**POINT OF NO RETURN?**

For Oxford degree, illegal immigrant risks option to come home

By Diruba Parveen
H. S. FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Dan-el Padilla Peralta, 22, the University Class of 2006 salutatorian, has spent much of his life burying himself in books. To Padilla, books have been an escape from the trials of real life — a childhood of financial hardship and a fractured family life. During the past few months, Padilla's love for knowledge has come to touch the hearts of many Americans. His story — Padilla is an illegal immigrant who won a scholarship to Oxford University but may not be able to return to America because of immigration laws — has been told in The Wall Street Journal as well as on CNN, ABC and NBC.

Despite the publicity, his high achievement and the drama of his own narrative, Padilla remains a modest student committed to fusing his love for classics — his major at Princeton and the subject he will continue to study at Oxford — with helping others.

"He's so humble," said Kelly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

**At local event, bicyclists give their spin on doping scandal**

By Angela Fabunan
HIGH SCHOOL OF AMERICAN STUDIES

HAMILTON — The laid-back atmosphere at Mercer County Community College on Aug. 5 was a far cry from the cheering masses along the Champs-Elysees in Paris 13 days earlier. On the last day of the Tour de France, the most prestigious cycling competition in the world, American Floyd Landis toasted his extraordinary victory and smiled triumphantly as hordes shouted his name. Only three days later, a dark shadow loomed over the prestigous cycling competition in the world, American cycling Union announced that Landis' drug test had shown high levels of testosterone/epitestosterone.

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"He's so humble," said Kelly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**Darfur and Princeton**

University pledges no investment in companies doing business with Sudan

By Angela Fabunan
HIGH SCHOOL OF AMERICAN STUDIES

Students on campuses across the country are clawing for an end to the rape, murder and destruction in Darfur. The Republic of the Sudan, in northeastern Africa, has a population of about 41 million, according to a U.S. government estimate. After rebel groups in Darfur, a region of western Sudan, staged an uprising in 2003, the government ordered a massive retaliation that included acts of mass killings in the Darfur region.

**Residents react to London arrests of suspected terrorists**

By Feruz Erizku
DEWITT CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL

One day after British authorities arrested 24 suspects in an alleged plot to blow up as many as 10 passenger jets heading for the United States, many travelers leaving the Darfur train Friday remained concerned, but not overly worried about terrorism.

Jennifer Wilkinson is a case in point. Wearing brown, oversized sunglasses and slowly rocking her legs, the 21-year-old New York student said the best thing people can do in the face of a terrorist threat is "to live their lives."

The arrests of the 24 British citizens, who allegedly have links to Al Qaeda, prompted the U.S. government to enact stepped-up security measures such as requiring passengers to be hand-searched and the checking of all passenger hand-bags.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**Brooklyn debates basketball arena, development project**

By Onyebuchi Chikaka and Parija Sharedalal
BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF LETTERS AND LONG ISLAND CITY HIGH SCHOOL

NEW YORK — The proposed $4.2 billion Atlantic Yards project aims to rise higher than Brooklyn’s tallest building — the Williamsburg Savings Bank Tower. The development company, Forest City Ratner, promises to build affordable housing, create jobs and generate tax revenue. But critics charge that as the new Frank Gehry complex rises, residents — particularly low-income families — will see their quality of life collapse.

Controversy continues to swirl around the proposal, which is in a public comment period this month.

“The Ratner machine has failed to convince people in this neighborhood,” said Raul Rothblatt, a spokesman for the Atlantic Yards Task Force, a group that opposes the project.

The proposal, which includes an 18,000-seat arena for the NBA’s Nets, will face a final vote by Empire State Development Corp.’s Board this fall. If it is approved, the state Public Authorities Control Board will vote on it.

The Atlantic Yards project encompasses 16 buildings on 22 acres over Long Island Railroad’s Vanderbilt Rail Yard near downtown Brooklyn along a strip of Atlantic Avenue from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
As Harlem moves forward, some feel left behind

Efforts to revitalize community raise economic, housing concerns among long-time residents

By Tasnim Shamma

Brooklyn Technical High School

NEW YORK — Empty water bottles, rat poison signs. Chains. Boarded windows. Vacant lots. Shuttered glass. These have been some of the common sights around Harlem's "Main Street"— the 125th St. corridor — over the past few decades.

New York's efforts to revitalize Harlem and fill vacant lots with the signs of development and progress — condominiums, high rises, upscale businesses — have already transformed parts of the corridor. But some residents worry about the impact of these developments on the future of the community.

To address these concerns, Deputy Mayor of Economic Development and Rebuilding Daniel Doctoroff has created a working group to discuss future development that brings together representatives of city agencies and community advocates such as elected officials, civic groups, stakeholders and community boards.

Whenever the city develops a neighborhood, there will be complaints, Doctoroff said.

"It's the flip side of prosperity. Change in New York is just a fact of life," he said. "The alternative is so much worse."

Among residents' top concerns are affordability, decline in the cultural atmosphere of Harlem and fear that they will be pushed out of the community, as wealthier New Yorkers who are not African-American move into redeveloped areas.

"You have to hold a second job. My mother and father worked full-time and part-time to pay the bills," said Asiares Mendez, 57, a lifetime resident of Harlem who is unemployed and seeking a job. "The rent is too high."

But Tyisha Davis, 18, a student at the High School for Health Professions and Human Service, said she was grateful for the transformation of a rough neighborhood into one where there was an increase in the number of schools and police officers as well as better possibilities for home ownership.

Davis is studying to become a midwife. Her parents recently bought a brownstone.

"It's a bit slow," Perez said of the "system. It's safe."

Despite the city's attempts to forge a relationship between itself and Harlem's residents, there remain some cultural barriers that have yet to be penetrated, Forbes said.

"There are some people who don't want to see Caucasians and other people moving into this community," he said. "Like a phobia or something." Despite residents' concerns, the city shoveled on.

Redevelopment of Harlem threatens area's cultural identity

By Natalie Shields

Benjamin Cardozo High School

NEW YORK — Walking along the streets of Harlem, a visitor will see an everyday community bustling with residents and shops. But then it sets in: This is the place that gave birth to one of America's most prolific cultural and literary movements — the Harlem Renaissance. From famous poet Langston Hughes to jazz composer and musician Duke Ellington, many influential artists and writers emerged during the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s.

The neighborhood currently is celebrating Harlem Week, the annual event aimed at showcasing the community's rich history and culture.

"Harlem is everywhere it is," said Gloria Jackson, 57, a local resident.

But despite its deep historical roots, Harlem is a neighborhood in flux, with new development raising serious questions about the direction of its future.

In the late 1980s, "[Harlem] looked like it had been bombed," said Flores Forbes, chief strategic officer of the Abyssinian Development Corp. in Harlem.

According to the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Central Harlem's population plummeted by 37 percent between 1970 and 1990.

"There has really been an uptick in the last decade, Harlem's population has increased by eight percent and is still growing, according to city statistics. And city--

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Former Black Panther leads effort to revitalize Harlem

By Octavia Moore and Ashley McBride

Mount Vernon High School and McKinley Technical High School

NEW YORK — The man playing a leading role in revitalizing Harlem is a longtime activist who cut his teeth as a member of the Black Panther Party.

"The Black Panther Party taught me to be smarter, a critical thinker, and care more for my community," said Flores Forbes, who recently published his autobiography, "Will You Die With Me?"

Forbes grew up in San Francisco with his parents and older brother. As Forbes grew older, he started to understand that everyone around him had different views. As a black man in America during the civil rights era, he had a hard life.

Though Forbes wasn't born in Harlem, his experiences in the Black Panther Party helped him become the man that he is today. He is in the process of helping to revitalize Harlem.

"In my second year as chief strategic officer of the Abyssinian Development Corp., a nonprofit organization in Harlem, Forbes has become a key player in Harlem's revitalization.

Flores Forbes

Quetsy Perez, 34.

"There are some people who don't want to see Caucasians and other people moving into this community," he said. "Like a phobia or something." Despite residents' concerns, the city shoveled on.

Five years after 9/11, Lower Manhattan faces back

New Yorkers express mixed reactions to pace of redevelopment

By Jenny Zhu

Millennium High School

NEW YORK — The Greenmarket. The big sign with bold green letters is located in the middle of the area. A white canopy tent covers the hundreds of vendors selling everything from Jersey PATH train station at the corner of Church and Vesey. The smell of chocolates, fried food, soups, flowers, fruit, coffee, and freshly baked bread fills the air, and nearly organized fresh fruit sits on the white tables. The merchants are welcoming and friendly.

Lower Manhattan is back in business.

Even before the attacks of Sept. 11, Lower Manhattan development had been faltering. The area lost 64,000 jobs between 1970 and 2005, according to city statistics. But in the past five years, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. George Pataki have committed to spend $10 billion to rebuild Lower Manhattan.

"Lower Manhattan had been in decline and only Sept. 11 forced us to improve," said Daniel Doctoroff, deputy mayor for economic development and rebuilding.

With the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks less than a month away, the country is looking at the redevelopment of Lower Manhattan as an indicator of whether the city has achieved its recovery goals.

According to city officials, the city is creating a more balanced community by improving community access, incorporating more culture into the neighborhood and creating more residential opportunities. The city is moving ahead with plans to improve transportation by renovating the ferry and PATH stations. It has also made major investments, such as $44 million for the parks and open spaces and $27 million for Lower Manhattan arts organizations and projects.

Among the many new developments, officials say that the redevelopment of Ground Zero will become a centerpiece of the new Lower Manhattan, with a memorial, museum and 2.6 million square feet of office space — including the Freedom Tower.

But five years after Sept. 11, the memorial is only a six-acre piece of land surrounded by gray wire gates. Ground Zero is now a jumble of generators and police cars, leaving some frustrated over the pace of the development.

The area near the construction site has only recently been opened up to the vendors who served food here for years before the terrorist attacks. Some new businesses are struggling to survive and becoming less interested in the area. One of these is a small cake and cookies stand run by Quetsy Perez, 34.

"It's a bit slow," Perez said of the construction of the Sept. 11 memorial and Freedom Tower. "They should have built it already."

But others who live and work here see signs of change.

"People who live nearby are very happy that things are getting back to normal and the community is building," said John Simone, who works at the Orchards of Coninick, a business that sells fruits and vegetables.

The Orchards suffered financial setbacks after Sept. 11 when one of its few trucks was destroyed during the attack. Today, its business has returned to previous levels.

"It's all very moving," said Jane Schulte, who visited Lower Manhattan this week with her husband for the first time. "We just want to stay here and take it all in."
Bush v. Bush

By Daniel Achampong
LAUD D. BRANTLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Sons often imitate their fathers, but not in the case of President George W. Bush and his father, former President George H.W. Bush. At least of that which is visible. This is a difference, says Prof. Hutchings, a Princeton professor, a state department official in the first Bush administration and a frequent critic of the current President Bush — believes.

"This administration is reckless," Hutchings said during a recent interview in his Woodrow Wilson School office. "It has put our country on the edge of war for no reason." Though neither husband nor wife has entertained the idea of running for the presidency, the son is a frequent subject of the current Bush administration. President Bush, he said, is better known as "the only among the nation's top policy makers who have radicalized Muslim populations — including Palestinians, who elected the Bushes to their posts by running their government in January. Hutchings believes Bush made a mistake by ignoring the concerns raised by the Middle Eastern Peace process early in his first term.

Hutchings is no stranger to policy-making. From 1989 to 1992, he was director of European affairs for the National Security Council. In that role, he helped to shape U.S. foreign policy during the disintegration of the Soviet empire. A framed picture of Hutchings with former Bulgarian President Zhe- nko Shvetz and other Eastern European officials sits on his desk.

In 1997, Hutchings published "American Foreign Policy and the End of the Cold War," an insider's account of U.S. foreign policy during the Soviet Union's demise. He joined the Wood- row Wilson School the same year as an assistant dean. Then, in February 2003, he became chairman of the Na- tional Intelligence Council, a group of foreign policy analysts that reports to the Director of National In- telligence. He served in that position for two years.

According to Hutchings, the first President Bush knew how to exercise American power judiciously. "U.S. goals were pretty good compared to now," Hutchings said. He recalled that when the Berlin Wall fell, "it was shocking but it was thrilling."

"We wanted to help the liberated countries become stable, he said. "In the future, Bush will . . ."

hence, the capability of the U.S. power and was caused of the result. In this way, America succeeded in bringing democracy and free markets to Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Germany, he said.

Hutchings contrasted the transfor- mation that occurred under Presi- dent Bush with the record of the current administration. President Bush, he added, is creating more "a sense of fear to those who do not have the knowledge.

"How would Hutchings do better?" Dropping the "war metaphor" from the debate over the war in Afghanistan, Hutchings said, he recalled that "when the Berlin Wall fell, I was shocked but it was thrilling."

"We wanted to help the liberated countries become stable, he said. "In the future, Bush will . . ."

Students from all over the world convene at Princeton University, which has been called the "Ivy League of Universities" for its academic excellence and prestigious faculty. The University is more complicated.

But the official relationship between the town and the University is more complicated. Sitting in her office located just a few hundred yards from the University's FitzRandolph Gate, Mayor Mildred Trotman of Princeton Borough expressed her views on the connection between the college and the Borough in an interview last week.

Trotman, who previously served as a Borough councilwoman for 21 years, feels that the University should voluntarily contribute more to the Borough. Though the federal government does not require the University to contribute, the Borough is in a prime location for investment, she said. "It's a prime location for investment, she said. "It's a prime location for investment, she said. "It's a prime location for investment, she said. In 1997, Hutchings published "American Foreign Policy and the End of the Cold War," an insider's account of U.S. foreign policy during the Soviet Union's demise. He joined the Woodrow Wilson School the same year as an assistant dean. Then, in February 2003, he became chairman of the National Intelligence Council, a group of foreign policy analysts that reports to the Director of National Intelligence. He served in that position for two years.

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What a dope: Local cyclists on Floyd Landis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The background test four days later confirmed the results of the initial test, Landis was faced with the risk of a lifetime. In the last 10 years, France's 103-year-old history had a champion been stripped of his crown because of doping.

That same morning in suburban Ham- ilton, it was laughter rather than cheers. Some 300 cyclists, mostly weekend warriors rather than club members, strapped on their helmets and set off. They were out for the 8:30 a.m. ride. They were there

simply to enjoy the beautiful day and to socialize.

Participants in the Princeton Free Wheelers Bicycle Club's 26th Annual Bicycle Event were quick to emphasize that this was a ride, not a race. This kind of cycling at its most basic form — no awards, no titles, no competition. It does not come as a surprise that these cycling idealists have strong opinions on Landis’ use of steroids and his subsequent removal from the cycling team, the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Rob McKenly, who modestly denies his friend's description of him as the "top- ranked U.S. cyclist from New Jersey," has participated in this event for 30 years, and claims ride to solely to stay in shape. He was out for the 8:30 a.m. ride. He was there

simply to enjoy the beautiful day and to socialize.

The reaction to news of Landis’ act with quiet disapproval. “This is a better rider than any pro who feels that he has to use drugs to get ahead,” McKenly said. “That is a disappointment.”

Some people at the event said they was nonetheless shaken the cycling world, but spectator Sandra Smith said the controversy will have an impact even beyond the sports community.

“It’s a reflection of where society is going,” she said. “It shows how people in this society deal with success — when success is defined as a trillion dollar or million dollar.”

Young people “need to be urged to get out there,” she said. “It makes you feel healthy and strong.” Kaplan said.

Like Kaplan, Smith looks so healthy that few would ever believe that he is 60 years old. Kaplan said he was the weakest of the five riders in his group that day, but that he surprised himself by coming in seventh the next day.

Smith has never joined a bike club, but she is happy to meet people while riding. She is from Hilliards and said that riding a bike is not only a way to keep in shape but also an opportunity to discover the countryside and enjoy a beautiful view.

Mercer County College is close to a huge cornfield with a mix of flat roads and hills — perfect for a morning ride, Smith said.

“Damn, you can do it!” Smith said she told herself when she was two miles from the finish. The longest distance that she has ever biked is 100 miles. She has that distance twice

but on the day of the event, she chose to ride just 58 miles. Smith’s longest ride was 140 miles, but the day of the event he set a new personal record: He rode 68.5 miles in four-and-a-half hours.

“I made a new record,” he said. “I rode 3.5 miles more!”

Smith said she knows that young people are not getting enough exercise. She said they would benefit from participating in events like the Free Wheelers annual ride.

Young people “need to be urged to get out there,” she said. “I see them in their mid-twenties with a fitness problem.”

Residents react to terror plot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Princeton community, with the support of the University’s investment portfolio and its intermediary investors to discuss further steps.

It has been Princeton’s belief since the exposure of the apartheid in South Africa, we are most effective when we...”

The University’s board of trustees and the Council of the Princeton University Community will meet in the fall to discuss further steps.

AABB did not respond to repeated requests for comment. In a press release, however, it stated "AABB is building the infrastructure that..."
The complex, to be built over the Long Island Rail Road’s Vanderbilt Rail Yards, will cover about 22 acres. It includes units for the NBA’s Nets — which will be the borough’s first professional team since baseball’s Brooklyn Dodgers left in 1958. Designed by world-famous architect Frank Gehry, the project also includes hotel, office and retail space, and about 6,800 housing units.

The Forest City Ratner Companies plans to invest $4.5 billion, the largest private endeavor in Brooklyn’s history, according to the company’s Web site.

The project will bring jobs, homes and an influx of economic prosperity to the downtown area, said Melissa Gerling, vice president of residential development for Forest City Ratner.

Not every rental unit will be available for sale as condos. Fifty percent of the 4,500 rental units will be reserved for people with low and moderate incomes, according to Forest City Ratner. But Develop Don’t Destroy Brooklyn, a coalition of community groups, notes that only 12 percent of the housing would be for people making less than $31,000 per year.

The median annual income in Brooklyn is about $32,000, according to the 2000 census.

Opponents of the plan argue the influx of residents and sports fans will strain the area’s parking and cause traffic congestion.

According to the draft environmental impact statement released by Empire State Development Corporation, the complex will block direct sunlight. There are currently no plans for new hospitals, schools, police or fire stations that will be needed to serve the new residents, according to Develop Don’t Destroy’s Web site.

A “landscaped open space” will be located in the center of Atlantic Yards. In this park, according to Forest City Ratner, residents and visitors can relax, play and enjoy the outdoors. The park will also include basketball courts, volleyball courts and other sports areas.

Forest City Ratner plans to build over the rail yards and the surrounding area, which includes businesses, apartment buildings, schools and playgrounds.

If the project is approved, residents from about 170 units will have to move from the area that is now the future grounds for Atlantic Yards. Renters will be able to move to a new residence and pay the same rent as they did before, Gerling said.

Atlantic Yards: Rentals, condos, parks, and, of course, basketball

By Catherine Kirk

NEW YORK — Plans are being laid for Brooklyn’s new big sports arena, Atlantic Yards.

The complex, to be built over the Long Island Rail Road’s Vanderbilt Rail Yards, will cover about 22 acres. It includes units for the NBA’s Nets — which will be the borough’s first professional team since baseball’s Brooklyn Dodgers left in 1958. Designed by world-famous architect Frank Gehry, the project also includes hotel, office and retail space, and about 6,800 housing units.

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The complex will cast long shadows over the surrounding neighborhood, the project’s new residents would crowd local classrooms and strain the area’s sewage and storm drain systems.

While some Brooklyn residents said Atlantic Yards would impact the area in a negative way, other said they supported the development.

“It would bring more jobs down the line than what we already have,” said Monique Hagan, 27, of Brooklyn, who works at a U-Haul store on Atlantic Avenue. The store will be demolished, according to Forest City Ratner’s map of the project site.

Other residents said they felt their objections have been ignored.

“There’s nothing we can do,” said Atis Lia, 50, general manager of a ExxonMobil gas station on Flatbush Avenue between Pacific Street and Dean Street.

The station also will be demolished, according to Forest City Ratner’s map.

Residents and opponents have fought over the site at 6th Avenue and Carlton Street since 1984, according to Forest City Ratner, which held public hearings before the project.

“The project continues,” said, “it will make me move.”

Jessica Bailey, 33, who lives near the site at 6th Avenue and Carlton Street said he objected to the 10 years of noise and disruption that would result from the construction.

“While the project continues,” he said, “it will make me move.”

“I guess it will bring more jobs to the area,” she said. “It’s a bitterweet experience.”

Brooklyn residents debate Atlantic Yards

Images courtesy of Forest City Ratner Companies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pacific Street to Vanderbilt Avenue

The central tower, known as “Miss Brooklyn,” will be 429 feet tall — surpassing by 108 feet the historic Williamsburg Savings Bank Tower.

The city and the state will each contribute $100 million to the project, said Melissa Gerling, vice president for residential development for Forest City Ratner.

Forest City Ratner said the city and state will cover the rest of the cost, including $500 million to transform brown fields into green open spaces.

Much of the area is underused and undeveloped, Gerling said. The state has approved the use of eminent domain to allow Ratner to acquire privately owned homes and businesses. About 170 housing units will be demolished, about 410 residents, according to the draft environmental impact statement. About 27 businesses will be displaced.

The city and state believe the project will serve the public good, said Joe Chau, senior policy advisor to the deputy mayor for economic development.

Forest City Ratner, which has developed retail, office and residential property in New York and New Jersey, promises that Atlantic Yards will improve Brooklyn in several ways. According to Gerling:

The project will create 33,700 construction jobs and 3,250 office jobs to the neighborhood.

It will strengthen the economic of the Atlantic Terminal area, which includes retail, office and residential space.

It will create 6,800 housing units for middle-income families. Residents displaced by construction will be able to live in the new complex for the same rent as they currently pay, she said.

But many residents and community groups oppose Atlantic Yards, saying the project is too big, doesn’t provide enough affordable housing and will increase the cost of living — forcing many low-income families from the area.

“Bringing in more than 6,800 luxury homes will displace the businesses.”

Gerling said. “You’re making an extremely rich neighborhood, and the poor people will have to move out. That will be instant gentrification.”

Only 12 percent of the project’s housing will be allocated for families with incomes of $31,000 per year or less, according to the opposition coalition, Develop Don’t Destroy Brooklyn.

The median income in Brooklyn is about $32,000, according to the 2000 census.

City Councilwoman Letitia James, whose district includes most of the Atlantic Yards site, opposes the project.

“From the start, the community has seen the Atlantic Terminal area as a huge opportunity for economic growth and development, and the project is not the development we need,” she said.

The complex will cast long shadows over the surrounding neighborhood, the project’s new residents would crowd local classrooms and strain the area’s sewage and storm drain systems.

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Staff Commentary
A journalistic journey

Lugging 10 days worth of clothing, 20 high school students unloaded their belongings from the train and crossed the threshold into “the world of ideas”; a world where people aren’t afraid to express their opinions, aggressively pursue information, accept constructive criticism, think of events in a larger context, and entertain other perspectives. In short, a world where intellectual curiosity is the highest value — and journalism is the result.

Through a series of intensive workshops, we learned about various aspects of journalism. Topics ranged from the broad (what is journalism?) to the specific (how do you report a feature story?). The skills we gained will help us gain the aspiring journalists among us, but they are also applicable to a variety of academic and professional pursuits.

We gained reporting experience by covering a wide range of stories. Though the deadlines were reasonable, we would have felt less pressure if the writing time had been more evenly distributed throughout the week. For example, during our trip to New York, a series of press conferences with the city’s deputy mayors followed by reporting on urban development and a WNBA game left some of us juggling many stories at once.

We had the chance to listen to guest speakers from dramatically different fields of journalism — everyone from a New Yorker writer who reported from Iran to a Pulitzer Prize-winning fashion editor of The Washington Post.

The counselors became friends rather than disciplinarians, and they genuinely wanted to help both with our writing and the college admission process. Returning alumni of the program easily identified with us and offered insight into the next five years of our lives.

From the first group discussion, we were amazed by the intellectual curiosity of our fellow students. The counselors encouraged us not to “tolerate” each other’s opinions, but rather to challenge them while remaining respectful. The result was an atmosphere that fostered both individualism and open-mindedness.

Despite numerous group discussions, we would have welcomed more opportunities to get to know one another through relaxed bonding activities. In upcoming years we hope counselors will encourage more reserved students to voice opinions they would normally keep to themselves.

The long hours and life in the residential dorms gave us a taste of college life. Some of us liked the demand — or lack thereof — closely mirrored the college experience. Thanks to unhealthy dining hall food, late-night pizza deliveries, minimal sleep and no time for exercise, we were well on our way to the freshman 15 — in just 10 days.

The counselors encouraged us not to dismiss the possibility of getting into a competitive college. In a nation where one will accept responsibility. Some people may argue that students can be so out of control that no one is able to help them. I disagree. (Someone else has just dropped out.) In a nation where
African countries need debt relief to solve AIDS crisis

By Furuz Eriukho
DOWNTOWN CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL

Do you see that little African boy with his bulging eyes staring longingly into yours? Do you wonder if he has AIDS? Do you wonder if he will survive? The sad reality is that there is a good chance he has AIDS, and he will probably die because of the inaction of the government and the international community to respond to his plight.

Sadly, during the last decade sub-Saharan African nations have faced major problems because of the poverty of the continent and the AIDS epidemic. If, at this time, we do not address the problem, it will continue to rise.

The nations of sub-Saharan Africa — because they are so overwhemed by their debts to foreign creditors — have been relatively slow in responding to the growing poverty and AIDS epidemic in their countries. They are so economically depressed that the combined 50 nations in sub-Saharan Africa constitute 11 percent of the world's population but produce only 0.6 percent of the world's gross domestic income. This means that the governments are the impoverished, and they need significant financial assistance and help from the more developed nations.

Because these nations are paying large sums to creditors such as the World Bank and international financial institutions — up to $13.7 billion each year — they cannot invest in antiviral drug development and education.

Some nations spend several times more on debt repayment than on health programs — in the case of Senegal in 1998, five times as much.

Statistics seem to indicate that debt has paralyzed Africa, causing severe poverty. According to the United Nations Development Program, 300 million Africans did not have access to safe water in 2000. Less than half of sub-Saharan Africans have access to hospitals. One in six Africans dies before the age of five. Fewer than one in five people has access to electricity. One in two survives on less than a dollar a day. 33% of the population suffers from malnutrition. Only 20% of all African students go on to secondary school. Forty-one percent of the sub-Saharan population is illiterate.

There is a direct correlation between poverty and AIDS rates. According to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, between 1990 and 2000, more people died of AIDS in Africa than in all the wars on the continent. Of the 40 million people worldwide infected with AIDS, 25.8 million live in sub-Saharan Africa. Of the 4.5 million people infected with HIV worldwide each year, 65% are Africans. Of those who die from AIDS — about 3.1 million worldwide — 77 percent are Africans.

Rampant poverty must be resolved before the AIDS epidemic can be addressed. If creditors of African nations will allow the heavily indebted countries to delay interest payments — as they have done with debt — these countries can ease the poverty and in turn allocate more funds to health programs such as sex education and research into the prevention of the disease.

Governments could also allocate more money to improve their educational systems.

In many African communities, the developed nations have a duty to temporarily cancel the debts of undeveloped nations until they can address urgent issues such as poverty and AIDS.

If the international community fails to help the ravaged African nations, the AIDS-infected African boy with the bulging eyes will become a brand new food for the maggots, turning into soil and eventually消失 from the existence of the inter-national leadership.
By Sam Pillu
JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL.

Next month, the U.N. Security Council is expected to take up the question of whether Kosovo should become an independent country. Seven years after the United States and its western allies waged a bombing campaign to evict Slobodan Milosevic’s troops from the province, Kosovo remains technically under Serbian rule. Now that might be about to change.

While land disputes in the Balkans have existed throughout history, the status of Kosovo has always been among the most contentious. Until the early 20th century, Kosovo belonged to the Ottoman Empire; but after the Balkan war of 1912, the province became part of Serbia—a move that would later have deadly consequences.

In 1989, Milosevic took over as president of Serbia and proceeded to strip Kosovo of its autonomy. Albanians—who at the time made up about 90 percent of the region’s population—were fired from their jobs, lost their right to attend public schools that were predominantly Serbian, and were censored in the media.

When Albanians tried to resist, Serbia persecuted them. Albanian fighters were sometimes killing entire families, other times forcing them to flee their homeland. Today, the issue is simple: Can the same people who raped, stole and slaughtered return to rule Kosovo?

Absolutely not. The Albanians were part of Serbia, it functioned fairly independently from Belgrade during an autonomous period that ended in 1989. Kosovo had its own independent army and police force. Since 1999, Serbia has not played a role in Kosovo, and the province has therefore matured politically in a manner that would guarantee its success in the future as an independent nation.

The citizens of Kosovo have already taken on many of the responsibilities of running their own country. Why should they now revert to being at the mercy of another government?

In addition, Serbia is entirely too unstable to handle a territory such as Kosovo. The ultra-nationalist Serbian Radical Party is in power, and the political situation in the National Assembly is tense.

Given the recent history of Serbian aggression, allowing such a government to control Kosovo would be dangerous not just to Kosovar Albanians but also to the Balkans as a whole. Serbia has yet to fully atone for its crimes of the 1990s—for instance, it still hasn’t turned over notorious war criminals Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic to the International Criminal Court.

Kosovo Albanians thus have legitimate grounds to worry about Serbia reasserting sovereignty over their homeland.

A common argument against independence for Kosovo is that the province, despite having just 5 percent Serb, has historical importance to the Serb people because it is the cradle of their identity. This is a gross oversimplification. Serbs entered Kosovo in the 12th century—more than 600 years after they first arrived in the Balkan Peninsula. Kosovo is a cradle of the Serbian Orthodox Church. The church was centered in Zica before it moved to Kosovo in the 12th century. Even the historic battle of Kosovo Polje—when the Serbs lost control of Kosovo to the Ottoman Empire in 1389—was not fought by a homogenous Serbian army. The battle was a battle between a party in the National Assembly.

Tomislav Nikolic, the leader of the party, said last month, “We shall take up arms to fight forever to keep Kosovo as part of Serbia.”

This is especially worrysome since the average resident of residential development at Forest City Ratner, noted that the average renter in New York uses 50 percent of his income for rent. If the Atlantic Yards project is approved, I will fear for the future of Brooklyn’s splendidly varied cultural landscape. I will also fear for the loss of Brooklyn’s identity on a physical level. The neighborhoods surrounding Atlantic Yards are filled with police stations, small shops and already-busy streets.

I do not really need another Madison Avenue or set of luxury high-rises to block the sun, force out local businesses and increase traffic.

I think not. In fact I’d be happy to see the area developed with reason-ably sized apartment buildings and with prices that reflect the economic diversity of the neighborhood—not because it would look good on paper, but because it would be the right thing to do.

About five years after the attacks of Sept. 11, business is back in Lower Manhattan.
A few weeks ago, exhausted after my long journey back to Mérida, Venezuela, I stepped out from the plane and a freezing wind blew against my face. After 18 grueling hours spent in the cold, damp air of the northern United States and Canada, I couldn’t even stand up. But I was so anxious to see my mother — after being away from her for more than three months — that I hardly even noticed my fatigue. I saw her from a distance, waving her arms热情地, and I knew she saw me. When she saw me, she waved and gave me a big smile.

My mother has owned a restaurant in Mérida since before I was born. She is busy all the time she spends in a restaurant. And I worry about her safety, when she has to deal with drunk customers who disrespect her and try to go to pay and run; and when she works late to close the restaurant by herself.

Each morning, my mother wakes up at 5:30 a.m. so she can prepare our family and complete paperwork for her business before she opens the restaurant in time for lunch. In the 24 hours of each day, my mother has to work at least 20 hours. She always says she is not tired, but she can barely keep her eyes open. Even though my mother is so busy, whenever we have needed her help, she has always been there.

She was especially excited about my trip to New York a few years ago. She is the daughter of a woman who did not go to college or have the opportunities her mother never went to college or had the opportunities she was hoping for. Because of the adversity she has faced, she pushes my brother, sisters and me to be the very best people we can be. She promises to take advantage of every opportunity. She expects us to do our best always, and she makes many sacrifices so that we can succeed.

I don’t know how much my mother cares for us now, it was not always easy being the daughter of a woman who demanded so much of us. When I was 13, my mother sent me to a boarding school in Guangzhou, China, so that I would learn to speak and write Chinese properly and become independent. It was not always easy being the daughter of a woman who demanded so much of us. That is why I always felt so much pressure to do well in my studies.

But even as my family struggled, Padilla began to understand just how much my mother was sacrificing for me. I decided that only by dedicating myself entirely to my studies could I justify and honor her sacrifices.

In 2004, I decided to follow the dream that my mother and I shared by moving, like she had, to a new country in search of opportunity. I came to the United States to live with my older sister and brother in New York. It was hard, especially for my younger brother, Padilla, who was pregnant. However, after Padilla’s brother Yando was born, Padilla’s father left his family and headed back to Santo Domingo. Still, it was Yando’s birthday that my family had to stay in the United States for medical treatment. Unable to return to the Dominican Republic and without a place to call home in New York, Padilla and his family had to endure so much. My mother was sacrificing for me. I decided that only by dedicating myself entirely to my studies could I justify and honor her sacrifices.

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‘World Trade Center’: Bad casting, bad script and, most of all, bad timing

By Jenny Zhu

The movie ‘World Trade Center’ is too narrow

By Nohey Arteaga

Oliver Stone’s new film is maudlin and manipulative

By Leslie Primack

Stone cold

By Gloria Medina
Too soon for ‘Trade Center’: Why this film shouldn’t have been made

Continued From Page 10

he shot the first scene, with his decision to depict the trauma of Sept. 11 less than five years after the terrorist attacks. The wounds marked by the empty spaces in Stone’s shots of Lower Manhattan still have not healed, and the pain of the fallen still have not subsided.

Stone’s second error is his fumbling of the plot. A potential tribute to the two Port Authority police officers, the film only rehashes a Hollywood cliché—that familial relationships are strengthened after tumult and life-altering tragedy.

But “World Trade Center” is not a complete disaster. The film manages to stir emotion with amazing cinematography. What saves the movie from the rubble in Stone’s keen eye for special effects. The re-creation of the towers before and after the terrorist attacks leaves the most memorable impression. The close-ups of Cage’s blue eyes as he suffers, trapped below debris, offers some escape from the claustrophobia created by the wreckage-filled elevator shaft.

Nonetheless, “World Trade Center” doesn’t capture the full reality of Sept. 11. Had Stone not used clips of actual media coverage, future audiences would have no hope of understanding what the attacks on the World Trade Center meant to Americans.

First big 9/11 movie is too little, too soon

Continued From Page 10

have preferred to see a gritty documentary, mainly because the dialogue leaves so much to be desired. In fact, it inspires nostalgia for silent films. Lines like “What good do we do,” “Can you still see the light,” “People don’t like me” and “Ruuummmmm” (in slow motion), don’t exactly inspire empathy.

This is probably the fault of writer Andrea Berloff, but one expects much more from Oliver Stone, who also directed the Academy Award-winning “Platoon” and was the executive producer for the marvelous “The Joy Luck Club.” Berloff attempted to replace depth of character with overstated religious symbolism. No opportunity was wasted to showcase a crucifix or blinding white light. There are even several appearances by a silhouetted Jesus figure.

The only actor who didn’t disappoint was Maggie Gyllenhaal. Her performance as the harried wife of Jimeno was authentic and evocative. Unfortunately, Gyllenhaal’s performance is not enough to salvage the movie.

I can relate to one scene in particular where a Marine describes how God seems to be using the smoke from the collapsed towers to shield the world from what it is not ready to see. I can relate because I know I was definitely not ready to see such a horrible movie.

‘World Trade Center’ is maudlin and manipulative

Continued From Page 10

Christians and atheists alike by its bizarre near-death-experience sequence in which a glowing backlit silhouette of Jesus appears to offer Jimeno a bottle of water. Leaving the theater, viewers feel as if they were just whacked over the head with a Bible.

The dimly lit, claustrophobic scenes in which the two protagonists struggle to stay awake — and alive — are painful to watch, not because of their profound emotional impact, but because of their uncomfortably cramped setting. However, one wonders if Stone realized that the dust-diffused semi-darkness and piles of twisted metal would serve to shield the audience from Cage’s mediocre acting skills.

Though Pena and Maggie Gyllenhaal (who plays Jimeno’s wife) manage to give memorable performances in spite of the sappy dialogue, much of the acting feels forced, and sometimes even comical.

Early in the film, the World Trade Center begins to collapse while the cops are still in the building, preparing to start rescue missions. After the initial thundering crash, the camera swings in for a close-up on Cage as a look of horror comes across his face and he shouts, “Ruuuummmmm!” in laughably clichéd slow-motion. Does Stone expect audiences to take this seriously?

The film is at its best when the director steps back, cuts the melodramatic orchestral music and lets the actors do their jobs. The scenes of citizens and police on the streets of Manhattan conjure memories of the confusion and fear during the attacks — unfortunately, for Stone, the most moving part of the film is the actual news footage of the tragic attacks.
NEW YORK — All they won was a “Maddie.”

The “Maddie” award is a bobblehead doll given to the athlete who does the best impression of a movie scene.

The event takes place between periods at Madison Square Garden before a crowd of WNBA fans. The player appears on the big screen and attempts to imitate Chris Tucker, a whoever wins the most applause from the crowd wins the award.

Acting athletes, cotton candy stands, hot dogs and Coke are inevitable accessories to a New York Liberty basketball game. With the neon scoreboard blinding the stands, Verizon advertisements flash into the Liberty against a team

maybe going to a fortune teller isn’t a bad idea for the team. They have two games left in the season, and with a dismal record of nine wins and 23 losses, there isn’t a prayer for the playoffs.

“Her explosiveness isn’t back,” Coyle told the AP.

Forward Tamika Catchings scoring 12.

Hughes has experience balancing athletics and academics in his own life. He grew up in Crawford, Neb., and attended Crawford High School. After graduation, he went to Nebraska Western Junior College for a year, before heading to Doane College to play tight end on its football team. He then earned his Ph.D. in exercise physiology from the University of Nebraska in 1987.

Hughes was a graduate assistant at Nebraska, his grandfather was diagnosed with cancer and Hughes wanted to wish his grandfather well during that day’s game, he heard the voice of the commentator sending him well wishes.

Hughes helps team perform balancing act

Hughes teaches Tigers to juggle school and sports

By Christian Quiles

Roger Hughes’ life is all about balance. Being a head football coach at an elite university like Princeton requires Hughes to understand the relationship between academics and athletics, and allow his players to find an equilibrium.

Hughes, the 21st head coach of the Tigers, has come up with ways to help the student-athletes he coaches succeed both on the field and in the classroom. Each assistant coach is responsible for certain players when it comes to their academics and health care, and Hughes makes sure they take those responsibilities seriously.

The staff assists Hughes by finding the appropriate help needed for his team to excel in academics. Given the demanding schedule that the student-athletes are forced to maintain, Hughes expects his staff to find tutors and other help as necessary.

Hughes tries to make the schedule as manageable as possible, often limiting practice time. Players are allowed only 20 hours of practice per week — a four-hour limit each day — and 49 days in an entire season.

Hughes’ academic prestige presents an additional challenge for Hughes. Because the Tigers are members of the Ivy League, he cannot award athletic scholarships. Hughes finds this difficult, since he wants to recruit the top high school athletes in the country.

“We try to get the same caliber, the best athletes in the country who are bright enough to come here,” Hughes said.

This recruiting challenge means that Hughes often ends up finding team members with little experience. He tries to work with them to find their individual strengths and give them a place on the team. Hughes always tells his players, “Play to the highest level ever.”

Despite the limitations imposed by the Ivy League rules, he still sees benefits to coaching at Princeton, where school spirit is especially strong. However, last season’s attendance statistics were less stellar: The average crowd at Princeton Stadium — which seats 27,800 — numbered just 9,370.

Hughes sees the big picture of balancing athletics and academics in his own life. He grew up in Crawford, Neb., and attended Crawford High School. After graduation, he went to Nebraska Western Junior College for a year, before heading to Doane College to play tight end on its football team. He then earned his Ph.D. in exercise physiology from the University of Nebraska in 1987.

He has coached at different levels at places including the University of Nebraska, University of Wisconsin, Cameron University in Oklahoma and Dartmouth. Princeton hired him as head football coach in January 2000.

In addition to respecting the balance between academics and athletics, Hughes is able to see beyond the field to another important aspect of life: family. When he was a graduate assistant at Nebraska, his grandfather was diagnosed with cancer and given six months to live.

Hughes helps team perform balancing act

Head coach teaches Tigers to juggle school and sports

By Christian Quiles

ROBERT D. BRANNER HIGH SCHOOL

With strong start, Fever burns Liberty

By Onyebuchi Chilaka and Christian Quiles

NEW YORK — It was like taking candy from a baby. After getting out to an early lead and cruising throughout the game, the Indiana Fever walked away with a crushing victory, 77-44, over the New York Liberty on Tuesday.

The Liberty’s sloppiness — they committed 22 turnovers in 40 minutes — resulted in continuously disinterested or dropped passes, with the ball frequently soaring out of bounds.

“We took a step back tonight, and I’m not sure why,” Liberty coach Pat Coyle told the Associated Press.

The loss extended the Liberty’s losing streak to 9-23, which puts them second to last in the league with no hope of making the playoffs this season.

Forward Cathrine Kraayeveld led the Liberty in scoring, with 13, and forward Ashley Battle added 10 points and four rebounds.

The highlights for the Liberty, however, were few and far between. With four minutes left in the first quarter, the Liberty went on a 6-0 scoring run sparked by guard Lona McNeely’s three-pointer. But those were their only points of the period. The Fever quickly run the score to 19-6 by the end of the first quarter.

“We couldn’t catch, shoot or pass the ball,” Coyle said to the AP.

“They are a good team. They’re in the playoffs for a reason.”

No one on the Liberty emerged to lead the team, and as a result, the Fever pulled ahead to 38-22 by halftime.

“We played like garbage on the offensive end,” Liberty guard Becky Hammon told the AP. “They had us well-scouted and we got rattle[d] from the start. We never calmed down.

Hammon, the Liberty’s most recognized player, is returning from an ankle injury. Playing just for the second time in 13 games, she scored only seven points in 17 minutes.

“Her explosiveness isn’t back,” Coyle told the AP.

Forward Tamika Catchmore led a balanced effort for the Fever, scoring 14 points, with guard Anna DeForge adding 13 and forward Tamika Catchings scoring 12.

It was the Fever’s third straight win, putting them one game behind second-place Detroit heading into the end of the regular season.