Solving Africa’s development puzzle

BY CHRISTOPHER ESPEJO

On Wednesday, April 16, the Zicklin Africa Business Club hosted a debate discussing the development challenges Africa is currently facing. Titled "Solving the Puzzle: Workshopping Solutions to Africa’s Development Challenges," the debate took place between Adakum Educational Foundation CEO Japhet Aryiku and ILO Director Djankou Ndjonkou.

The event, which was less of a debate and more of a discussion focusing on how much both speakers agreed with one another, covered topics concerning Africa’s economic, political, health and environmental issues.

The packed room of eager attendees sat shoulder to shoulder for lack of seats, was rapt with attention as the first question was asked by moderator Claire Lui, senior: What is the major challenge to the development of functioning, stable economies in Africa? Djankou Ndjonkou, director of the International Labor Office, a department of the UN, gave the first response of the evening: Government.

Ndjonkou demonstrated his point with an anecdote about how an African government official visited a Chinese official in Africa. The Chinese official points out a highway from his luxury home and says how 15 percent of its funds went into building his home instead of the highway. Some time afterward, the Chinese official visits the African official’s home in Africa. Noticing the official’s luxurious home, the Chinese official asks how he could afford such wealth. The African official points to an emplace some distance from his home and asks if he sees a highway. After the Chinese official replies that he didn’t see any highway, the African official turns to him and says, “100 percent.” Ndjonkou had the entire room burst into laughter.

Japhet Aryiku, a Baruch alumnus who started an educational foundation in Ghana, agreed with Ndjonkou’s sentiments. "We need leaders and managers of companies to think beyond themselves."

"We need leaders and managers of companies to think beyond themselves."
"Baruch is drifting away from CUNY's traditional mission of educating the working class, the poor and the immigrant communities in favor of becoming a more selective and elite institution."
Encounters Reception

Come Celebrate the Release of the Spring 2008 Encounters Magazine and Get One FREE.

- Harman Poetry Contest Winners Announced
- Encounters Cover Contest Winner Announced
- Literary Reading and Art Exhibit
- Guest Speaker: Kurt Brown
- Poet Laureate: Charles Simic
- Wine* & Delicious Food
  *(With Proper I.D.

Where: That awesome big room in the cafeteria
When: May 7, 6:30-9:00p.m.
Why: Why the heck not?
**PAGE 4 I THE TICKER NEWS**

**5 MONDAY**

The Dollars and Sense Recognition Banquet will take place in the Newman Conference Center of the library building and will commence at 5:30 p.m.

**6 TUESDAY**

The American Marketing Association (AMA) at Baruch will be hosting their Annual Marketer’s Fair from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in VC 14-220.

**7 WEDNESDAY**

The Encounters Release Reception will be held at the VC dining area from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Come by for a copy and readings by Kurt Brown and U.S. Poet Laureate Charles Simic.

**8 THURSDAY**

The 30th Annual Baruch College Spring Soccer Festival will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on East 25th Street between First and Second Avenues. Food, entertainment, games and activities are scheduled.

**9 FRIDAY**

The 35th Annual Caribbean Cultural Night, sponsored by the Caribbean Students Association, will be held in Mason Hall, 17Lexington, from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.

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BY KAYTA VILEVICH

On Thursday, April 17, the seventh Boor Newman Library Conference Center accommodated the yearly event "Talking Lives: Baruch Biographers Discuss their Craft." Carol Berkin, a professor of history at both Baruch and the Graduate Center, moderated the panel. Panel speakers included Berkin, Cynthia Whittaker, Clarence Taylor, Julie Des Jardins, Gail Levin and Carl Rollyson.

After a dedication by Berkin to Selma Barrol, a founding member of the Baruch College history department, the panelists began their discussions at the podium by one.

"We never had so much fun," said Whittaker, speaking on behalf of her biographical study of Cathrine, the 18th century Russian empress. Whittaker, chair of the history department, elaborated on "a largely ignored" facet amongst 18th century monarchs: Catherine’s “cultural force” and her hobby of collecting. She had a sig- nificant art collection as well as a habit of “collecting men.”

Whittaker proudly mentioned about her book without getting off point, she said, “I’m not making a book about a woman because she delved into the life of a woman whom she used to "upon [...]" behind invisible." Clarence Taylor, chair of the black and Hispanic studies-depart- ment, joined the panel’s discussion to the Civil Rights movement. His intention adhered to presidential candidate Barack Obama’s speech on race exactly one month before his panel. "We need a civil rights society. We still deal with some 1960s issues today," he said.

“I am not writing biographies," exclaimed Des Jardins, professor of modern American history. Jardins continued to clarify her research approach. "Culture, race, experience," she stated. "Why doesn’t anyone get this?" She was annoyed with the distorted interpretations of "intellectual culture" available to women. She vowed that her upcoming book will be an account of several women used as “a lens through which we re-examine relationships such as ‘domesticity’ as the anthro- pus to science” and will reveal the comprehensive story of “gender science.”

Carl Levin, distinguished profes- sor of American history, American studies and women studies, positioned herself at the podium next. She admitted, "[it’s] interesting how popular biography," in her opinion, people seek arousing topics. From her publishers “didn’t want a dry scholarly book. They wanted sex," she said. Levin wrote two biographies before her "biography," with focus on his wife, a woman often overlooked. There were "no biographies at all for female artists in ‘76," said Levin.

"Can’t you write a work of eng- ish, was contracted to write on his subject, Martha Gelhorn, be- fore informing her that he wanted to tell her story. For the title of Martha Gelhorn, he had chosen a "hostile subject." With cooperation from her daughter, he wrote a "fiction story with the hope of other special library="." Rollison off- ered some advice for aspiring bi-ographers in the audience. "Choose dead people," he remarked. "They can’t talk back and cause prob- lems."
Baruch College
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Goonies attempt election theft

BENJAMIN GUTTMAN

Tibet helped China

WILLIAM CHIN

Over the past few weeks, I’ve had more than a couple of conversations with Chinese friends of mine, and now they are saying that pro-Tibet protesters around the world have turned what was supposed to be an aesthetically-pleasing event into a rather heavily politicized event.

I have seen a backlash, not only from people in China, but from people overseas and even among second-generation Chinese-Americans who have not even had Chinese citizenship. Especially poignant anger has been directed against what the Chinese government has branded “Western media bias,” most notably seen in the Chinese protests against CNN and the BBC.

The Chinese government has expressed its outrage against Western support for Tibet and the sabotage of the Olympic torch relay in several Western countries, while simultaneously urging for peace among the Chinese people.

Genuinely huge, large crowds were allowed to protect for some time last month before the Chinese government moved in to greatly disperse them. Had they been just democratically protesting, the government might not have allowed them to protect for such an extensive amount of time or deal with them so gently.

So, this hasco over Tibet and the Olympic torch really such a bad thing for the leaders of China?

The answer may be found on the Chinese Web, where blogs and forums have recently been reporting allegations of corruption throughout China of outrage that we have seen in China and in Chinese communities around the world. Just four months earlier, the buzz on Chinese Internet blogs and forums consisted of the arrest of Hu Jia, one of the most vocal human rights activists in China.

According to The New York Times, the Internet has increasingly become the preferred medium for Chinese citizens to seek and share the knowledge of how to protest. The discussion has largely not been about the Olympics, but about the corruption and the death of a Chinese lawyer who had been arrested.

Hence, which the anger caused by the Tibetan riots and an even angrier Western response, Hu’s struggle against an authoritarian government and his prison sentence over the past three years for “subversion of state authority” has passed without a peep.

So, has this entire episode been a complete loss for China? Perhaps not.

Lack of diversity?

SEAN PERRYMAN

One of the things we pride here at Baruch College is our diversity. During on-campus tours, orientations and pretty much any available opportunity, the administration and staff point out that, according to U.S. and World News Report, we are consistently ranked as one of the most diverse schools in the nation.

Curiously enough, large crowds were allowed to protect for some time last month before the Chinese government moved in to greatly disperse them. Had they been just democratically protesting, the government might not have allowed them to protect for such an extensive amount of time or deal with them so gently.

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OPINION PAGE POLICY

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Lexicon 2009 Wants You!

Lexicon 2009, Baruch College’s Full-Color Yearbook, is looking for photographers, editors, writers, and computer graphic artists.

If you are a freshman, sophomore or junior who is interested or just curious, contact Carl Aylman, Director of Student Life, via email at carl_aylman@baruch.cuny.edu, with the word “Yearbook” in the subject line.
Confidence is key in powerful choices

BY ARIJANAH MARKET CORRESPONDENT

In continuation of its interview series, The Ticker’s market cor-
respondent had the honor of con-
ducting a phone interview with Marie Driscoll, the director of the Consumer Discretionary Retail Group for Standard & Poor’s Equity Research Services. She is one of Baruch’s most prominent alumni in the equity research arena.

Can you please tell us a little about yourself?

I graduated from Baruch with an MBA degree in 1999. Larry Zicklin spoke at my graduation, which was very exciting. I majored in finance, and immediately I had worked in Wall Street for about 10 years before starting an MBA. My undergraduate degree was in phi-
losophy. I had been an equity ana-
lyst, but I look back on being brought back into the industry. It became apparent that despite the fact that I had experienced, I had to increase my formal education. I decided to attend Baruch College on a part-time ba-
sis. When I graduated, I got work in an investment bank and after that in the research department. I was able to do what I wanted to do by getting the degree at Baruch. I also [got] a CPA along the way.

How did you decide to build a career in equity research?

My undergraduate degree was in philosophy. I spent many years learning how to think, learning how to be logical, learning how to analyze, learning how to construct an argument and learning how to express what I thought. One day I took a book out from the library on economics and found it fasci-
nating. After I graduated, I got a job in the equity research depart-
ment at S&P. I had the chance, and subsequently E.F. Hutton. It seemed right, but that’s how it happened.

Why do you think students should consider a career in equ-
ity research?

This is a tough year for the con-
sumer. There is food inflation and gas price inflation. In the aggre-
gate, we are seeing more consumers are being more cautious. As consumers postpone spending, it can lead into less sales opportunities for retailers that we cover. It is also possible that Christmas would not be great this year. Last year wasn’t great ei-
ther.

Given the challenging envi-
ronment, what are you looking for in specialty re-
cruiters under your coverage that can navigate through this?

At this point, I have a few buys on a few stocks and my team has some more. The aspirational shop-
per has already started to slow down. What we’ve seen in the last 10 years and more is customers that aspire a certain luxury product and make various trade-offs. They will buy groceries at Whole Foods, but buy clothing at Old Navy.

But what we’ve seen in the last five years, when there was a period of easy money, is that it made sense for consumers to tap out their home equity loan and buy whatever they wanted. Retail-
ers and consumer product brands were more than willing to continu-
ue to create new, desirable prod-
ucts. Right now there aren’t many “must-have” products. We saw a period of double-digit growth in accessory, which is usually really high margin and a way to extend the brand.

We have a five star rating, which is a strong buy, on Coach. We believed that we can continue to do well despite a difficult en-
vironment. They positioned their brand at flagship stores with lim-
itd products. But truly a lot of their business comes from outlets, where people think they are get-
ing great deals.

We like Coach, and two other specialty retailers that I like are trading at low multiples with really high margins. They are American Eagle Outfitters and Abercrombie & Fitch. The American Eagle Outfitters is more flexible in this environ-
ment because it is positioned as “center of the road” brand, which value players beneath it and above it more aspirational brands such asgap and Banana Republic & Fitch. The traf-
fic that it is getting in their flagship locations is phenomenal.

So what fundamentals should investors look for in specialty re-
tail companies?

You want a growth story. You want a brand that resonates with the target market and has the abili-
ty to grow. You want a brand to be multi-channeled, with no discon-
nect between the channels so that the service levels are the same on the Internet, catalog and on the shelf. You want a concept that is not mature. You want to get in at the early stage of their growth phase. You believe that it benefits from economies of scale. You want something that differentiates, atr-
acting more consumers to the brand. Retailing is about product and brand positioning, but also about real estate skill set. You want a retailer that knows how to negotiate. You don’t want to have the terms that when you have sales increases, it all goes to the landlord.

What is your advice to stu-
dents who are thinking of pursue a career in equity research?

As you know, the job market is really difficult. Equity research has been tough since 2001. Many investment banks are cutting back. It is not a job at S&P, which is not a bank, and in-
vestment management firms.

What is your recommenda-
tion for students to be a more at-
tive job candidate?

I would really suggest sharpening your writing skills and commu-
nication skills. That’s also a part of the equity research interview. It is exciting. Once you’ve found a con-
cept that you’re interested in, you can communicate it and share it with other people.

Any final words?

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You're that smart.

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On Friday, April 4 the Zicklin School of Business recognized five members of Zicklin’s full-time administrative staff through the Service Excellence Award. Dean John Elliott presented the awards to Rosa Alvarado De Jesus of the dean’s office, Candee Bates-Cherry of the Graduate Academic Services, Akm Hasan of the marketing department, Michael Eccles of the dean’s office and Latisha Lane of the law department.

The award recipients received a plaque, a $1000 check and the honor of having their names mounted on a permanent display board located next to the Zicklin office in the Vertical Campus.

“These are the folks that you see when you first enter departments or offices, the secretarial and support staff and other full-time administrators who work behind the scenes in order to get students served, faculty paid and systems working” explained Dean Elliott.

The vision statement which specifies what each award represents reads “A culture of service excellence entails responsiveness, commitment and consistency in meeting or exceeding the expectations of all members of the Zicklin community — students, alumni, faculty and colleagues — with professionalism, integrity, respect, dignity and enthusiasm.”

Some examples of different characteristics and actions that represent the vision statement’s ideals were included in a FAQ section documented and distributed to potential nominators and nominees.

Examples include “creating relationships that make people feel valued, fostering interactions that are enriching and respectful, going the ‘extra mile’ beyond one’s official duties” and many others.

Dean Elliott shared some of the comments provided by specific nominators.

One of Rosa Alvarado De Jesus’s nominators stated, “Rosa epitomizes excellence. She has always responded promptly and effectively to my urgent plea when something has gone very wrong with my computer. She puts out fires day after day, and yet always has a positive attitude.”

Candee Bates-Cherry’s nominator stated, “Candee does an amazing job of figuring out what the person actually wants and to whom they should be speaking. She has extraordinary stamina and patience in dealing with challenging phone calls and in understanding the nature of the problem, even when she can’t personally solve it.”

A nominator for Michael Eccles said, “I use the [statistics] lab on the 11th floor and Michael Eccles has been great helping me load on new software or helping me getting the room reserved and ready for class. The students get a great deal from the lab and Michael makes it easy to use.”

Akm Hasan’s nominator said, “He is a great asset to the department. He is always helpful and willing to go above and beyond. He is proactive and doesn’t require follow-up. In particular, he has been a huge asset in our recruiting efforts. Just the other day, a colleague from [Boston University] was singing his praises to me.”

Latisha Lane’s faculty nominator stated, “Ms. Latisha Lane has made a great impact on the entire department’s productivity by routinely working with and responding to numerous inquiries of students, faculty, administrators, job applicants and other staff.”

“She also demonstrates great skill and dedication as the supervisor of our student aides and other assistants. Ms. Lane continually goes out of her way to be helpful, responsive and creative in all of her dealings with our faculty, students, administrators and other Baruch employees and outside people.”

The nomination process for these awards, which took place early in the spring, were open to the entire Zicklin community. Nominators selected up to three individuals per job category and were asked to provide a brief explanation to describe why the candidates deserved each award.

The final recipients were selected through a committee headed by Professor Naomi Gardberg and composed of the representatives of various Zicklin School of Business and graduate departments, along with one undergraduate and graduate student’s selected nomination.

Zicklin honors best with Service Award
Microsoft pushes, Yahoo! holds tight

BY ALAN ZENG CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Microsoft’s recently proposed proxy battle takeover of Yahoo! has taken the markets by storm. After an unsuccessful bid of $31 per share made public back in February, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer made a second attempt to buy out the search engine. Yahoo! called the bid “unsolicited,” however, the firm has not made an attempt to reject the offer.

The $44.6 billion price tag was not enough considering Yahoo! believes it is worth to be at least $56 billion, or $40 per share. Back in November of 2007, the market price for a share of Yahoo! stood at $31, but has been declining because of the economy’s current slump.

Currently, Yahoo!’s price per share has been fluctuating in the upper 20s. Wall Street analysts expect Yahoo! to report earnings of nine cents a share with revenues of $1.32 billion. There are hopes that Microsoft will raise its bid after seeing Yahoo!’s numbers. The buyout may stay at the initial $31 per share and may even see a modest increase. Current Yahoo! CEO Jerry Yang is playing the waiting game, hoping to come out of the battle unscathed.

A proxy battle is an attempt to win over the majority of shareholders in a company so that they, the purchasers, can replace all or some of the current board of directors. Microsoft is using this strategy to gain a hold of most of Yahoo!’s shares in order to have enough power to elect the board of directors.

Yahoo!, with its “poison-pill” provision, is giving its investors the right to prevent an outside company, in this case Microsoft, from owning more than 15 percent of Yahoo! stock.

Big ‘5’ for enhancement

BY ANANDI SUCHDEVE CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When we prepare for an interview, we research the company we will be interviewing along with other important details. This information gives employers a feel that we, the candidates, are knowledgeable and proficient.

Sometimes we forget that employers look at other details to get a better understanding of their job applicants. Believe it or not, employers know that resumes can be exaggerated and even false. So why do employers still hire candidates that are less knowledgeable than others?

One reason could be that the company is in major need of staff. The company might also be willing to train you because they can do the job. Most of the time, it is your attitude that gets you the job. Your attitude actually counts more than your knowledge.

Your attitude is dependent on your personality and flows into how you behave and react in certain situations. There are five main personality traits, “The Big Five,” that influence your attitude and behavior.

They include extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, emotional stability and openness to experience. These traits are vital in every job since they help work-ers create positive and memorable work experiences.

Lewis Mintzer, the marketing director from URS, said, “When looking at resumes, the GPA is not the only thing we look at. I look for how active a person has been in the past, how long each job lasted, and most importantly, by which school they graduated from.”

For more information please email: baruchama@gmail.com

THE TICKER BUSINESS I PAGE 13
Girls as young as 10 pledge their virginity to their fathers at purity balls

BY ANNA AULOVA  STAFF WRITER

Ever considered pledging your virginity to your father? The idea seems a bit strange in liberal New York City, but such practices are on the rise in other parts of the state.

Known as chastity or purity balls, these events are common in the more conservative southern and midwestern states. During these events, which are often associated with Christianity, females as young as 10 years old dress up in gowns and pledge to abstain from premarital sexual intercourse to their fathers while in return father’s pledge to protect their daughter’s “purity” of mind and body. Daughters then receive a ring as a symbol of her chastity.

Living in such a progressive era, one must wonder if these balls are necessary. Just how comfortable would you be leaving such an intimate decision to your parent? If you attended this event before you hit your teen years, how aware would you be of your choice?

The article “Student for Virginity” by Randall Patterson in the March issue of The New York Times Magazine, discussed college students’ choices to stay pure until marriage. In one of the case studies mentioned, Janie Friedell attended Harvard University from Colorado Springs and was amazed at how freely people accepted the concept of sex before marriage, while virtually every girl from her hometown wore a chastity ring at all times.

Back in Colorado Springs, however, the by League school was named “godless, liberal Harvard” and many were unhappy with her choice to study there. While chastity balls promote faith and virtue, they leave teenagers with only one option and expect it to be the right one.

Although arguments in support of these formal events point out the elimination of unplanned pregnancies and STDs, Randall’s article views them from another perspective. Using a study done by two sociologists, statistics have shown “those who took virginity pledges preserved their technical virginity about 18 months longer than teenagers who didn’t pledge” and “they were six times more likely to engage in oral sex than virgins who hadn’t taken a pledge.”

The study also concluded “they were also much less likely to use condoms during their first sexual experience or to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases.”

When asked for their opinions, Baruch students provide slightly different views. Christian Orellana, sophomore, strongly opposed the idea of abstinence. “I highly doubt the pledges work. In this day and age, with sexuality being so freely accepted, more and more people become tempted to explore sex.”

Unfortunately, a lot of marriages end up in divorce, so the thought of marrying and losing your virginity to “the one” might be a little naïve.

In contrast, other Baruch students expressed support of chastity pledges. Lisa O’Connor stated, “abstinence is more important than safe sex. Safe sex, practiced at 15 or 25 years of age, is still sex. Abstinence, on the other hand, is the surest way to prevent mistakes and regretful decisions.”

She went on to highlight one benefit of chastity balls, saying, “Nowadays, children begin promiscuity before hitting puberty, so for girls as young as 10, dressing up and having a party to pledge their virginity is not necessarily a bad thing.”

Such sentiments bring up the issue of sex education. Many activists who have founded and spoken for abstinence groups within their colleges believe that sex education promotes promiscuity.

Randall’s article states that Princeton’s abstinence group was so greatly influenced by the Christian religion that they went on to condemn homosexuality and marriage as well.

Being USG, not as easy as it seems

BY WILLIAM BATTAGLIA  ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It’s 9 p.m. on a Tuesday evening, just one hour before their weekly meeting yet the Undergraduate Student Government offices on the third floor of the Vertical Campus remain busy. While the vice president of campus affairs, Harry Melo, is making phone calls, Treasurer Bertwana Hoecke is sitting at her desk. A mountain of papers is stacked in front of her but she is determined to finish her work. Any of these voucher papers can range from pre-bills and vendor invoices to reimbursement. This is an ordinary day in the lives of USG.

“Today I had about 300 vouchers come in Monday. Sometimes, I have to take it home because there is so much work,” said Hoecke. Considered the workhorse of USG, Hoecke’s strong work ethic is emblematic of the organization. As treasurer of USG, she is responsible for nearly 120 clubs and organizations, as well as USG, by managing their budgets.

“I just want people to understand how hard and difficult it is to do this work while being a student,” she explained of her position. “Just think, you have your regular courses, your midterms, your finals, plus a job that requires you to be there. It’s a tough job.”

Hoecke remains baffled by recent comments from some club presidents regarding USG. “I don’t know where this negative perception of USG comes from because we gave appeals to every club that asked for an appeal,” she said.

Some clubs felt that they weren’t being funded fairly with money going to bigger clubs and organizations with major events, while the smaller, lesser known clubs were given low budgets to work with. “The process itself is kind of bureaucratic and I understand that, but it’s the policy from the school and I can’t change that,” said Hoecke. “If clubs don’t fully utilize their money, they probably won’t get that much money the year after.”

Another issue raised by some club presidents, such as Juan Cadavid of Por Colombia (April 14 issue of The Tickler), was that USG needed to bridge the communication gap between themselves and clubs. However, Hoecke said she had a different take on this matter.

“A lot of clubs do know me. I have a good relationship with everyone. Sometime, you can’t make everyone happy,” she explained. “I try to help them as much as possible. I try my best. People hate you and love you at the same time.”

While some students may still have doubts in USG, Hoecke stated she students to realize what it takes to be part of Baruch’s student government. “It’s not easy,” she said. “It may seem like everything can be done in a second, but there is so much work, dedication and passion that needs to be put in to do this.”

THE PROUSTIAN PROBE

BY REBECCA FORBES  SENIOR STAFF WRITER

In the late 19th century, French writer Marcel Proust popularized the practice of answering several questions that were meant to reveal the preferences of the person.

This issue’s interviewee is Professor Thomas Traudel of the philosophy department.

Who are your favorite authors? Charles Darwin, Immanuel Kant, Thomas Mann, Gabriel García Márquez and Hendrik Herzberg

What is your most obvious characteristic? My cheerfulness.

What is your favorite kind of journey? Motorcycle road trips

What is the most overrated virtue? No virtues are overrated, but some vices are underrated.
Yom Ha Student Park Party

May 9th @ 10am-1pm
Madison Square Park
Broadway - Madison Ave
East 23rd St - East 26th Street

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IN A UNIQUE JAM SESSION
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SVA and Columbia University.
Bat boy at Baruch

BY SHERRY MAZZOCCHI
STAFF WRITER

Jeffrey Epstein, a 21-year-old student at Baruch, has a job that most New Yorkers could only dream of: he’s a bat boy for the New York Yankees.

He was introduced to Yankee bat boys through his father, who works as a security guard at Shea Stadium. A Yankee fan since birth, Epstein first worked for free, even offering to help unload equipment at 2 a.m. Eventually, his hard work paid off when he was asked to fill in for an absent bat boy.

Epstein was starstruck when he first started working on the field. “I was walking up to the locker room with another bat boy and I said, ‘I can’t go in there. You told me, ‘You can go in. You work here.’”

At first, Epstein felt out of place. But now that he’s worked there a year and a half, he said the ball players are just regular people. “They sit inside the dugout or on the field for it,” he said. “It was so bad to watch.”

When Epstein works home games, he is often the bat boy for the visiting team. A particularly ironic part of his job involves wearing the Red Sox uniform when they play the Yankees. “I hate that,” he said. “It’s not all glamour work. Bat boys (there are no Yankee bat boys) come in early and stay late. The toughest work begins after the game, cleaning cleats and doing laundry for all the players and coaches. Then, the shoes and laundry have to be sorted and put in lockers. Sometimes, they spend a lot of time looking for two matching socks for players. “And then the next day, players always have something missing and you have to go through all the lockers looking for it,” he said.

But the best part of the job is being inside the dugout or on the field during games. Epstein said fans always scream at him to throw them baseballs. “It’s my son’s birthday! I hear that five times a day,” he said. Sometimes, they even ask for his autograph, something he is too huddled to give out. Fans have even given him their cell phones, asking him to talk to fans back home. “Some of them cry, they get so excited,” he said.

“[The Yankees] sit around in the club house ... and watch the movie ‘Jackass.’”

JEFFREY EPSTEIN
Junior, Yankee bat boy

Alumnus goes from burly geek to TV sleek

BY JANA KASPERKEVIC
STAFF WRITER

“I’m funny and I don’t get laid” were the words that ensured Jason Prager’s spot on the cast of The CW’s “Beauty and the Geek.” That and his built body, which Prager showed off by ripping off his shirt during a casting interview, also earned him the moniker “tall buff geek.”

The beginning of Prager’s reality show career actually started in the gym, his favorite part of Baruch College, when he dropped an 80-pound dumbbell on his right hand and broke two fingers. Unable to do much else, Prager tried his luck at the “Beauty and the Geek” interview, a show the fit he should have been on since first aired.

“My love of video games, movies and TV have pretty much propelled me into the geek category. That may be [so] for many people but other than the gym, those forms of entertainment are my entire life,” said Prager. “My general lack of a social life has hampered me as being taunted a geek, which I’ve been calling myself since the first season.”

According to Prager, “geek” can be defined as “someone who is confident and knowledgeable in certain specific categories and who is socially awkward.”

The one thing that made Prager stand out from other applicants was his obsession with working out. Students who have taken classes with Prager at Baruch claim that he “lived” in the gym while attending classes. At Baruch, Prager doesn’t deny feeling like a geek but also joked that he was only one of the 10,000 geeks attending the school.

The concept behind the “Beauty and the Geek” reality show is to ensure that while the geeks gain certain social skills, the beauties prove themselves to be more than just a pretty face. The beauty and geek teams, which were formed later on in this current season than in previous seasons, shows that most improvements were. When asked what he could teach a beauty, Prager said his answer was along the lines of, “I can teach her about the rules of life, which she never knew existed. For example, while she was worried about her date for the prom, I was worried about getting my ass kicked, which the beauties thought only happened in movies.”

One of the most exciting parts and turning points in the show is the makeover, which all of the geeks looked forward to.

“I didn’t feel it changed who I was, just gave me a new perspective on how I can look on the outside when I want to dress up. So far I have kept the black hair and the clothes [but] not the contacts [since] they irritated me. Plus, I feel the glasses add to my look,” said Prager, who claimed that the chest wax was not as bad as putting the contacts on.

The show, however, is not all fun and games. The cast lived under stressful conditions during the actual filming. Prager felt that the erratic food schedules, lack of sleep and being forced to wait in a van or sitting area for up to six hours while a challenge finished were created to get the cast out of their comfort zone. This established and maintained pressure and tension among them.

“The fights between the cast usually involved the geeks and it usually involved some form of bitchiness. Fights over who looks better and who the guys want to be with were common, although remarkably uncommon now that Randi is gone,” Prager explained. “The fights involving the guys were usually against production and, therefore, were off-camera.”

In past seasons of the show, fights and problems extended to the teams and certain geeks found it difficult to get along with their beautiful partners. Prager and his partner Kristina, nicknamed “Dady’s girl,” did not find themselves in such a predicament.

“I thought Kristina was a great partner [since] we were a very strong team. She obviously did better in challenges and I added to our house diplomacy, which is very important in a competition where we eliminate each other,” admitted Prager. “We also had some really great conversations and I made her laugh a lot.”

Prager felt that his time at “Beauty and the Geek” was a success considering he was not first to be eliminated and was instead the fifth to be eliminated this season.
 Moviemakers make their mark

BY JANA KASPERKEVIC SENIOR STAFF WRITER

On Monday, April 14, Baruch College rolled out the red carpet and hosted its first movie premiere. Even though there were no stars to gawk at, Baruch students proudly presented their work. The Moviemakers Club, a relatively new organization at Baruch College, has successfully filmed and released their first feature film. Ready to present it to the campus community, the club arranged two showings, one on that Monday and another to follow three days later during club hours.

Kaielchi Noel, director of the movie stated, “It was extremely hard working with all these people. Prior to this project, most of us did not know each other. Over the course of four months, the cast and crew developed a bond and relationship that I believe will carry on forever. It became a family.”

Noel, who was “extremely happy” with the turnout of the first screening, stated that the movie sold out 175 seats and that students were turned down because they had tried to get tickets too late. The second showing took place at the same location as the first, during club hours and half of the Engelman Recital Hall seats were filled.

“Considering we are a new club, with no credibility, I was glad to know that so many people who had an interest in our project. It turned out a lot better than I expected,” said Noel.

Students could recognize a lot of familiar places and faces in the movie, as it was filmed on and around the campus using student actors. The main characters, Dominick Sanders, was played by Johnathan Blake with Jamieson Hill and Lolita Akinola filling the two supporting roles. In the film, he is the main character who after viewing the movie, decided to go into acting. His passion for the arts spilled over to his high school. She has also been playing classical piano at the start of the event and will be playing piano pieces at the end of the ceremony.

Mannu Xu, a junior majoring in accounting with a math minor, has been playing piano for 15 years. Though she generally plays classical music and Chinese folk songs, she is open to a variety of genres. She also has a great deal of experience in performing, having played as a soloist and in ensembles in high school. She has also been a piano accompanist for the chorus at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China before she transferred to Baruch.

After learning about Keller’s request in the weekly Student Life edition, Xu immediately became interested in this opportunity to gain more experience, and got to know other musicians at Baruch.

“I had been wondering why Baruch didn’t have its own ensemble as I could see there are many talented music lovers at Baruch,” she states. “I hope more students will join us. This will be an invaluable chance for everyone.”

Joshua Carey, who is pursuing his MBA in entrepreneurship and small business management, is also a pianist. In the film, he is a conductor and music director. He studied classical piano when he was younger, but got into jazz about two years ago when he was at City College. He recently played in a program through his jazz-loving friends. He currently plays with two bands at his church, Christ Tabernacle in Queens, and is working on a second album, called Lights Out.

Carey is excited about the idea of Baruch being a “complete university,” which will help showcase the arts at Baruch. He will provide tips on how to get the community involved since “Baruch doesn’t have the resources and shoe-string budget.”

“The Dominick Sanders Story” was self-financed due to the formation of a permanent Baruch instrumental ensemble. “It would be a big plus for the college,” said Noël.

Both Xu and Carey are looking forward to future events, sharing Noel’s hope that these open house events will encourage more experience and get to know more people interested in this opportunity.

“Join us. This will be an invaluable chance for everyone.”

The movie does indeed have a complicated plot with parts that have been done before, along with new additions. The story line provides enough material to captivate the audience throughout its entire run, but at points it drags on and seems clunky with various themes and subplots intertwining and overlapping. While the Moviemakers sought to produce a feature film, which they have certainly created, a smaller and simpler plot might have allowed them to produce a movie with better quality.

According to Noel this was the first movie project for many of the students. Some of the parts reflected this lack of experience when certain screen shots featured cut-off heads for people in the frames. Even with minor flaws, the movie managed to maintain a certain level of professionalism.

“It didn’t feel, to me, like a home-made movie,” said Isabela Fernandes, sophomore. “It was absolutely professional, something I would have expected to see at N.Y.U. or NYU Tisch.”

Fernandes, who after viewing the movie, has been interested in joining the club. The Moviemakers club is currently accepting ideas for their upcoming movie, which is scheduled to be filmed over the summer.

“No experience is necessary, and anyone is welcome to pitch a script. The club will vote on the best script and then we’ll work together bringing those ideas to reality,” said Noël. “If anyone has an idea for a script, they need to get in touch with us as soon as possible.”

For more information contact the club at moviemakers@baruch.cuny.edu or via Facebook.

The stars of “The Dominick Sanders Story” posing at its premiere at Baruch College.

A song to serenade the students

BY ANGELA CURRI STAFF WRITER

Although Baruch College is most widely known as a business school, the students here possess a range of skills far beyond crunching numbers.

In the hope of finding musically-inclined students to form an ensemble to play at open house events, David Keller, an admissions counselor at Baruch, recently sent out a mass e-mail to the student body about his idea.

“I thought that having Baruch display its musical abilities during these events, would showcase the diversity of Baruch’s student body,” said Keller.

About 12 students responded, two of whom, Mannu Xu and Joshua Carey, will be playing at a May 10 open house, while another six of the students will be involved in future events. Keller did not hold auditions, but met with students to assess their musical abilities and to discuss rehearsal needs and music choices.

It was ultimately decided that technical and jazz standards would be used and that the pieces should be simple and unobtrusive because the music at these events will be used for background ambiance rather than for a performance. Aside from setting these guidelines, Keller has left the choice of pieces to the students, who may make their decision based on their own abilities.

The open house for high school juniors on May 10 will be the first opportunity for the students to perform, as guests are entering the venue and setting in, and again at the end of the program as they are gathering for tours and asking questions. Xu will be playing classical piano at the start of the event and Carey will be playing jazz piano at the end of the ceremony.

Mannu Xu, a junior majoring in accounting with a math minor, has been playing piano for 15 years. Though she generally plays classical and Chinese folk songs, she is open to a variety of genres. She also has a great deal of experience in performing, having played as a soloist and in ensembles in high school. She has also been a piano accompanist for the chorus at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China before she transferred to Baruch.

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Break of Reality breaks boundaries

BY MICHELLE MICHALOS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Bach, Mozart, Haydn… Metallica? For classically trained cello rock band, Break of Reality, who were recently featured in the Baruch Performing Arts Center’s 55 Underground series, the usual repertoire certainly does not apply. “We try to think outside the box and find ways to experiment with different sounds and genres,” says percussionist Ivan Trevino.

Formed in 2003 at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, the band began as a side project for cellists Patrick Laird, Erin Keesecker and Chris Thibdeau. Jeff Hood, an original member, left the group in 2004. Break of Reality soon morphed into its current form when Trevino joined in 2004.

Due to Eastman’s emphasis on classical music, the band was understandably apprehensive about how they would be received. “We didn’t want to tell our teachers at first,” joked Trevino, “but once we started building a fan base, the school was willing to take us under their wing.”

Inspired in part by the Finnish cello metal group, Apocalyptica, Break of Reality has performed several covers by bands like Metallica and System of a Down, but still have a strong focus on their own original pieces, which are as varied as the members’ own musical tastes. “Our interests are really across the boards. We’re not all metal heads,” says Trevino.

While some songs on their second and most recent album, The Sound Between (their first album, Voiceless, is officially un-released but can be requested through their website) have a clear heavy metal edge, others are more classically influenced. Some, such as the track “Circles,” which has a Middle Eastern flair, have a unique qualities that defy conventional labels, and conventional audiences. “It’s so strange, because there are young people in college and high school and older classical fans at our shows. All the demographics come together — partly because we play instrumental music,” says Trevino.

Known for their thunderous sound — and coined by fans, “Heavy Cello Thunder” — the band plays acoustic shows (with three cellos and an African drum called a djembe) and electric shows (with three amplified cellos and a drum set), both of which are featured on The Sound Between.

While the group holds workshops and performs at many high schools and colleges in the New York area, they have also performed at popular New York rock clubs such as Joe’s Pub and The Knitting Factory, along with various venues ranging from the Times Square subway station to the Bethesda Fountain in Central Park.

This past winter, the band had the opportunity to bring their music to Texas as part of a tour that took them to many schools in the state, including some smaller towns, like Trevino’s hometown of Victoria. “We like to play in places where there is not a lot of music,” says Trevino.

What does the future hold for Break of Reality? After a busy year of performing since their graduation from Eastman in 2007 (with the exception of Trevino, who graduated in 2006), the group is planning to take a break from the spotlight to compose new material for their next album. “We might release a double disk with seven original tracks and seven covers,” says Trevino.

The band is also considering holding a showcase concert next year at the Highland Ballroom, located in Manhattan. Several members are even planning to go on to graduate school, including Trevino, who is returning to Eastman later this year. “We’re really focused on preserving instrumental music,” says Trevino, echoing the band’s hope to promote music education and encourage students to think about music in new ways.

Hopefully, with the ability to draw recital hall crowds to the mosh pit, Break of Reality will continue to redefine musical conventions for years to come. Yo-Yo Ma, eat your heart out.
BY STEPHEN CHAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Jackie Chan and Jet Li have never shared the big screen. Both martial arts icons have been entertaining international audiences for years and have played a huge role in keeping the Asian presence alive in Hollywood. Now that they finally join forces, fans would expect an epic masterpiece. Unfortunately, with *The Forbidden Kingdom*, we get a generic, cliché-cluttered film that does not add to the legacy of the stars featured in the film or the martial arts film genre.

The plot centers around a kung-fu-movie-obsessed Caucasian teen who gets teleported into a fantasy world where the Monkey King (Li) has been imprisoned in stone by a ruthless warlord wreaking havoc on the country. With the help of a drunk, (Chan, whose fighting skills improve with every swig of wine), and a disciplined monk, (Li playing dual roles) and, of course, a Chinese girl who is as deadly as her killer looks, the fan attempts to overthrow the warlord and revive the Monkey King.

Though a bit on the Disney side, the premise has potential, especially with Chan and Li involved. But the film has an over-dramatic tone that draws unintended laughs. It is bogged down with stale dialogue that resorts to overused kung fu movie banter like “Be as water: soft yet capable of moving rocks.” Just when the fight sequences begin to thrill audiences, unnecessary special effects suck the life out of the action. Somebody should have told the filmmakers that punches hurt plenty enough without blue fire shooting from the actor’s fists.

As for the stars, Chan, as always, is goofy in a likeable way and Li is stern and focused. But though they are comfortable with the material, they seem to be just going through the motions. They have earned their places in martial arts and the movie world. Why not incorporate these skills and their spirits in a work that is worthy of their talent? It is well known that a majority of martial arts films are silly and indistinguishable. Too bad the combination of Masters Chan and Li could not fight to change this depressing truth.

**The Kingdom is forbidden, viewers**

MAY 5, 2008 THE TICKER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 19
n Air pollution raises concerns for Olympic athletes

BY JOHN MORONI (STAFF WRITER)

With the 2008 Summer Olympics to be held in Beijing, China in less than four months, there is growing concern about the city’s poor air quality and its effect on athletes. Despite the fact that the Beijing Municipal Government has vehemently tried to reduce the severe pollution, the air pollution in Beijing is still considered to be at least twice, and three times higher than levels regarded as safe by the World Health Organization. Unfortunately, as the Olympic games draw closer, the list of environmental issues continues to grow.

China is rapidly expanding in both the industrial and economic sectors. With this rapid growth comes its own set of problems, in particular, increases in pollution. According to CNN, 16 of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in China. Since the Olympics put the host city in the international spotlight, Beijing is desperately trying to portray itself in front of a good image of the country.

Beijing has switched most of its coal energy to gas energy, closed 10 percent of its power stations and planted millions of trees to help solve some of its environmental problems. Despite all of these efforts, the International Olympic Committee’s medical commission released an air quality data recorded by the Beijing Environment Protection Bureau and found that athletes who compete in outdoor events that require high intensity physical activity may be at risk due to the hazardous air conditions. "This is one of the problems we are considering," a spokesperson said. Considering the Summer Olympics hold almost every single event outdoors.

A leading exercise physiologist for the United States Olympic Committee, Randy Wiber, is strongly encouraging American athletes to train outside of China and to arrive in Beijing at the last possible moment. He is also recommending that athletes wear specially designed masks over their noses and mouths from when they arrive in Beijing until they compete. While this may offend the Chinese government, it may be in the best interest of the athletes to protect their health instead of pleasing the host country.

As the games draw nearer, athletes continue to prepare for the worst despite the International Olympic Committee’s confidence in China’s effort to improve air quality. Many athletes have decided not to risk their careers and have deeply considered pulling out of the Olympics, including marathon world record holder Haile Gebrselassie and the world’s No. 1 ranked women’s tennis player, Justine Henin. Both of these athletes suffer from asthma. Some athletes who have competed in Olympic test events in Beijing last year complained that the noxious air made it extremely difficult to breathe. These athletes were consistently nauseous and suffered from upper respiratory infections. There were even other reports of training Olympians coughing up black mucus deciding to train in hotel lobbies because the air outside was too disgusting. Carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide contribute to poor breathing conditions according to Beijing’s emergency service. Air pollution related to emissions from vehicles, coal factories and construction sites.

The significance of improving air quality is not only essential for the welfare of these athletes, but for the Chinese population as well. According to the World Health Organization, around 760,000 people the prematurely each year due to respiratory problems in China. According to the People’s Republic of China’s own report, two thirds of the cities where air quality data is available are polluted. Respiratory and heart diseases related to air pollution are among the top leading causes of death in the country. China’s water problems are almost as bad as its air problems with nearly 90 percent of urban bodies of water polluted, high frequencies of air and low supplies of adequate drinking water. With living conditions unbearable for their citizens, China may want to consider expanding their environmental clean up far beyond the Olympics.

While the environmental issues concerning air quality the must also recall that there was concern about the host city’s air quality before the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles and in 2004 in Athens, back when air quality was not a problem. Unfortunately, environmental concerns aren’t the only problems that are facing the Bamboe Curtain. Hopefully, China will clean up its act so that a world where there is political tension and war can set differences aside and enjoy international sportsmanship and competition.

Memory games boost brainpower

BY KEITH ARORA-WILLIAMS

With games like “Brain Age” and “Brain Training” for the handheld video game system Nintendo DS selling 11.71 million copies worldwide, it has become clear that increases in improving intelligence through hi-tech memory games has become a popular form of recreation.

Knowing that, who would have thought that a simple children’s card game would be the first recreational diversion to be confirmed by scientific physiologists as brain training? An intensification version of the memory game Concentration, which involves remembering the location of pairs of cards placed facedown in a grouping of eight cards, has been linked to improvements in a grouping of other pairs, has been linked to improvements in fluid intelligence. Fluid intelligence is the ability to use skills, knowledge and experience acquired over time and is used for tasks like playing musical instruments and dancing. Fluid intelligence is the ability to find meaning in confusion and solve problems with no prior relevant knowledge.

The study for these findings, co-authored by Dr. Susanne M. Jaeggi, Maureen Branchek, John Jonides and Walter J. Perrig, was released on April 28 in the weekly serial, The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The article asserts that findings indicate that intelligence can be improved through repetitions of the aforementioned memory game. Previously, the only way to improve IQ was to train on the actual test used to measure the score.

The report states, "Fluid intelligence is critical for a wide variety of cognitive tasks and it is considered one of the most important factors in learning." It goes on to relate fluid intelligence with “professional and educational success.”

An IQ score in human beings is a measure of both crystalized and fluid intelligence. Crystalized intelligence is the ability to use skills, knowledge and experience acquired over time and is used for tasks like playing musical instruments and dancing. Fluid intelligence is the ability to find meaning in confusion and solve problems with no prior relevant knowledge.

The finding that cognitive training can improve fluid intelligence is a landmark result because this form of intelligence has been claimed to be largely non-susceptible to change," said Jaeggi. "Intelligence has always been considered principally an immutably-inherited trait," she explained.

The trials included four groups that underwent daily, 30-minute sessions of memory game training for eight, 12, 17 or 19 days. The duration was the independent variable in the experiment. The subject’s fluid intelligence was measured before and after the training using a standard test. To make sure that it wasn’t just an improvement in test-taking ability between the two tests, control groups were tested twice without the training.

The scientists reason that increases in test scores mirror the length of training undergone because of the similarities between working memory and fluid intelligence. Working memory is the functional cerebral structure responsible for the temporarily storing and manipulating of information. The two mental processes employ the same regions of brain circuitry, so the researchers reason that this is why memory training could be linked to development of fluid intelligence.

The authors further explain that memory training improves one’s ability to ignore irrelevant stimuli, monitor ongoing performance and multi-tasking ability.

The design of the experiment did not permit the researchers to assess how far progress in intelligence can be made. The more training the subjects received, the more their test scores increased.

Until a subject is found who’s only responsibility would be to participate in these kinds of tests, the only certainty is that the possibilities of developing the mind are endless.
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How Does It Work?

> Free and exclusively for Baruch students, Baruch.RoommateClick.com lets you selectively search for a roommate based on your own criteria.

> Just want an apartment? The site lists thousands of available apartments so you can search for a place in a location and at a price that meets your preferences.

Simply create a profile and begin searching for a roommate. "It's like Facebook meets an on-line housing office." To contact another student you can communicate through the system; no phone numbers or e-mails are exchanged. If you already have a roommate you can skip right to BaruchApartmentsource.com and browse apartment listings.

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
The variety show featured a collection of acts from evening gowns to belly dancing and swimsuits to stepping.

BY CHRISTOPHER ESPEJO AND MARIANNE ST-MAURICE
COPY EDIT AND OPINION EDITOR

The variety show disappointed. Unfortunately, all the hype and the large crowd only made expectations.

BARUCH STYLE SPOTLIGHT ON: FARANA ALBERT

FARANA'S style ranges from effortless city-chic to lady-like ensembles. She says, "I don't really have one specific favorite style. I like to mix different trends and see what I feel and look comfortable in.

But no matter what Farana is wearing, she carries it all with confidence, effortlessness and style.

FARANA: Brooklyn, New York
I'm wearing: A blue cardigan sweater by Forever 21, white button-down blouse, leopard print scarf and gray jeans by H&M, brown boots and brown handbag by Aldo, earrings by Aldo Accessories with gold bracelets and a white ring by H&M.

I've been learning to: A variety of artists and genres - rock, reggae, R&B, hip-hop, pop, electronic, trance and techno. Some artists that I admire for their talent and creative style are Nadia Ali, Maroon 5, The Daylights, Notch, Colbie Caillat, K.Flay, K.Smith, Colbie Caillat, Lily Allen, Miley, Lilah Keil, Amy Winehouse, Assasins and 30 Seconds to Mars.

Some of my favorite designers are: Marc Jacobs, Gucci, Alberta Ferretti, Roberto Cavalli, Versace, Yves Saint Laurent and many more designers who shape the path for other designers to create affordable pieces for the average consumer that are appealing and trendy.

Some of my favorite places to shop are: H&M, Forever 21, Aldo, Banana Republic, Zara, French Connection and Steve Madden.

My favorite fashion trends are: Skinny jeans, the '80s and '90s look that has that glamour and elegant sophisticated appeal to it. Pencil skirts are also a favorite. I like to wear scarves of all kinds with an array of colors.

My fashion inspirations: Celebrities like Victoria Beckham, Kim Kardashian, Eva Mendes and Gwen Stefani are those I look to for inspiration. I think that people are inspired by fashion icons that create their own styles.

My favorite piece of clothing: Right now, it's probably the leopard print scarf I'm wearing.

The best things about New York City are: Its diversity and culture. There is so much to explore in just our surroundings and as long as we take advantage of this, we can learn almost anything. I'm always curious to learn more about people and their beliefs and cultural background.

If you would like to be featured in Baruch Style, please e-mail kerri.jarema@baruch.cuny.edu. Include a photo that shows you in an outfit indicative of your typical style and taste. Please note that sending a photo does not mean you will be featured.

BARUCH STYLE SPOTLIGHT ON: FARANA ALBERT

STAFF WRITER

Farana Albert, 18
The 101 on health insurance

BY TAHERA TIM KEE
HEALTH AND WELLNESS COORDINATOR

At least a few times a week, I get calls from students asking about the health insurance options available at Baruch — the seemingly most elusive health issue for students.

Many have recently become too old to qualify for coverage under their parents. Others have recently changed jobs and lost their benefits. What many students don’t seem to know is that Baruch, as part of a joint CUNY initiative, has a formal relationship with Group Health Incorporated to provide a specially constructed student health insurance policy to attend to their medical needs.

The GHI student policy tends to be a bit expensive, but covers the basics in medical care that might prove useful to many students. For further information, please refer to the GHI-CUNY website at ghi.com for an extensive breakdown of the coverage offered in the policy.

Some key insurance terms to understand include:

- **Premium**: Your monthly health plan contribution.
- **Deductible**: The out-of-pocket expenses you incur before the insurance company contributes to payment of medical costs. For example, a $200 deductible might have to be paid over a year in prescription costs and doctor visits before the insurance company pays expenses in excess of $200.
- **Co-payment**: Some services are only partly paid by the insurance provider. Dentist visits often fall under this category. The policy holder will have to pay an out-of-pocket fee and the insurance provider pays the rest.
- **Co-insurance**: This is similar to a co-payment, but is based on a percentage of the overall cost of the service received.
- **Exclusions**: Medical services not covered by the insurance policy.
- **Coverage limits**: Health plan coverage is not bottomless. Most policies specify a limit to which the insurance provider will cover expenses.
- **Out-of-pocket maximums**: This is similar to coverage limits, but it instead puts a ceiling on how much a policy holder pays out of pocket. The insurance provider pays expenses in excess to the maximum.
- **Capitation**: The insurance provider pays a set fee to a health care provider to cover any expenses incurred by the policy holder.
- **In-Network Provider**: Health care providers identified by the insurance company from which policy holders could choose. These health care providers will offer discounts on co-payments or co-insurance.

When looking for an insurance plan, do research and compare. There are several insurance providers with superior benefits. Some students may even qualify for low-income or no-income state insurance.

To determine eligibility, visit the Access NYC website: a858-ihss.nyc.gov. The Baruch Health Care Center also offers many basic medical services for free or low cost.

For further information, contact the Health and Wellness office at (646) 312-2040 to seek medical care.
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We Buy Back Your Books

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137 East 23rd Street
Between Lexington and 3rd Ave.
212-505-2021
Open Seven Days

PLEASE USE THE DA VINCI ARTIST SUPPLY ENTRANCE
AND PROCEED DOWN THE STAIRS IN THE BACK
Lady Bearcats host Think Pink Day

BY ROSSI GENAO/STAFF WRITER

The softball team has had a season like no other, surpassing their accomplishments from the past three years. The Bearcats entered the playoffs last week with an all-time high of 19 wins and currently possess a lineup of skilled and quality players.

One of the numerous highlights of their season has been "Think Pink Day" held on Tuesday, April 15. It was created by softball coaches Jose Negroni and Penny Weiner to promote breast cancer awareness.

York College, the opposing team scheduled for that day, joined in support of the cause and like the Bearcats, dressed in pink uniforms. Among the guests attending the special event was Scott Losche, who was inducted into the Athletics Department Hall of Fame last year.

He was accompanied by his mother, Nancy Losche, who is a 30-year cancer survivor. She spoke about the importance of self-examination and keeping one’s body in the best possible shape.

The team presented their coach, Penny Weiner, a nine-year cancer survivor, with flowers and a team-autographed "Think Pink" T-shirt. Players Michelle Miecuana and Michelle Pena also announced the team's donation of $1,000 in the name of their coach to the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

The softball team had been their coach to the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, whom they ultimately defeated 17-0. The team kicked off their season on the road, with tournament games in Virginia and South Carolina. There the Bearcats played 12 games in six days against some of the toughest competition.

Of all the victories over the season, the match against Richard Stockton of New Jersey was pivotal. “We finally had put everything together; our hitting and fielding finally clicked at the same time,” commented Miecuana. “Winning that game was the final push for us.”

Looking back at the season, Associate Coach Weiner said, "Every player had a piece of our 19 victories. [The freshmen] faced a lot of pressure that they may not have faced in high school...they stepped up a lot.

Energized by their season’s track record, the team herded their playoff off last week, facing Lehman College in the first round. With the communication skills they have honed both on and off the field, as well as the strong sense of trust they have instilled in one another over the season, the Bearcats stand a strong chance at the ECAC tournament after the playoffs.

For now, it is all about reaching the top in the long-awaited CUNY playoffs. One of the numerous highlights of their season has been "Think Pink Day" held on Tuesday, April 15. It was created by softball coaches Jose Negroni and Penny Weiner to promote breast cancer awareness.

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Infosessions:
Monday, June 16, 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday, July 16, 6:00 P.M.
Monday, August 4, 6:00 P.M.
Monday, August 18, 6:00 P.M.

THE COLLEGE AT
OLD WESTBURY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
Calvin O. Butts, III, President
The men’s tennis team has done it again. On the last weekend of spring break, the defending champions secured their title once again with an 8-1 victory over archrival Hunter College.

This victory marks the team’s fifth consecutive championship since 2004 and their seventh championship in school history. The win against Hunter also earned the team an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament, their second appearance in team history.

After knocking out the John Jay Bloodhounds in the semi-final round, the Bearcats advanced to the finals against Hunter College, where they took five of six singles and all three doubles from Hunter.

“We were worried about [Hunter], but everybody came through. We went in and did not hesitate to take our shots,” said senior Dumitru Pitu. "We don't take [our success] for granted," added Pitu. "Our coach even had us run sets of stairs after the final match because we did not win with a perfect score against Hunter."

Head Coach Floren Giuglescu has been the main driving force behind much of the team’s success. He was able to recruit players from as far as France and the new championship is the seventh under his leadership.

Giuglescu also coaches the women’s tennis team, which has finished in second place during the past three seasons. With this newfound victory, the Bearcats were also able to clinch a berth into the NCAA tournament. The first round took place this past weekend from May 2 to May 4 in Maine, where the Bearcats faced off against Salve Regina College of Rhode Island.

Last year was the first time they made an appearance in the coveted tournament and this year’s berth marks the second ever in team history.

Giuglescu plans to keep recruiting top athletes from around the globe, all the while maintaining the talent currently in place.

The team currently stands as the only male team to have won a championship since the beginning of this academic year and their win has given Baruch a chance at winning the Commissioner’s Cup.

Giuglescu and his team look forward to continuing the legacy they have worked so hard to establish at Baruch as they have sealed yet another victory that has truly placed a spotlight on the Baruch College Bearcats.

Under the direction of Coach Floren Giuglescu, Tadas Valiukenas, left, Emanuel Imperial, far right, were able to lead the Bearcats to victory and secure their fifth consecutive championship.
Greek Week: Greek Olympics
Baruch College Inter-Greek Council
Auxiliary Gym 82 level (NVC)
12:15 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Coffeehouse #2
Inter varsity Christian Fellowship
Room 1-107 (NVC)
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Sister Aham Speaks On Marriage in Islam
Women in Islam
Room 2-110 (NVC)
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

End Of Semester Gathering
Billiards & Bowling Club
Room 3-210 (NVC)
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Islamic Compliant Commercial Loans with Zayyan Finance
Islamic Finance Society
Room 10-175 (NVC)
12:40 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

Encounters Rebirth: Magazine Release Reception
Encounters Magazine Dining Area (NVC)
6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Awards Dinner
Undergraduate Student Government
Newman Conference Center
Room 710 (Newman Library)
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Greek Week: Movie Night
Baruch College Inter-Greek Council
Room 2-215 (NVC)
6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Awards Luncheon
Society for Human Resource Management
Room 3-210 (NVC)
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Caribbean Week: Caribbean Talent Night
CSA, SOCA, WICA
Room 3-215 (NVC)
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Awards Dinner
Undergraduate Student Government
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Room 710 (Newman Library)
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Greek Week: Movie Night
Baruch College Inter-Greek Council
Room 2-215 (NVC)
6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Spring Fling: Food, Games, Laughter and Much More
Office of Student Life
E. 25th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Ticket Sales for Caribbean Show
CSA, SOCA, WICA
Second Floor Lobby (NVC)
12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Caribbean Week: Caribbean BBQ and Game Night
Room 2-125 (NVC)
6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Rebounding From Spring Fling
Office of Student Life
Room 1-107 (NVC)
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Transfer Welcome Advisement and Orientation
Second Floor Lobby (NVC)
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Farewell Meeting
Inter varsity Christian Fellowship
Room 1-107 (NVC)
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

General Meeting
Corporate Communication
Graduate Student Association
Room 4-185 (NVC)
6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Caribbean Week: Caribbean Cultural Night
CSA, SOCA, WICA
Mason Hall (17 Lex)
7 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Submit your event listings to leisure@theticker.org