everyone’s mentor, counselor, supporter, and friend.

On the door to his office he has posted many inspirational quotes, among them, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. Indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Borer has an undergraduate degree from Queens College and several graduate degrees from Fordham University. He has worked with the International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution and the Harvard Center for School Counseling. He is also a professor of Sociology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and has illustrated children’s books.

One of Borer’s first tasks was to develop a mission statement for our Guidance and Counseling Center. The statement reads:

“Borer said of his job, “It’s good work when you help people through bad times so you can be there for the good times.”

The second new staffer, Harry Rattien, is the new Assistant Principal of the Mathematics Department at Bronx Science.

Rattien studied mathematics at Brooklyn College and New York University. He later studied Administration and Supervision at C.W. Post. Rattien previously taught at Bayside High School for ten years and was the Assistant Principal of the Mathematics Department at Townsend Harris High School.

“I am now in my eighteenth year of being an assistant principal for mathematics so I am confident in saying ‘I know the job,’ and I am working hard to learn about this school. Even though I have been here a short time Bronx Science is beginning to feel like home,” Rattien said.

“Boron takes pride in being everyone’s mentor, counselor, supporter, and friend.”

Rattien enjoys trying different types of cuisine as well as spending time with his grandson.

School Counseling will promote access for all Science students to an academically enriched, student-centered environment. We will attend to the social, intellectual, psychological and physical needs of our youth so that they may become responsible, literate, thinking, caring and contributing citizens.

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The Bronx Science Intel Reception was held on Tuesday December 9, 2003 to honor senior participants for their research in the fields of physical science, biology, social science, and mathematics. The student cafeteria featured an expansion of presentation boards reflecting the work of more than 80 seniors who participated in the annual Science Talent Search this year.

Teachers, fellow classmates, parents, and scientist mentors attended the event, which culminated in a buffet dinner and presentation of certificates and T-shirts to all Intel participants.

"You are all winners," Principal Reidy said in her opening remarks to the reception audience. The Intel Competition, famed as the "Junior Nobel Prize," has been America's oldest and most highly regarded pre-college science contest for the past 62 years. "You are all winners," Reidy said.

Kevin Kwan explains his Intel Contest presentation to Dr. Robert Drake. 

Kevin Kwan explains his Intel Contest presentation to Dr. Robert Drake.
Thirty Days of Devotion

by Poroma Babu

The thought of not eating anything from sunup to sundown is enough to strike panic into the heart of any student. Imagine having to juggle fasting, five daily prayers, and a full school schedule amidst the numerous other obstacles that arise on a daily basis. No, this isn’t hell on earth or anything like it, but rather, a spiritual journey into the minds and lives of the poorest people in the world, a journey that many students willfully undergo.

It is within this month, the month of Ramadan on the Muslim calendar, that Muslims must fast from sunup until sundown while living through their daily schedules and praying five times a day.

Along with the religious reasons for performing this custom, many students often have their own personal reasons for taking part in it.

Bronx Science sophomore Sheeba Wajih “feels that as a Muslim, it is [her personal] duty to fulfill [her religious] requirements to the best of [her] ability,” while Tanbera Chowdhury, a junior, performs the ritual for the sense of religious and spiritual “purity,” it allows her.

According to the Qur’an, the religious book of Islam, the ritual of fasting is to honor and remember Allah while understanding the pain of the poor, whose lives are often marked by hunger. Moreover, the Qur’an was revealed to the prophet Mohammed during this month.

This year, Ramadan fell between the months of October and November. Any Muslim who has already matured (customarily between the age of nine or ten) must begin this custom, many students willfully undergo. According to the Qur’an, the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, Ramadan, the month of fasting, is marked by hunger. Moreover, the Qur’an was revealed to the prophet Mohammed during this month.

With over 600,000 Muslims living in the greater New York City area (columbia.edu/new), one must wonder how the Department of Education helps fulfill the needs of Muslim students during this month.

The President of Muslim Students Association, Mohammed Tanveir said “During school, things keep me too occupied that I don’t even notice [fasting]. Going from class to class, assignments and other worries tend to take the midst off of the “hunger” part of the fast.”

Tanveir also added that because fasting does ask one to refrain from numerous pleasures, being surrounded by friends that are fasting themselves “makes it a little easier, knowing that you are not alone and that others do respect what you are doing.”

Muslim students at Science have a designated place in the Bio wing, in front of the Planetarium entrance to pray the Zuhur prayer, which can be observed from noon to the end of the school day. While some students who know about this opportunity do take advantage of it, others like Sheeba Wajih feel that it’s too much of a hassle. “I make up prayers that I miss at a mosque (temple),” she added.

After the thirty days of fasting, there is a day of celebration known as Eid. During Eid, Muslims exchange gifts with each other, dress up in their finest clothing, and surround themselves with their relatives and friends, and of course, delicious foods are served.

“The only thing I’ve seen so far from the DOE would be that they acknowledged Eid (in the new student Planner). Other than that, I don’t see anything else that they have done,” said Tanveir. When asked if it would be nice to make Eid an official holiday, he replied, “I believe that we should get [school off] for Eid. We get days off for other holidays such as Christmas, Yom Kippur, and Easter. Eid only comes around twice a year, why not give us those two days off to celebrate with our families without it effecting our attendance record.”

Looking at the future of the Muslim students as well as the future of the Muslim community, many students feel that the situation is improving. Maimoona Alam, vice president of the Muslim Students Association, said “I think there will be a lot more tolerance.”

Others believe that Muslims have already started to make progress for the future. Tanveir points out the fact that “Muslim society in America is growing quiet rapidly. For example the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) is starting networks such as YM (Young Muslims) which brings together the Muslim youth from all over the world while teaching them about Islam. ICNA/ISNA (Islamic Society of North America) conventions spread the word about Islam to more people each and every year. In addition, there are special programs every summer for children ages 13-21 where they learn to bond with other Muslims as well as have fun at a camp.”

Tanveir and others are hopeful that this increased awareness will spread out leading to a society more conducive to the needs of the Muslim students as well as the Islamic community in the United States.

Millions of Muslims worldwide will celebrate Eid only comes around twice a year.

Thousands make the pilgrimage to Mecca during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, each year.

A unique and exciting way to fulfill high school credits, the Lauder Exchange Program has sent over 50 Bronx Science students to cities throughout Europe. The students have returned four months later with new knowledge, new friends, new experiences, and a new admiration and respect for a country other than their own. The program begins in August, with the American student hosting the European student until December. Then, from January to June, the roles are reversed and the American student lives for six months abroad. This very successful program was established in 1987 by Ronald S. Lauder, who, at that time was the US Ambassador to Austria. Set with a mission to “foster in
Crossing Cultures: Exchange Experience

"At home I usually don’t do more than a half an hour [per night]." Participation in class is much more important in Germany; the exact numerical value of the percent of one’s grade can be close to forty or fifty percent. As a result, the students say, in Germany more of the students participate in class discussion. “When the teacher’s not looking, everyone talks. It’s open discussion a lot of the time, so the teacher doesn’t notice,” says Amelie. American students are “all taking notes” and “are much more concerned about their grades.” This is most likely because American students have to worry about colleges. In Germany college is free to all German citizens; there are practically no private universities. In addition, students who are juniors now don’t have to apply until their eleventh grade. This leaves these students two and a half more years. According to Tom, “most people [in America] are more serious about college and [their] careers.”

What do the exchange students think of us? “I think teenagers are similar all over the world,” states Annamaria. Tom, Amelie and Max agree; when I asked them if American and German teenagers differ, they all replied a strong “no.” In addition none of the exchange students believe in any stereotypes about Americans. They told me that the typical American stereotype is a blonde cheerleader, but the exchange students do not hold these archetypes. When asked if they were faced with the assumption that they were stereotypical Germans, they replied that they were not. “I expected it [to be stereotyped as a neo-nazi],” says Amelie. “But there was none of that.” However, certain Bronx Science students have some strange ideas and misconceptions about Hungary. “[Students here] thought my country doesn’t have its own language” wrote Annamaria.

Ultimately, the experiences of these four students have been positive. The only disappointment is the food. Annamaria misses the snacks back home, and Tom “longs for his grandmother’s food.” As for their emotional journeys, neither Annamaria nor Max think that they have transformed. They are thoroughly introduced to the Greek culture through the completion of a rewarding project, the experience of seeing incredible sites, and the knowledge of having made unbreakable bonds with both their fellow American participants and the native families of Thessaloniki. For 10 consecutive days, a student is transferred to places of fascinating historical importance and intriguing cultural significance. They find themselves climbing the steps of the vast sandstone towers of Meteora, standing on the spot where Clytemnestra killed her husband, Agamemnon, touring the sanctuary and complex of Apollo in Delphi, lounging on the superb beaches of the island of Skopelos, gazing at the wondrous Acropolis, and gazing at the breathtaking views from atop Mount Olympus.

Greek Summer is a six-week program beginning at the end of June. It is based in Thessaloniki, in Northern Greece, an extension of the American Farm School. For decades, this school has taught agricultural and environmental techniques to students in the Balkan area. Thirty-three years ago, the director of the school had aspirations of integrating the American community into that of the Greeks. Greek Summer was born and quickly thrived. Consisting of a two and a half week community service project, a 10-day travel odyssey, and a chance to live with a Greek family, 35 American students in grades 9–12 are transformed. They are thoroughly introduced to the Greek culture through the completion of a rewarding project, the experience of seeing incredible sites, and the knowledge of having made unbreakable bonds with both their fellow American participants and the native families of Thessaloniki.

Summer after summer, students return home with similar feelings. “They have ‘left a completed project and a part of themselves in a village that has become their own’” (Greek Summer Brochure). They have had six weeks of hard work and sheer bliss. Most importantly, they realize that the memories of their summer will never be forgotten. Greek Summer and the friends they made will have a lasting impact on them for the rest of their lives.

Greek Summer is not affiliated with Bronx Science. Interested students are interviewed and letters of recommendation are required. For more information and applications contact: Greek Summer Coordinator (212) 463-8434, or check out www.GREEKSUMMER.org. There is a 35 student maximum which usually fills by early spring.
The silver screen calls
by Rizwana Choudhury

Presents aren’t the only things people are looking forward to this season. Soon enough, we’ll all be seeing star-studded movies hit the big screen, including *The Lord of the Rings: Return of The King* and *Peter Pan*. Recognize a pattern? It just isn’t a coincidence that most multi-million dollar movie franchises decide to release their projects around this time of year.

Some of the most popular movies have either been released during the holiday season or have plots pertaining to the joyous holiday celebrations. One classic example is *A Christmas Story*. A tale set in the 1940’s, it involves a young boy named Ralphie Parker who’s set on obtaining his perfect Christmas present: a “Red Ryder” BB gun. Released on November 18th, 1983, the film gained a total US box office gross of $19,294,000 (approximately $35,000,000 in current dollars).

More recent films such as *Elf*, starring Will Ferrell, reached the $50,000,000 by its first week of release in movie theaters. Comparisons between box office records for classic and contemporary films exemplify the large difference between the net gross of more recent movies. An increase in the number of promotions for films can clearly be seen in the media. *Elf* was promoted through television segments, the Internet, and traditional movie trailers. Actor recognition and magazine articles also help boost hype for contemporary films. However, *A Christmas Story*, released in the 80’s, starred lesser-known actors at the time such as Peter Billingsley. While many factors may affect box office records during different generations, one thing is certain. Millions of dollars are spent on movie tickets during the holiday season. It’s the perfect time for family and friends to gather together and celebrate the occasion through entertainment. The audience looks for an enjoyable movie and film franchises look forward to large box-office numbers. Therefore, to get the most profit from the maximum of audience members possible, the best movies are released during the best time of year. If you’ve ever heard the phrase “Show me the money!” you’ll know how a famous line from *Jerry Maguire*, but did you know *Jerry Maguire* was released in December of ’96?

The Children’s Hour
by Shari Hochberg

In the 1930s, 26-year-old Lillian Hellman wrote her first play, *The Children’s Hour*. It is a play about a young, malicious girl in a boarding school who spreads a rumor that two headmistresses are lesbians. Her lie causes a major negative impact on the lives of these women.

This year, Bronx Science is proud to present its own production of *The Children’s Hour*. Mary Tilford, the young, devious girl, is played by Carla Hung and Zoe Fonseca play the roles of the two teachers. Alex Cohen-Smith plays the part of Doctor Joe Cardin, one of the accursed teacher’s boyfriend. The ditzy and the film’s stereotypical fairy tale ending are sure to put a smile on moviegoers’ faces. Although it may be lacking in areas, it is a worthwhile holiday film.

In the recently released *Honey*, Honey Daniels (Jessica Alba) plays a college student making a successful choreographer in the jaded music industry. A rebellious hip-hop instructor at the local center by day and a sexy bartender by night, she defies her mother’s wishes of becoming a ballerina by pursuing a career as a hip-hop dancer, but continually faces rejection. Her streak of bad luck continues when she encounters famous label director, Michael Ellis (David Moscow). However, she soon learns the hard way that Hollywood is not all it’s cut out to be. The original choreography, upbeat soundtrack, and dynamic dancing in this film strives to compensate for a formulaic plot and mediocre acting. Missy Elliot makes a cameo in *Honey*, spacing up the movie with the humor and flavor it desperately needs. Honey’s genuine interest in the inner-city kids makes her character seem down-to-earth, yet most of the characters lack depth. The romance between Honey and Chaz (Mekhi Phifer) is shallow and is not given the chance to develop.

Missy Elliot’s humorous remarks and the movie’s stereotypical fairy tale ending are sure to put a smile on moviegoers’ faces. Although it may be lacking in areas, it is a worthwhile holiday film.

Top movie theaters
by Yadelle Martinez and Michael Weinstein

The true test of a cinematic aficionado is being able to pick the right theater. As Scienceites head home for the holidays, they need not look further than their own school newspaper for the top four movie theaters in New York City.

Loew’s Lincoln Square is home to one of the largest IMAX screens in the world. The theater offers state-of-the-art visual and auditory quality. Surprisingly, the tickets for the IMAX screening room are reasonably priced. Its vibe is nothing to overlook, as it offers a wide variety of movies, concessions, and gifts that the moviegoer can buy at its gift shop. Located in Midtown Manhattan on 54th Street, the famous Clearview’s Ziegfeld Theater, which often premieres the most anticipated movies of the year. The Ziegfeld is no stranger to sold-out crowds even with its single 1,200 person screening room. Although lacking in variety of concessions, the theater does provide superb screenings with its self-proclaimed “best sound system in the city,” and superior screen projection using advanced digital DLP technology. Gingrich in *Scream 3*, the Ziegfeld Evokes the golden age of movie palaces.

Further downtown on 42nd Street is Loew’s E-Walk Theater, located between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. The lobby’s magnificent marble floors and hand-painted ceilings leave nothing to be desired. Having thirteen individual screens, each seating up to 500 people, Loew’s is always sure to have a large variety of films. What really stands out is the wide variety of concessions, ranging from popcorn to fried chicken and quesadillas. With two DLP projectors and state-of-the-art sound systems, this relatively new theater is sure to make any theatergoer happy.

Last, but not least, is the AMC Empire 25, the largest movie theater in New York City. Located right across the street from the E-Walk, the AMC specializes in bringing independent films to the city. In addition to its magnanimity, the AMC offers self-serve butter topping. With stadium seating, the latest technology, and a large variety of films, the AMC provides the essentials of the great movie experience. All of the theater’s aspects put it well ahead of its rivals, making it a must see Times Square attraction.

New Year's resolutions for all: ask not what moviegoers can get from the theater, but what the theater can bring for moviegoers this New Year.
to be merry

Ja-La-La-La-La

by Laura Kearon

The spirit of the holidays arrived a lot earlier than many were prepared for. Most people were still making trips to the beach and basking in central air-conditioning when the first Santa Clause dolls hit the shelves. Christmas music arrived in the same fashion. Now That’s What I Call Christmas 2, a compilation CD, was released in September.

Pop fans will be happy to learn that their favorite American Idol singers are back with American Idol: The Great Holiday Classics. The CD includes Justin Home’s “For C l a y F i r s t H i l a r y” and “Runaway Christmas,” the Sugar Plum Fairy, the Plum Fairy, and various other holiday favorites.

A holiday staple, A Charlie Brown Christmas, is still listened to by many. Released in 1965, the CD “paints pictures of the first winter snowflakes,” according to Laura Kearon.

Mother Ginger in a one-ton Christmas tree, and a myriad of glistening trees and powdery white landscapes.

Cabin fever?

by Catherine Chan

Winter Break 2003 – 2004 Report: Stuck in New York this holiday season? Our holiday guide to low-cost, high quality entertainment is here to come to the rescue! There are some great things to do out there in our wonderful city during winter vacation!

B r o n x Z oo H o l i d a y L i g h t s

Come to the Bronx Zoo between 5:00 to 9:00 PM to see an “enchanted world with hundreds of thousands of lights and over 140 illuminated animal sculptures.” Interesting features include “The Polar Express” theatre performances, choral groups, and a holiday train ride for younger children. Entrance fee is $10 for adults and $7 for children (ages 2-12) and seniors (65+).

Ice-Skating — Show off your skating skills, or lack thereof, by chilling with your friends at one of these skating rinks. Don’t worry, these won’t sap your funds. - - - Lasker Rink (East Drive and 107th Street, Central Park) Come to this relatively unknown ice skating rink that’s cheaper than Wollman Rink but is still in Central Park, only $4 admission and $4 skate rental. - - - Abe Stark Rink (Surf Avenue and West 19th Street, Brooklyn) Open Saturdays and Sundays, it’s about $8 admission and $5 skate rentals. - - - Kate Wolfman Rink (East Drive and Lincoln Road, Prospect Park) Open all of winter break. This is another great buy with $5 admission and $5 skate rentals. - - - World’s Fair Ice-Skating Rink (Flush Maxwell – Corona Park) This 18,000 square foot indoor rink is located in the New York City Building, opposite the Queens Museum of Art. A few blocks away from Flush Maxwell on the 7 train, admission is about $8 and $5 for skate rentals. - - - South Street Seaport — “Walking in a Winter Wonderland.” Join the bustle at South Street Seaport which will be having daily holiday festivities such as traveling choruses, a Seaport Strolling Santa Claus, and a shining 50-foot Christmas tree. Join millions of people on New Year’s Eve, in Times Square, for the 100th Annual New Year’s Celebration in Times Square. Watch the New Year’s Eve Ball Lowering Ceremony, a tradition that has become the “universal symbol of welcoming the New Year.” There is no cost and plenty of security, so be sure to bundle up and enjoy. Or go to Brooklyn’s Grand Army Plaza when this event is most noted for the fact that it is FREE.
In the past two years, the Weiler/Arnow family has donated a sum of almost $70,000 to the Bronx Science music program.

This year, Mr. Rubensky looked elsewhere for grants to purchase much needed instruments. Rubensky, with the financial assistance of three childhood friends, his mother, the principal of Pablo Casals Middle School 181x, and himself, was able to accumulate donations totaling $11,500.

This year’s holiday concert was a “totally different concert” from past years according to Ed Morgan. It consisted of the Orchestra, Chorus, and Small Ensemble, which are directed by Morgan, and the Stage and Concert Bands directed by Mitch Rubensky.

This is the first year that the chorus was directed by Morgan because Dawn Sotello, last year’s chorus instructor was reassigned to Clinton.

Among the new performances were Low Rider and White Christmas, which included the vocals of Natalie Chomet. There were also the familiar favorites, Hava Nagila and Santa Claus is Coming to Town, which included the now traditional finale of Santa Claus handing out candy to the audience.

Another performance is scheduled for December 20.

by Michael Weinstein

Rubensky finds funds for music department

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Rubensky contacted the Arnows once more, asking for any amount to help reach the goal of $39,000. The Weiler/Arnow family donated the entire difference of $27,500.

by Shari Hochberg

Alumni visit alma mater

The hallways were resonant with happy greetings and giddy screams on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as alumni roamed through the hallways in search of familiar faces.

Most were from the class of 2003 and are currently college freshmen. Many current seniors were visited by friends who had graduated previous years and words of advice to stressed seniors floated through the halls.

“Don’t worry about the college process. You will get into college!” “The most reputable school may not always be the best school for you.” and “The freshman 15 isn’t a myth” were phrases that were repeated in such encounters.

by Karin Martinez

Seniors sport their spirit

(clockwise from left): Jessica Jeng and Emil Rafol, Marianna Spanos and Barbara Karagiannis, Latoya Rudway and Evelyn Perez, Britanny Chance and Tiffany Redwood, Úsue Ugbwanogho and Betty Mihon, Britanny Sommer and Nora Valencia-Boylan, Saniya Bidita and Lahilla Barzola.

by Michael Weinstein

Photos by Lauren Goldman

Mr. Ed Morgan conducts orchestra with fury at winter concert. Photo by Michael Weinstein

New Item: Pizza Gyro!

We Now Serve Individual Sized Pizzas for $2.50!
SPORTS

**New wall-ball game imported by Scienceites**

by Martin Rahmani

The students of Bronx Science are known to relish their free periods. Used as a time for eating, hanging out, or even napping, a free period is the most relaxing time of a student’s school day. However, take a walk around campus during one of the lunch periods and you can’t help but notice the group of kids who, instead of relaxing, are playing soccer—tennis.

Yes, soccer. When most people hear the word they think of grass, a large field, goal posts and twenty two players. But here on the campus of Bronx Science, students engage in a modified version of the sport called “Soccer-Tennis.” The game is played against the wall beside the stairway leading up onto the 205th street. A regular soccer ball is used in the game, which is played either by two teams of two or in elimination (“everyone on their own”) format.

The game combines soccer skills with tennis rules. The object of the game is to kick or head the ball against the wall, only allowing it to bounce once before doing so. This deceptively facile game is, in fact, quite addictive, and a great deal of fun. A growing number of students have become hooked on Soccer-Tennis since its introduction to the school this past September.

Senior Simon Malinowski, co-creator of Soccer-Tennis, playing during a free period.

Simon Malinowski. co-creator of Soccer-Tennis, playing during a free period.

**Fall Wrap-Up**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Regular Season Record</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys Varsity Bowling</td>
<td>11-3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coed Varsity Fencing</td>
<td>10-0**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Varsity Golf</td>
<td>6-0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Varsity Soccer</td>
<td>12-0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Varsity Swimming</td>
<td>10-0**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Varsity Volleyball</td>
<td>8-2*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls JV Volleyball</td>
<td>5-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Cross Country</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Cross Country</td>
<td>*</td>
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</tbody>
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*made playoffs
**city champions

**Discovery of new steroid shocks sports world**

by Megan Carey

The issue of steroid use in sports came to the forefront once again recently with the discovery of a new “designer” steroid, THG (tetrahydrogestriol). Because THG was previously undetectable, the discovery has initiated necessary reforms in professional and Olympic sports drug testing. THG is an anabolic steroid which was chemically manipulated by scientists to make it undetectable by standard drug tests. Drug testing officials were not aware of its existence until a sample of it was sent anonymously to the US Anti-Doping Agency by an athletic coach in October. It has been produced at a West Coast-based lab, BALCO, which provides dietary supplements for athletes.

Several prominent athletes, including Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and various track and field stars have been subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury concerning possible tax evasion by BALCO.

THG was immediately banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The FDA has declared it illegal in the US.

Drug testing agencies quickly reacted to the discovery by administering new drug tests, with THG detectors, leading to what some have called the largest drug bust in sports history. Several track and field runners tested positive for the drug.

The NFL retested all previously taken samples from players for THG and four Oakland Raiders players tested positive. The league has decided not to penalize the players, because the steroid was not officially illegal at the time of the original testing. One of the players, Bill Romanowski, was subpoenaed in the BALCO investigation. The IOC has decided to re-test urine samples from every athlete who competed in the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Any medal winners who test positive will be stripped of their medals and suspended from their sport. Additionally, the International Association of Athletics Federations has decided to restet all samples from the 2003 Track and Field World Championships.

The discovery coincides with increasing worldwide criticism over America’s steroid policies. The head of the IOC, Jacques Rogge, recently said that he is “disappointed” with USA Track and Field for being too lenient with athletes who have tested positive for banned substances.

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In the fall of 2003, the Bronx Science Boys Varsity Soccer team was en route to winning the “B” division New York City Championships. With twelve wins and zero losses or ties under its belt during the regular season and one win in the playoffs against AP Randolph, the team was one of the favorites all the way. However, in a close third-round game against Jamaica High School (Bronx Science was passed in the first round because they had the best record in the city), the boys were defeated 2-1 in the second half and eliminated from the play-offs.

The Boys Soccer team posing with Coach Zuckerman (upper right corner)

By Alex Benepe

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