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IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS & HEROES 9.11.01



GUEST EDITORIAL Education Is Fundamental

By ERNEST CLAYTON

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This year marks the anniversary of one of the most tragic events in NYC, as well as the country. The city experienced its darkest moments as all energies focused on the common good of a united nation. As fundamental as education is, it took a back seat to the securing and rebuilding of lower Manhattan's community and NYC's financial district. Leadership played a key role in the stabilizing of our city at that heightened time in our history. Our political leaders and citizens displayed a strength and courage that gave the city the confidence to move forward as a unified front.

While the city was trying to recuperate from the devastation, the NY Court of Appeals determined [4 to 5] that an 8th grade education is sufficient for students to become productive citizens. One year after that horrific ordeal, children are still suffering from that old, traditional form of post-slavery education.

We must start educating our children for academic achievement across the board. Steps have been taken during the aftermath of 9/11 that indicate we are moving in a direction that could make education fundamental.

On June 10, 2002 legislation was signed into law giving control of the New York City public

LETTERS

To the Editor:

Thank you so much for the content and fluidity of the article. She [Joan Baum] captured every point I was trying to make and turned it into something everyone else can understand. Jerrold Ross, Dean, School of Education

St. John's University

To the Editor:

The article you did on the Reading Reform Foundation is excellent. You portrayed us accurately and concisely. Now I have to read every other article in the issue to keep up with the educational scene!

Sandra Priest Rose, Founder & Trustee Reading Reform Foundation, NY To the Editor:

I just saw the article on the Fieldston Foreign Language workshop [August 2002]. It's great! Mary McFerran,

Academic Technology Administrator The Fieldston School

To the Editor:

I am the editor of the College Times, a national publication for students in Ireland. On your website you have accounts from students about their thoughts after the disaster of September 11. Would you allow us to publish some extracts from this in our newspaper? Shane McGinley, Dublin, Ireland

Letters continued on page 46



school system to the Mayor. Included in the law was a "maintenance of effort" clause that should increase, not decrease, public school funding in our city. Parents feel that someone has to be held accountable if this criminal assault against our children is to continue another day. The Mayor selected his chancellor, Joel Klein, who has already reached out to the United Parents Associations of NYC (UPA) before taking office. He has also made a difference after his first week on the job by reversing, with the stroke of his pen, what ex-chancellor Harold Levy had agreed upon with the teacher's union regarding the 20 minutes per day of additional classroom instruction time. The chancellor added two full days of classroom instruction by taking away two professional development days from teachers. UPA immediately posted a gold star on Chancellor Klein's annual report card. That this happened so swiftly shows the cooperation of the teacher's union in a light that parents have been pointing towards for sometime. Now that the smoke has cleared from 9/11, that light should illuminate brighter than ever before. UPA applauds the union and the Mayor for allowing children to come first. Now, we need to be vigilant and attentive towards the course of action being laid out for our children's

academic achievement. Parents, our children must succeed-there is no alternative! Teachers will now earn a fair and competitive wage. 9/11 has become a symbol of strength to our nation and has attracted a record number of new teachers this year with certifications in hand.

The Federal government has re-authorized Title 1, the "No Child Left Behind" legislation that will bring resources to parents who have children attending non-achieving schools throughout our state.

While serving on State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's Task Force on School Governance this year, UPA fought hard for parental representation on any reconstituted board of Education. And, parents behold; a precedent was set appointing five parents to the New York City Board on Education Policy.

We have already proven, as a city, that we can accomplish the rebuilding process-especially when everyone is committed. Imagine what we could do if we set our sights on educational achievement! We can no longer wait for another generation of "victims" to arise. Parents, should we accept a merely "adequate education?" Should we expect more from the NYC Dept. of Education? I think you know the answers. It is time to take a stand on our children's education and Leave No Parent Behind!#

Ernest Clayton is President of the United Parents Associations of New York City, Inc.

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CORRECTIONS:

In the August issue, Richard Lee Colvin of Teacher's College was identified as Robert Lee Colvin. We apologize for the error.

OUTSTANDING TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

Education Update will be naming four teachers each month for their outstanding work in the "frontiers" of education. Students, parents, principals, superintendents and colleagues may nominate teachers by describing, in a few paragraphs, what is "special" about them. Principals will be required to sign the recommendations before they are sent on to Education Update, where an advisory panel of experts will make the final decisions. In June, we will invite the teachers and their principals to a luncheon to celebrate their achievements. Teachers are the backbones of our educational system. They richly deserve the recognition that Education Update plans to give them. Dr. Pola Rosen,

Publisher

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September 11: One Year After By MATILDA RAFFA B.R.A.V.E. Juliana is an expansion

CUOMO AND SUSAN MOESKER The unthinkable horror has

passed, and we are left with the memories: the remorse, the heroism, the frightening questions, and the gaping hole in both our city and in our hearts. And what of the children who witnessed our national tragedy? How have they fared?

Mentoring USA mentors know that the young children in the Lower East Side mentoring programs were terrified. Several of our youth voiced that they didn't feel safe living in New York. Some children expressed relief that they lived in Queens or the Bronx–places terrorists "don't care about." Some told stories of parents who weren't managing very well. Children related stories of parents who refused to leave their homes or to continue to transact business with individuals of certain nationalities in the weeks following September 11.

Coping with their feelings and the traumatizing images on television-not to mention the mixed messages coming from adults-would be quite difficult for any child. How does a child respond? For that matter, how do adults respond?

These are questions that Mentoring USA wants to address through our B.R.A.V.E. Juliana initiative this September, named in honor of one of the youngest 9/11 victims, Juliana Valentine McCourt, who, along with her mother, was lost on United Airlines Flight 175. This new program has been made possible by a generous gift from the Juliana Valentine McCourt Children's Education Fund, the mission of which is "to foster harmony, peace, and understanding among the children of the world."

B.R.A.V.E. Juliana is an expansion of Mentoring USA's B.R.A.V.E. (Bias-Related Anti-Violence Education) Initiative, which was established in 1996 in response to an increase in violence and hate crimes involving children in New York City's schools and streets. B.R.A.V.E. Juliana uses a one-to-one, sitebased mentoring model to impart multi-cultural awareness and non-violent conflict resolution strategies to youth ages 5-18, in order to enhance their connections to their own cultures and to develop respect for children of other cultures. The B.R.A.V.E. program embodies Juliana's spirit of universal acceptance and mutual respect, and helps mentors to better understand their mentees, who often come from very different backgrounds.

B.R.A.V.E. Juliana will be launched in several phases. First, all mentors, new and returning, will be required to participate in an additional 2.5 hour "B.R.A.V.E. Juliana" training component. This intensive, interactive cultural diversity training session for mentors will emphasize both how we experienced diversity as children, and how we can help children to embrace the diversity that New York City has to offer. We recognize that adults are not able to guide children toward tolerance and compassion if they have not identified, admitted to, and grappled with their own prejudices. Training will involve role-playing exercises to better prepare mentors for "tough moments" with mentees. And as this training emphasizes acceptance through mutual respect and understanding, it will prepare mentors for the experience of interacting with a child who may embody different cultural, religious, socio-economic, and sexual identities.

In order to build upon Mentoring USA's Continued on page 46



The Future of Education

By JILL LEVY Astonishingly, I am more optimistic today about the

schools than during my past 43 years as an educator. I have seen it all: centralized and decentralized systems, management by committees and fiat, and every conceivable educational fad and fancy. No matter what was done, it seemed, nothing would turn our huge educational sys-

nothing would turn our huge educational system around. Of course, we made strides here and there. We worked hard adjusting to new philosophies, new faces, new regulations, and new strategies.

But during the course of my career, I began to lose heart. Nothing, it seemed, worked in the eyes of the media. Whether real or manufactured, we were chastised for our lack of progress. Superintendents first, then Chancellors, came and went. Everyone was blamed: kids, their parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, chancellors, mayors, governors, the infamous Board of Education, the unions, and perpetually, the scarcity of critical resources.

Yet, at this moment I am feeling hopeful. An undefined positive energy has begun to emerge around our public schools. For the first time, in a long time, we have a Mayor who is proactively working for our schools. Mayor Bloomberg has demonstrated this by holding fast to his vision of a new governance structure and accountability. It is surprising that a politicians before him were unable to do-accept personal responsibility for our city's schools. His tenacious commitment to being accountable for educating our children is contagious.

The new governance structure, one that I did not advocate, presents a challenge to all of us

because it is not just tweaking around the edges of reform. It is a system solidly designed to accomplish its goals. It is almost irresistible in its simplicity. A Mayor responsible for educational achievement, a Chancellor accountable to the Mayor for results and an educational panel, serving at the pleasure of the Mayor, designed to give advice to the Chancellor. Too few to blame now!

The Mayor's surprising selection of seven people from a variety of intelligent and experienced backgrounds to the new Educational Policy Panel signaled that "same old" was not in the cards. The shock of hearing that top educational management would move out of 110 Livingston Street and his daring selection of Joel Klein for the Chancellor's position flew in the face of the educational establishment.

As I watched and listened in the Tweed Courthouse to the announcement of Klein's appointment, I was moved by the intensity of purpose from both men and the clarity with which they spoke about their mutual commitment. The absence of platitudes, pomposity and pandering to the press or public spoke to me in a language I realized I longed to hear. I was not disturbed by the fact the Joel Klein is not a professional educator

Neither is he someone who dabbles in educational policy and like so many before him, actually believes that he has all the answers. My brief conversation with the new Chancellor the following morning affirmed my initial feelings.

Coupled with a sense of urgency that this may be our last chance to prove that NYC public schools can provide the quality of education for which it was once renowned is the persistent focus of the Mayor and his team. Despite *Continued on page 46*



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Energy: A Look Ahead

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Preparing Students for 9/11

By DRS. JONATHAN COHEN & STEVEN MARANS

6

As the one-year anniversary of September 11th approaches, many children and adults are still experiencing significant reactions to the tragedy. During the past year, frequent reminders of the possibility of further attacks on our country have contributed to an individual's sense of danger and emotional distress. With increasing attention given to the anniversary itself, students could benefit from additional assistance and support of their teachers, parents and communities. In response to this immediate need, the New York City Board of Education asked the Center for Social and Emotional Education and the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence to develop guidelines to help teachers and schools prepare for the one-year anniversary.

First, it is important to understand that symptoms and reactions of distress may vary from child to child. Children, as with adults, may experience a recurrence of some of the feelings associated with a loss or tragedy. Since the actual date of September 11th holds strong symbolism, this may cause a strong anniversary reaction in many individuals. Other factors such as commemorative events and media attention may also increase these reactions. However, not all children will appear to be impacted. Some may not have been directly affected by the events or may not be experiencing anniversary reactions. Although many children appear to be "back to normal," they still may be feeling sad, scared, anxious or angry. They may also have symptoms of difficulties that neither they nor the adults around them connect to their experiences of the anniversary.

During such times of stress, "memorialization" can further the process of healing and social-emotional learning for students. By planning and participating in a memorial event, students can personally exercise some control over how they will remember the tragedy. A memorial event not only should remember the losses associated with September 11th, but also should highlight community unity and foster a sense of hope for the future. But in order for the memorial events to have true significance, children must be actively involved in the planning process and the events should be relevant to their interests and developmental needs. School staff should engage students in a discussion of what they think would be a meaningful way to acknowledge the anniversary. The opportunity to plan activities as a group allows children to explore how they are feeling and to exchange suggestions about what might make them feel better. Adults should avoid telling children what they should feel or how they should express their feelings; they must try to listen and respect children's different needs and wishes.

Before the initiation of planning process, teachers should notify families. Many children will be more comfortable beginning the discussions of their feelings related to the tragedy with their own families. This also provides an opportunity for parents to bring their concerns or relevant family experiences, such as personal losses, to the attention of the school. Children who have had personal losses should be informed of what will be discussed within class and reassured that no one will disclose their personal experiences. Teachers and parents should establish a way for these children to communicate with them privately and followup with them as the planning progresses.

Given the broad impact of September 11th, teachers should attempt to coordinate memorial planning and activities within their schools and communities. However, too much attention to the anniversary can also cause problems. Parents should be advised to limit the amount of time their children view television coverage –especially graphic material of the events. Parents and teachers should work together to ensure that children are not overwhelmed by the material related to the anniversary.

These are some initial points to consider in planning for the anniversary of September 11. The comprehensive set of guidelines and additional information is available through the web sites for the Center for Social and Emotional Education (*www.csee.net*) and the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence (*www.nccev.org*).#

Dr. Jonathan Cohen is the President of Center for Social and Emotional Education and Adjunct Associate Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dr. Steven Marans is the Director of the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence, Child Study Center, Yale University School of Medicine.

CITY SCHOOLS OBSERVE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF 9-11

By KATARZYNA KOZANECKA

September 11th falls on a Wednesday this year. Over a million children will be in school across the five boroughs. Or will they? "I'm sure many kids won't show up, and those who do will be thoroughly upset," said Alex Herman, speaking of her classmates at Stuyvesant HS in downtown Manhattan, where she is a senior. How to spend the first year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center is one of the most pressing issues that New York City educators face as the 2002-03 school year begins.

No Specific Plans for Public Schools

"It's going to be a day of reflection but at the same time as normal a school day as possible," said Kevin Ortiz, a spokesperson for the New York City Board of Education, recently renamed the Department of Education, setting the tone for 9-11 commemorations in all public schools. In keeping with Mayor Michael Bloomberg's directive, schools will observe a moment of silence at 8:46, at which time the first plane hit. The rest is up to the discretion of principals, who know the needs of their faculty and children best.

Carmen Farina, superintendent of Community School District 15 in Brooklyn, will meet with her principals to discuss those needs. George Greenfield, her executive assistant, stressed that any commemoration would be "subdued, quiet, respectful. We're trying to put it behind us," he said. "We had a couple of schools who were right across the river and you could look out a window and see. It was a tough year."

One of those schools, MS 142, the Carroll Gardens Community School, will be the staging area for the Fireman Steven Siller Tunnel to Towers race through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. According to Michael McVey, the race director, this 5-kilometer walk/run retraces the route that the deceased fireman and father from Staten Island took on the morning of September 11. He had finished his night shift at the Squad 1 firehouse in Park Slope, Brooklyn and was driving through the tunnel when he got the news. He grabbed what gear he had and started running. The race will take place on Sunday, September 29, and is open to the public. Older student volunteers will be needed to hand out water and assist at the finish line. Benefits will go to the Stephen Siller Let-Us-Do-Good Children's Foundation.

Elsewhere in the city, teachers may devote a lesson to "Messages to Ground Zero," a collection of children's writings and drawings published by Heineman. Ortiz suggested reading passages aloud. Helen Santiago, superintendent of Community School District 1 in lower Manhattan, said, "I would use this as a writing experience." The book could also serve as a jumping-off point for a discussion. In a similar vein, Daylin Hull, Senior Class President of Francis Lewis HS in Queens, suggests displaying students' artwork and writing in the auditorium or another central place. The hope is for young people to reflect individually and at the same time in a familiar setting, their school.

But for some students, especially those in the downtown area, school will not be a comfort but a reminder of last year's horrible events. Students at PS 234, IS 89, HS of Economics and Finance, HS of Leadership and Public Service, and Stuyvesant will recall that morning's panicked evacuations. Stuyvesant senior Christopher Lapinig said, "I do not believe that schools should force us to go on with our everyday routines of studying and homework." Herman recalled her post 9-11 vigils and volunteering as healing experiences that should be repeated on the anniversary. Stuyvesant history teacher Anthony Valentin said, "My wish, though it would not be possible, would be to see the students who were with me at the time of the attack and our evacuation." Stuyvesant Principal Stanley Teitel could not be reached for comment.

Some Stuyvesant parents wonder whether the school will even be in its own building by September 11th. Public schools are scheduled to open on September 5th, but Paul L. Edwards of the Concerned Stuyvesant Parents Association (a group separate from the Parents Association) said that the environmental cleanup of the school's ventilation systems, which has been underway since July 12th,

continued on page 33





INSIDE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE Dr. Angelo Gimondo: District 30

By MARIE HOLMES

Superintendent Gimondo has a unique understanding of the immigrant children who attend the 30 schools under his jurisdiction. At the tender age of 16 he came to New York from Italy. It was then that he got his first taste of the city's public schools.

"In those days, they put all the foreign children in a 'speech' class," he recalls. Gimondo quickly adapted to his new environment. "Within six months I was able to understand what was going on."

There was one small advantage-English was his sixth language, after his native dialect, standard Italian and the French, Ancient Greek and Latin that he had studied in school. Gimondo has since married a woman from Argentina and added Spanish to his repertoire. Most impressively, perhaps, he has proven himself fluent in the vocabulary of teachers.

When Gimondo took over as Superintendent fifteen years ago, Community School District

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30 was overcrowded, with many schools performing poorly. Years of restructuring and the addition of new spaces have left the district operating at just below capacity.

The percentage gain in students meeting math standards was the best in the city this past year. This remarkable turnaround, he assures, did not take place overnight. "Things don't happen that quickly, especially when you have a monumental system-and even the district alone is very large." Indeed, Gimondo's office oversees the education of some 30,000 children.

One of his first moves was to reform the decision-making process. He describes the previous administration as "very traditional" and "top down." Using the collaborative decision-making processes of the Schools Improvement Project as a model, Gimondo organized a retreat. All the district's principals developed a mission statement for the district and agreed that each school would submit an annual improvement plan.

"Not everybody bought into that," says Gimondo, describing some principals as 'reluctant." Yet when the state began requiring similar documentation under schoolbased management, District 30 was the first to submit theirs.

Gimondo has placed a Teacher Center, run by its own staff member, in every school in order to provide the kind of support that he



Superintendent Angelo Gimondo

found lacking when he worked as a foreign language teacher years ago. These centers are run in collaboration with the UFT with state funds, while Gimondo covers the salaries of the Teacher's Center Specialists. He believes that these centers have been instrumental in improving the schools' performance.

The teachers must have someone in the school who goes into the classroom, sits down with them and works on the lesson plans, classroom setup, management, etc.. They must feel it's someone who's 'not here to rate me, but to see that I improve, that I become a better teacher.'

According to Gimondo, this sense of trust is key. But that doesn't stop him from marveling at the results. "It's easy for me to say to a principal, 'improve here," he explains, "but for them to do it is remarkable. They do it out of professionalism and respect for the profession,

for each other.'

Each school in the district operates around a theme, with several serving as model schools that new teachers visit as a part of their training. PS 148, for example, is a model school for early childhood education. "This is one of the most diverse districts," says Gimondo, with its schools serving children from 120 countries, who speak some 80 different languages. He estimates that these numbers include at least 6,000 English Language Learners.

To meet the needs of this vulnerable population, six years ago the district founded the Academy for New Americans, where newly arrived middle schoolers can spend a year before being integrated into the general classroom. There are also exchange programs with Slovakia, Italy and other countries, in which students from District 30 along with their parents live with host families, go to school and learn about the culture. Students from these countries then visit District 30.

Gimondo is proud of the crisis intervention teams in place and plans to expand them. After 9/11 members of these teams dealt with issues that were affecting the children.

Funding for such special endeavors has not always been adequate, and Gimondo relies on a full-time grant writer. District 30 was recently awarded \$6 million from the federal government to run a magnet school program. The arts, he asserts, remain a priority. "To provide a well-rounded education is really what it's all about," he says, "which besides the basics includes human values, the arts and multicultural understanding."#







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Math Adds Up At CCNY Teacher Training Program

By KIM BROWN

It takes a suspension of disbelief to participate in "Mathematics in the City." In one City College classroom Professor Catherine Twomey Fosnot is wearing a sailor's jacket and standing on a table. Colored cubes are scattered on the floor; the class of teachers and graduate students is gathered around her.

But here there is more than meets the eye. If you were a participant you would know the cubes represent swimmers; Fosnot is the captain of a boat. And the teachers are trying to figure out what pattern is formed by the bathers that are a safe distance away.

The teachers talk among themselves, but they want more facts. "Is that the real height of the captain's perch?" One student asks.

'Yes," Professor Fosnot answers, and then she laughs, "And I am the real captain." The students are convinced. They are submerged in a mathematics environment where math is not a foreign language but the posing and solving of problems.

Mathematics in the City is a nationally recognized project in mathematics education reform developed by Professor Fosnot and Maarten Dolk. Both wanted to help mathematics teachers base their instruction on how students learn. Professor Fosnot is a former mathematics teacher herself and the developer of the Center for Constructivist Teaching. At the center she helped teachers see the big ideas their students

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were struggling with. But she wanted to combine the ideas with didactics-or the development of mathematical learning.

In the late 80's she began to bring groups of teachers to the Netherlands for one-week intensive workshops at the Freudenthal Institute organized by Dolk and his colleagues.

In 1993 Fosnot took a position at CUNY's City College and began to build a large in-service program involving five school districts in New York City known as Mathematics in the City. The project was funded by the National Science Foundation and the Exxon Educational Foundation and began in 1995.

During they next five years they worked with over 450 elementary school teachers in New York City and attempted to deepen teachers' knowledge of the mathematics they teach. They also wanted to help them see themselves as mathematicians willing to raise questions. Throughout the project they interviewed teachers, analyzed children's work, and videotaped lessons. The result is a course that "teaches teachers to teach better," according to Professor Fosnot.

Professor Fosnot can be an imposing figure as she explains the theories behind the Institute and looks out from behind rectangular glasses. "We start with real world problems that are meaningful to learners," she says, "then we investigate how children learn and go back to teach this way."

And the program seems to work. Rocky Metzger is one of six teachers who traveled to New York from North Dakota to participate in the Institute. He teaches 5^{th} and 6^{th} grades and was a high school dropout himself. He explains passionately that part of the reason he left school was because he didn't learn the way teachers were asking him to learn.

"Here we're learning to allow children to explore," he said, "just understanding rules doesn't enable you to do the math. Children need to understand the meaning behind the math."



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singles and couples. Programs include children from China, Korea, Russia, Cambodia, the Ukraine and others. For more information call Lisa Doyle at 212-570-3793 days. It's never too late to build a family.

The approximately 90 students in the summer institute are broken up into six groups. In one classroom they are opening cubes to investigate how many two-dimensional shapes can be formed. Students exchange ideas as they trace shapes on graph paper. "Oh, so you mean if you move one of these pieces you'll still get a cube?" one student asks.

In another room iMacs hum softly. Christina Bookout, an elementary teacher in Park Slope, Brooklyn says the Institute has given her 'innovative ideas," that she will use in her class.

Continued on page 46

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PROFILES IN EDUCATION: CYNTHIA GREENLEAF "My Kind of Town, Chicago Is..."

By JOAN BAUM, Ph.D.

If Chicago is not only her "kind of town" but her "kind of people too," as the Sammy Cahn / Jimmy Van Heusen song has it, one reason for Cynthia Greenleaf may be the school-business collaboration program in the Chicago public schools, which she heads as Director of Partnerships for the Department of External Resources and Partnerships, otherwise known as CPS Futures Exchange.

Partnerships, a growing city-wide volunteer effort that involves both individuals and corporations in the schools, has the total support of the CEO of the Chicago Public Schools, Arne Duncan, and of Mayor Richard M. Daley, notes Greenleaf. And why not: this past year half of all eighth graders scored above national norms in reading, whereas 6 years ago only one third did. But the heart of the Partnerships program lies in what is not easily quantifiable, as Greenleaf knows: enthusiasm on the part of the business community, starting with a firm signal from a company's CEO, to be part of an annual effort to help transform the city's public schools, from pre-K through high school. In turn, principals and teachers are increasingly taking advantage of organizations that volunteer services and material resources, which can take the form of tutoring, job shadowing, serving as principal for a day, speaking at career days, hosting site visits, providing books, computers, supplies, furniture, internships, summer jobs, and incentive awards. Volunteers, whether working on their own or in conjunction with their organizations, also serve as judges in citywide competitions, as tutors in math, science, reading and foreign languages, and as sponsors

of college scholarships. No one, however, would seem to be more enthusiastic than Greenleaf herself-or more generous in crediting others in helping to implement the program. Her own rich and varied work experience reflects an extraordinary commitment to volunteerism and education.

Born in Chicago and raised nearby, Greenleaf earned her B.A. at Smith College and went on for an Ed. M. at Harvard and a J.D. at Georgetown Law. For much of her professional life she worked as an administrator in the academic world-most recently in New York as Assistant Provost at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and as Associate Vice President for Administration at Rockefeller University. In assuming the directorship of Partnerships in Chicago, a position that grew out of her role as Senior Advisor to the Chicago Schools Partners Program and before that as Chair (and continuing Trustee) of New York City's Learning Leaders, Greenleaf has clearly shown that you can go home again. The nation has her head, but Chicago her heart.

She describes her work as administrative in the deepest sense of the word, as distinct from promotional. The idea of partnerships has already taken root, Greenleaf points out–Chicago is "unusually civically cooperative." Her own focus, therefore, is not to advocate as much as to coordinate, to make sure that roots and branches grow in a manner beneficial to both businesses and schools. She sees herself as a kind of an impresario matchmaker, moving between school representatives and CEOs. The program's strength is its voluntary nature, she emphasizes. No company has to contribute; no principal, no teacher, has to receive. But once partnerships take seed, it is Greenleaf's careful tending that will ensure significant implementation. No one-shot visits for her. A meaningful presence in the schools means multiple engagements, careful vetting of participants, timely and well-publicized events celebrating those who serve.

Key to Partnerships is the company CEO, who must visit the school every year; employees generally lead volunteer activities several times a "passport" vear. Α allows for visits to proceed efficiently. The passport indicates what a volunteer wants and can do, depending on the level of education (different colored passports exist for K-3, 4-6, 7-8, and H.S.). If the Alliance Francaise has a group of 8 people who

would go into any of the 50 participating elementary schools for three visits, for example, the

passport makes such matches easier, noting that volunteers are qualified and teachers receptive. What's in it for the corporations? Aside from

pleasure of doing pro-bono work (with tax advantages), the corporations enhance their

image by being seen as school partners. Special recognition Honor Rolls and Dean's Lists prominently advertise participation, and it becomes a kind of social cachet at cocktail parties to ask "and what school are you supporting?" Anyone ought to drink to that.#







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FALL TOUR DATES

PRESCHOOL FAMILY CENTER - 4s Thursday, Oct. 10, 9:15 am Thursday, Oct. 17, 9:15 am Monday, Oct. 21, 9:15 am Friday, Nov. 1, 9:15 am Monday, Nov. 4, 9:15 am Thursday, Nov. 14, 9:15 am Monday, Nov. 18, 9:15 am Monday, Dec. 2, 9:15 am Friday, Dec. 6, 9:15 am

Please call the Admissions Office after Labor Day to reserve a tour. Please call (718) 852-1029. ext. 213 for the Preschool program and ext 232 for K-12

KINDERGARTEN - 4TH GRADE Thursday, Oct. 10, 9:15 am Tuesday, Oct. 15, 9:15 am Thursday, Oct. 24, 9:15 am Thursday, Nov. 7, 9:15 am Tuesday, Nov. 19, 9:15 am Thursday, Dec. 12, 9:15 am

LOWER SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL 5th grade - 8th grade Wednesday, Oct. 16, 9:30 am Monday, Oct. 21, 9:00 am Wednesday, Oct. 30, 9:30 am Wednesday, Nov. 6, 9:30 am Wednesday, Nov. 20, 9:30 am Monday, Dec. 2, 9:00 am

UPPER SCHOOL 9th grade - 11th grade Friday, Oct. 25, 9 am Monday, Oct. 28, 9 am Monday, Nov. 4, 9 am Friday, Nov. 15, 9 am Monday, Nov. 18, 9 am Thursday, Dec. 5, 10:45 am



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When it comes to teaching children German, the German-American School is the place to be. When the school was founded in 1892 it taught German to children of German immigrants. The classrooms were primitive, with the boys on one side of the room and the girls on the other-divided by a potbelly stove. Today the school reflects the diversity of New

York City as children from many ethnic backgrounds learn their first German with us. We have an exciting fun-filled curriculum for children starting at age three. In the lower grades the children learn by playing, singing German songs, coloring-simple things at first-and by the time they graduate at age 14 or 15, they can speak German and pass the NY

State Regents, or even Zertifikat Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Our program is one of the only after-school programs that is New York State Regents accredited. Our class sizes are small and our teachers are native speakers of German. We have a program for adults as well. Classes start in September. If you are interested please call (212) 787-7543.

Calendar of -Vens

Cultural Events

Works by Folk Artist Jack Savitsky Seton Hall University, Walsh Library Gallery September 13 - October 29, 2002 Co-sponsored by the Museum of American Folk Art, New York. Monday-Friday, 10:30am - 4:30pm, FREE (073) 275-2033 (973) 275-2033

Opening Reception for Works by Folk Artist Jack Savitsky Seton Hall University Walsh Library Gallery September 19, 2002 5-8pm. FREE (973) 275-2033

Poetry in the Round Presents Marilyn Nelson Seton Hall University Walsh Library Galler September 26, 2002 7pm, FREE (973) 761-9388

Open Houses Although it is not specifically requested by every school, readers are strongly advised to call schools to confirm dates and times and verify if appointments are readed

Community School District 3: Gifted & Talented Program, (212) 678-2897, Marilyn Carella 300 West 96th St., NY 10025. rogram is available at 8 different schools in Manhattan

Smith School: (212) 879-6354 7 East 96th Street (between 5th & Madison Ave.), NYC. Call for appointment.

Green Meadow Waldorf School: Introductory session for adults: Friday September 13, 8:30 AM Nursery- Grade 12 Open House Sunday, November 24, 2-4 PM 307 Hungry Hollow Road Chestnut Ridge, NY, Rockland County (854) 356-2514

<u>Theatre</u>

- Beauty & The Beast - The Lion King - AIDA Call: 212-703-1040 or 800-439-9000 Fax: 212-703-1085

Email: disneyonbroadwaygroups@disneyonline.com Web: www.disneyonbroadway.com/groups

Workshops The ADD Resource Center Practical help for living with attention and related disorders, seminars, courses, workshops and services for children, parents, adults, employers and educators. Call for a schedule at 212-724-9699 x59 or 914-763-5648

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Resources for Children with Special Needs, Inc. 2002/2003 Free Workshop Series: Whats out there and how to get it.

35 workshops for parents and professionals about pro-grams, serices and systems for New York City children and youth with disabilities. refreshments served. In the Bronx

At the New York Public Library, West Farms Branch, 2085 Honey well Avenue, 10460 Transition from School to Adult Life December 11, 2002, 10 a.m.-1p.m.

In Brooklyn At the Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Heights Branch, 280 Cadman Plaza West, 11201 Preschool Services for 3-5 Year Olds October 24, 2002, 10a.m.-1 p.m.

Reducational Options for Children with Special Needs: Your Right to Know October 29, 2002, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

In Manhattan

In Mannattan At the New York Pblic Library, Jefferson Market Branch, 425 Ave. of the Americas, 10011 (Accessible entrance on 10th Street) Advocacy Skills for Prents: Referral to Services, October 31, 2002, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Ar resources for Children wit Special Needs, 116 East 16th Street 5t Eloor 10003 Ar resources for Single East 16th Street, 5th Floor, 10003

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All our current workshops and assembly progrmas can be viewed under Educational Experiences at www.lsc.org. Please call (201) 451-0006 and speak with either John Herrera x218, jherrera@lsc.org, or Jim McGlynn x 340, jmcglynn@lsc.org, for further details



OLDEST SCHOOL AT GENERAL SOCIETY OF MECHANICS & TRADESMEN

By SYBIL MAIMIN

Among the many wonderful secrets waiting to be discovered in New York City is the Mechanics Institute, a tuition-free school started in 1820 that trains workers in the construction trades about the finer points of their crafts. Founded by the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, a fraternal organization begun in 1785 to aid members in distress, the school has been housed since 1898 in a magnificent 1891 landmark building at 20 West 44th Street along "Club Row." Behind the eclectic Renaissance façade is a wonderfully preserved turn of the century interior that holds six lecture classrooms, six architecture drafting rooms, and three computer labs as well as a striking, open-spaced, four-story private membership library topped with a domed glass roof. A

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unique small museum containing a fascinating collection of over 400 locks as well as other items of historical or mechanical interest can be found in the building, which is open to the public. Library membership is available to all for a small fee.

Continuing its traditional educational mission, the Institute today offers free classes in four areas related to the construction trades: architecture and construction, electricity, plumbing, and HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning), as well as project management. The courses, which number over 50, are rigorous and intended for serious students already employed in a particular field who want to enhance their technical skills with the "why's" behind the "how's" in order to advance their careers. The program requires a three-year commitment (fall and spring semesters) of two courses (5 to 7 PM and 7 to 9 PM) in one concentration taken two nights a week. It is intended to fine-tune aspects of a trade that cannot be learned on the job, for example, drafting or blueprint reading. It conveys informational





"By hammer and hand do all arts stand."

ships or in courses offered by unions. A professional development course that prepares students for job searches is mandatory. About 200 students (10 percent women and growing) and 16 instructors are in the program. Applicants must be high school graduates, fluent in English, employed in the area of intended study, and sincere in their desire for enrichment in their chosen trade.

knowledge

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apprentice-

As the Institute prepares for the future and what it hopes will be a role as a bridge between different sectors in the industry and between union and non-union interests, it hopes to add a greater range of offerings. The project management course and a computer-assisted drafting (AutoCAD) course for stagehands can be

11:00-1:00 PM

completed in one and a half years. The Institute is contemplating a course for building maintenance workers. The certificate of completion awarded at graduation does not have a degree equivalence but is recognized and respected by those in the construction industries.# For further information: www. generalsociety.org



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BV TOM KERTES

Albert Robles, Jr.'s choice of a police career was, quite literally, due to a heady rush of inspiration. "Up until about four years ago I wanted to be a private pilot," the trim 25-yearold said. "But then I attended my cousin's graduation from the Police Academy at Madison Square Garden. And the integrity, pride, and commitment that I sensed there was really amazing. It was a life-changer for me."

Robles is currently in the second month of his two-year stint as a probationary police officer. The first six months are spent at the Academy, he says, the next three in a training unit, and the last 15 months on the street in a unit with an experienced P.O. He intends to move up within the department, "first become a sergeant, then eventually make detective."

"You begin to advance after about five years," he said. "But it's more than just a matter of time. Mainly, you have to do well."

Robles embarked on his career after an extensive education, attending Dowling College in Oakdale, N.Y. then the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. However, "there are two ways to become a police officer," he said. "You either acquire 60 college credits or spend two years in the military." Luckily for Robles—who is slight—there are no longer height and weight requirements of any kind in order to qualify as a P.O. "Still, you do have to be in pretty good physical condition to conquer a difficult obstacle course," he says. There is still an age requirement: candidates have to be between 21-35.

"For a police officer, a high level of commitment is very important," according to Robles, as "this is not a career to get rich on." The start-

ing salary is \$31,000 year, with a chance to earn in the \$50,000 range after five years That's not all that much for a job that is not only extremely difficult but fraught also with danger.



Albert Robles, Jr.

"It's there, for sure-but you can't go out there on the street thinking about that," says Robles. "You try to be alert, you always try to be aware of your surroundings, and practice tactics, tactics, tactics. But the danger stuff is like fear of flying. If you allow it to conquer you, you'll never get anywhere."

Robles' advice to students thinking about a possible police career is to "first, stay out of trouble. Second, get into some law enforcement courses at your school. And third, always keep your morals and values intact, no matter what happens."

"Look at 9/11," he says. "I was a cadet then, in fact I was working in this very building. I saw the events unfolding firsthand-the Academy, since it's located near the Towers, served as Headquarters for operations on that day. I heard that when everyone was running away from the Twin Towers, Police Officer Moira Smith was running *in* to help people."

"It cost her her life. But how can you not be inspired by something like this? How can you not be proud to be part of such a profession?"#

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September 9, 2002 marks the start of Staten Island Academy's 118th school year amid great excitement as Diane J. Hulse begins her tenure as Head of School. The Academy will hold an Installation ceremony for Hulse on October 2, 2002.

A prominent educator and author, Hulse (B.A. Beloit College, M.A. New York University) comes to the Academy after ten years at the Collegiate School in Manhattan where she served as Head of Middle School. She also held Head of School positions at the Bergen School in Jersey City and the Woodward Park School. A noted speaker, Hulse is active in many organizations including New York State Association of Independent Schools.

"I am very honored to be serving as Head of Staten Island Academy," said Hulse. "The Academy has a long and distinguished history as the academic and intellectual beacon whose light has served as a guide to education excellence for children in the New York metropolitan area since 1884."

Hulse began her teaching career at Friends Seminary where she held many positions including that of teacher, director of the Summer Institute, and as director of college counseling. She is a member of the Commission on Accreditation for the New York State Association of Independent Schools. Her published works include: *Brad and Cory: A Study of Middle School Boys* (University School Press, 1997) and *A Look at Boys' Schools*, which was published recently in *The Parents League Review 2002*. A noted speaker and commentator on education, Hulse also founded the *Project: B.O.Y.S. (Building On Your Success)*.

Staten Island academy is an independent, co-ed college preparatory school educating children from pre-Kindergarten through high school on a 12-acre campus. Through a rigorous academic program, and comprehensive arts and athletics programs, the Academy challenges students to stretch their minds and bodies and to value independence and integrity. The school is located at 715 Todt Hill Rd. in Staten Island. For information visit *www.statenislandacademy.org*, or call (718) 987–8100.



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MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOLS 9216 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn NY 718.836.9800

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Grade 9 and up Open House Thursday, October 17, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 13, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Grades 5 & 6 Open Houses Friday, October 18, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Monday, November 11, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

For 5th Grade – Upper School Open House Events, Please R.S.V.P. to:

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14

HISTORY



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A story is verbalized so effectively that virtually all children perceive the flow of its connections. On future occasions, children can confidently tell that story to others, having heard it once or twice. Since their verbalization is not the original, verbatim narrative, it is clear that they have not been burdened with the requirement of memorizing it.

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CURRICULUM AT HARVEY AIMS TO ENRICH STUDENTS' LIVES

Providing a variety of fulfilling curricular experiences for students has been key to the educational philosophy of Robert Cook, head of Harvey School's upper school in Katonah. More important than standardized test scores, Mr. Cook believes the school has an obligation to create not just academically adept students, but ones who are ethical, responsible and self-reliant.

With that in mind, Harvey is making some changes to the upper school's curriculum this fall, including after-school classes in Japanese and Italian, as well as adding French and several other honors classes such as biology and 10th and 11th grade English to the syllabus. "In the broadest sense, the goals of a curriculum should be for students to understand themselves and the world



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around them and I believe the addition of these courses will do just that," says Mr. Cook.

Jacqueline Vedder, the school's foreign language chair, says additional foreign language courses are a step in the right direction. "I think it's really great and I would certainly love to see the language program continue to grow at Harvey," savs Ms. Vedder, who teaches French at the school

Thanks to what Ms. Vedder described as "soulsearching" on behalf of language educators in the 1980's, there is now more of a communicative approach to teaching a foreign language. Learning a foreign language has been considered a chore by many students, especially when it comes to the study of grammar. "What you want to do is encour-

age students to speak and use the language. Grammar is part of the equation, but it shouldn't be the whole equation," adds Ms. Vedder. Japanese instructor Mami Fuiisaki agrees. "I teach grammar, but I don't really call it that," she says. "In my opinion, communication is the most important aspect to learning a new language, but grammar and writing of course should also be part of that," she adds.

Japanese classes will be offered at Harvev twice a week, starting with Japanese I, which will introduce students to the rudimentary elements of the language, as well as teaching students the basics of Japanese culture. The following year, additional sections and levels will be offered during the regular school day. Ms. Fujisaki is currently developing a similar program in Japanese at The Horace Mann School in Riverdale She will continue to teach at Horace Mann and is also a Japanese instructor at the New York University Graduate School of Education.

Ms. Vedder, who previously taught French at Our Lady of Victory School in Dobbs Ferry and Spanish at the Rippowam School in Bedford, says learning a new language will help students acquire a better appreciation of English. While grammatical concepts will certainly be taught, Ms. Vedder savs she will also be encouraging "a lot of conversation in class.'

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Logos Bookstore's Recommendations

By H. Harris Healy, III, President, Logos Bookstore, 1575 York Avenue (Between 83rd And 84th Sts.), New York, New York 10028 (212) 517-7282, Fax (212) 517-7197; WWW.NYCLOGOS.CITYSEARCH.COM

As summertime ends and another school year starts for many, it is quite the time to educate oneself. Here at Logos there is the monthly book club called Kill Your TV Reading Group, which will meet on Wednesday, September 4th at 7 p.m. to discuss Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison. Towards the end of the meeting, the group will choose the book for the November meeting. After the meeting, those who want to go out to dinner together. The book for the meeting on Wednesday, October 2 is Bel Canto by Ann Patchett. All meetings of KYTV Reading Group are on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. The books discussed are available at the store.

On Monday, September 23 at 3:30 p.m., Logo's Children's Story Hour leader Rikki Stapleton will lead children and adults alike in building Noah's Ark. By evening time, many centuries will have passed and Logos will be in the time of Jane Austen as noted New York character actress Frances Peter Burke performs for members of the Jane Austen Society and the general public a one-act play by Virginia Glasgow Koste called 'I Remain Jane Austen.' Jane Austen's History of England will also be presented. Come one come all at 7 p.m.

Transit: #4,#5,#6 Lexington Ave. subway to 86th St., M15 Bus (First and Second Avenues), M86 Bus (86th Street), M79 Bus (York Ave.) Upcoming Events at Logos:

Wednesday, September 4 at 7 p.m. KYTV Reading Group will discuss Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison.

Monday, September 23 at 3:30 p.m. Children's Storytime, 'Noah's Ark' with Rikki Stapleton.

Monday, September 23 at 7 p.m., 'I Remain Jane Austen' and Jane Austen's History of England with Frances Peter Burke.

Wednesday, October 2 at 7 p.m. KYTV Reading Group will discuss Bel Canto by Ann Patchett.#

Children's Book Reviews

NONFICTION: AGES 5 THRU 8

Back to School by Maya Ajmera and John Ivanko. (Candlewick Press, 32pp., \$15.95). Bright colorful photographs document the dayto-day life of schoolchildren all around the globe. With minimal text and two photos per page, this great back-to-school title for teachers explores the different types of classrooms, learning activities, and even uniforms from a worldwide perspective.

17

POETRY: AGES 5 THRU 8

The Recess Queen by Alexis O'Neill. Illustrated by Laura Beith. (Scholastic, 32 pp., \$15.95). A lighthearted look at the ever pervasive 'school bully" in classrooms and playgrounds everywhere. The rollicking rhythm of the language with fun-to-say phrases will definitely engage readers and sensitize them to the underlying drama of the situation. Artwork is equally smart and energetic.

Selene S. Vasquez is a media specialist at Orange Brook Elementary School in Hollywood, Florida. She is formerly a children's librarian for the New York Public Library.

Write & Wipe & Let's Play Along **BV LAURA PRETTO**

As we all are aware, teaching children takes time and often an infinite amount of patience. Silver Dolphin Books, publisher of the My First Writeand-Wipe Book series, the Let's Start Play Alongs series offers some suggestions to help teach your children while providing them with fun activities.

The Write-and-Wipe series consists of four books that focus on alphabet, animals and numbers, while the Play & Learn edition deals with object identification. Most of the activities appearing in the books, which are aimed at three-to-five year old children, require children to make use of dry-erase markers (included with the books).

One of the best features about the Write-and-Wipe books is that they use the age old tradition of following the dotted line to teach children how to make letters and numbers. I learned this way, my parents learned this way, my grandparents, and so on; it is effective and simple

The Let's Start Play Along series is very good, provided that an adult will help the child read and follow directions. The premise these books are working with is actually fairly clever; each book has a story about an animal character's day, and correlating activities. When Clara goes on vacation, your child can help make postcards; Timothy, the new mailman, needs help on his route.

Supplies are not all included, but each book comes with the basics: glitter, glue, markers or pencils, stickers, depending on the book. The other necessary equipment is generally found in the common household (i.e. cardboard, paintbrushes, old boxes, etc.).

The My First Write-and-Wipe Book series and the Let's Start Play Alongs series are good, but they seem more appropriate for five-toseven-year-olds.#



SUPERINTENDENT COMPILES CHILDREN'S REACTIONS TO 9/11

By MERRI ROSENBERG

I thought I had done with weeping for September 11.

Then I received a review copy of this book, and the tears flowed so fast, and so furiously, that I could barely get through it.

Even though as a reporter I had already done some stories about schoolchildren's response to the tragic events of last September, including

Messages To Ground Zero: Children Respond to September 11, 2001 Collected by Shelley Harwayne with the New York City Board of Education. Published by Heineman: Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 2002: 163 pp.

collecting their art work and poetry, I had been working in a suburb where the reactions, though pained and often profound, were shaped by the physical distance from lower Manhattan. The communities I profiled were scarcely untouched (many of the children, in fact, had lost parents and loved ones, as had some of the teachers and staff), but the scale of devastation was undeniably

different.

Those of us in the northern suburbs experienced the same shock, horror and grief as our city counterparts. I doubt I will ever forget the terror and confusion of not only that bitterly beautiful Tuesday, but the uncertainty and sadness of the days and weeks that followed.

Yet reading these students' work, many of whom attended school near Battery Park, is almost too much to bear. Their simple descriptions of seeing buildings wreathed in smoke, of racing through dust-covered streets with debris falling all around them, of missing a beloved family member, their night terrors and nightmares, conjure up those days more compellingly than almost anything written by adults.

Combine those written pieces with the poignant imagery included here-like a breathtaking picture of an American flag, with the

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wounded and burning, bearing the statement 'United We Fell/United We Shall Stand"-and the courage, sensitivity and compassion of New York City's schoolchildren during those attacks shines forth. Some of the illustrations represent youngsters' attempts to come to terms with the unfathomable (so many pictures represent the World Trade Center, whole and as it was, reflecting perhaps children's wish fulfillment that nothing had changed). Some express the hope that families will be reunited. Others show the planes crashing into the towers, as if by capturing the loathsome imagery on paper, somehow it can be tamed and put into some

Twin Towers suprimposed on it, one already

safe place. The children's voices are more profound than anything I could express. Here are some examples:

Danielle, a Brooklyn fifth grader, writes, "I go home in peace./But sleep in terror.'

Stephanie, a seventh grader from the Bronx, writes, "On September 11, the twin towers were torn apart./Along with it went a piece of everyone's heart.../On September 11, we were all changed/None of us will ever be the same."

From Sophie, a Manhattan fifth grader: "People streaming across streets.

People of different colors, different races,

People just walking away. People getting away from the world

behind them. Away from a world they don't want to know

about Away from tragedies they don't want to

face." It's not all bleak. The author has organized

the book around themes that move to hope and memory. Amidst all the debate about how to properly memorialize what happened at Ground Zero, I would certainly hope that someone takes a close, and careful, look at this book for inspiration and consolation.

I rarely want to keep the books I review once I've read them. This is one that I can't bear to return.#

Dreading going back to school? Take comfort in books about...school!

By SELENE VASQUEZ

PICTURE BOOKS: AGES 5 THRU 7

Who Will Go To School Today? by J. Alison James. Illustrated by Miriam Monnier. (North-South, 32 pp., \$15.95). Sam dreads going to school and grooms his stuffed monkey Timbo to be his replacement. He diligently prepares his toy for all that school has to offer: circle time, singalongs, playing outside, eating snacks, etc., until Sam reconsiders all the fun he'll be missing. Dreamy illustrations convey the comfort of familiar environments and the excitement of new surroundings.

Our Class Took A Trip To The Zoo by Shirley Neitzel. Illustrated by Nancy Winslow. (Greenwillow, 32 pp., \$15.95). A boy visits the zoo and suddenly one mishap after another befalls him. "A button popped off by the lion's den,/ I tore my pants on the ostriches' pen...' Charming watercolor and ink illustrations complement the jolly repetitive verses of a most unusual field trip.

Dean Deborah Shanley: Brooklyn College School of Education

By SYBIL MAIMIN

Deborah A. Shanley, Dean of the School of Education at Brooklyn College, is in an enviable position. She works on a campus that has just been voted "most beautiful" in the country by The Princeton Review and creates and oversees programs in education that have the support of the political power elite from Bush to Bloomberg. At Brooklyn since 1998, she was previously Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Education at Medgar Evers College, CUNY, where she was an activist dean and an admired advocate of building working bridges between diverse constituencies in the college and the community. Energetic, open-minded, and creative, she is no ivory tower academic, emphasizing instead that, "to be an effective dean, I have to be out there." And "out there" she is, looking at policy and exemplary practices as she meets with principals, superintendents and teachers and creates opportunities for these leaders to confer with faculty and administrators of the School of Education through such avenues as monthly meetings of the Teacher Education Advisory Panel. She has hosted principals on campus to share concerns and challenges and help determine "how we can do better at what we both do." She is determined to find "what works" and to align programs accordingly.

Dean Shanley stresses the importance of partnerships, whether within departments or between departments in the school, as well as between the college and the community. Many programs in the School of Education are based on collaborations. For example, the Brooklyn Transition Center brings District 75 students to campus where they are trained for independence, given appropriate jobs around the school, and nurtured. Their presence provides an inclusive practice model. The College Now project, a partnership between Brooklyn College and 10 local high schools, interfaces high school curriulum with the college theater department by,

for example, providing a high school English class the opportunity to see a play they are studying, produced and performed by Brooklyn College. The Brooklyn College Academy, a campus high school in the alternative high school division, 11th and 12th gives graders access to college facilities and courses. "Learning Communities" have been formed in districts 19 and 23 by teams of faculty who link up with principals and superintendents. Partnerships with the Lincoln Center Institute and the American Museum of Natural History introduce best practices in incorporating the arts and sciences into the classroom. The range of partners keeps growing. Dr. Shanley "thinks deeply about the partnerships" to help bridge gaps between theory and practice. "You cannot develop teachers in isolation," she explains

Brooklyn College produces the second largest number of teachers in New York City (Queens College trains the most). Degrees are given in early childhood, elementary, middle school and adolescence education, with extentions avaliable in bilingual and special education, as well as in literacy. Dr. Shanley is a strong advocate of "blending" programs. Special Ed and General Ed should be blended with specialized courses tagged on as needed.



Dean Deborah Shanley

"Don't separate professionals into boxes," she advises. As mandated by the state, students must take 30 credits in a subject major and far fewer, perhaps 12 credits, in pedagogy. This

will provide an essential "knowledge base" for teaching to the New Standards. Pairing courses, such as methods and materials of teaching social studies together with a content English course, is a unique initiative at Brooklyn designed to give depth. Under a recent law, the Commissioner's Regulation for Registration of Curriculum in Teacher Education, students must spend 100 hours of documented time doing various tasks in schools before becoming practice teachers. Set to go into effect in September 2004, the requirement is already in place at Brooklyn. The graduate program prepares principals, psychologists, guidance counselors, and special educators. To earn a masters degree, 18 credits are taken in a content area and 12 in pedagogy. A Teaching Fellows program prepares people from other professions to teach in New York City underperforming schools. Underwritten by the Board of Education, the program leads to a Masters Degree.

Many of the education programs at Brooklyn College can be found at other CUNY campuses. The strength of Brooklyn, explains Dean Shanley, is its core curriculum and the quality of the arts and sciences departments and their strong relationships with the School of Education. In addition, the depth of its collaborations and partnerships is unique and "goes beyond lip service." Graduates are encouraged to stay in touch with the school, which offers ongoing support and help as well as workshops, conferences, and round tables. Looking to the future, she hopes the education department will be recognized as a strong resource that schools in Brooklyn will turn to, a vital "cog in the borough."#

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President Barbara Sirvis,
Southern Vermont College:
A Special Leader for a Special Place
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BY JOAN BAUM, PH.D.

Baileigh, who sits not too far from the president of Southern Vermont College (SVC) is probably the college's most visible recruiter. An Irish herding dog the color of Bailey's Irish crème, Baileigh's reflective face on the SVC web site seems the perfect complement to the smiling welcome of her mistress, Dr. Barbara P. Sirvis. Only one of them, however, sits under the desk. The online picture of the two, part of Dr. Sirvis's presidential web page, is telling: both text and photo convey the message that SVC, a small, independent college in Bennington, VT, is a caring, friendly place, almost like family. Visitors are urged to tell the Admissions staff that they'd like to meet the canine undergraduate, and everyone -"that goes for faculty and staff, not just students"- is always urged to stop in to see the president, even if just for "a hug." Students at SVC are known by name.

The tone set by the web page is reinforced by the College mission statement that the Southern Vermont College philosophy "begins with a deep belief in the potential of every individual." Every student "can recite that opening line by heart," President Sirvis says, and also every faculty and staff member. All college presidents are expected to balance the budget and secure funding, she points out, so that while the financial well being of SVC has been a major accomplishment of her tenure there, it is not what she cites first as what she is most proud of. Instead, as she enters her sixth year as president, she points to "a sense of community," a great satisfaction at having involved the "entire college campus in the creation of a functional strategic plan that brings together mission, vision and academic programs." She is proud also of increasing the visibility of the college. The better known, the more partners in the surrounding community and in the state at large - not to mention The South Bronx. That's right, one of New York City's most populous and diverse boroughs is sending students, many of them people of color, to rural Vermont, which is 97 percent white. And SVC and



Barbara Sirvis and Baileigh

Bennington are loving it, Dr. Sirvis says.

That's not all that's unusual about SVC, a place that advertises the emphasis it places "on serving students who have yet to fulfill their potential, ensuring accessibility to those with extra needs, financial and academic, who are serious about bettering their lives through higher education." For a school with only 500 students, which will probably cap at 800-850 in a few years, SVC has a particularly rich mix of undergraduates, about 40 percent of whom live on campus. Approximately 30 percent are adults, 60 percent first-generation to attend college, 12 percent students with learning disabilites, and 13 percent students of color. And then there are international students-from France, Bulgaria, Morocco, West Ghana, all living together happily, the president says delightedly. Admissions officers look at a student's entire portfolio. Potential students look at web sites. And then there's word of mouth: SVC already has caught the attention of a number of high schools, public and private, in the

Continued on page 46



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College & University Directory

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Barnard College Center for Research on Women Begins Fall Season

The Center for Research on Women at Barnard college opens its 2002 fall season on Thursday, September 12, at 7p.m., with a performance by Sarah Jones, an internationally acclaimed poet and actor, who will pay tribute to immigrants, including victims of the 9-11 terrorist attack in *Waking the American Dream*, a one-woman show.

Waking the American Dream, a moving collage of the hopes and struggles of ten diverse

immigrants to the U.S., portrays the victories and losses of those who arrive in America to pursue a dream. Jones reminds us how elusive that dream can be and shows a moving portrait of diversity in America.

After her performance, Jones will discuss her work with theater scholar and critic Jonathan Kalb, in a forum of how dramatic arts heighten social consciousness and activism.#

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As a direct result of the public safety concerns raised by September 11, the School of Continuing Studies at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus is offering a certificate program in Criminal and Civil Investigation. The Civil and Criminal Investigation Certificate Program explores many different topics of law enforcement including court systems, civil rights local, state and federal law enforcement jurisdictions, evidence gathering, litigation support and basic tort investigations. Taught by former law enforcement officers, courses offered this fall are "Introduction to Law

Enforcement and Investigations" and "Introduction to Fraud Investigations." The spring semester will include "Advanced Fraud Investigations," "Undercover Operations and Electronic surveillance," "Violence in the Workplace and Crisis Management" and "Civil Investigations." Applicants to the program will have to undergo a criminal background check and fingerprinting before acceptance. The certificate program is expected to appeal to retired police officers and people who want a career change. For more information, call (718) 488-1010. #

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MEDICAL UPDATE

New York City • SEPTEMBER 2002 FOR PARENTS, EDUCATORS & STUDENTS

Colleges Endorse Meningitis Vaccine

By PRIYA ATHIAPPAN This Fall, thousands of college students will

be vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis. Olivia, an incoming freshman at New York University, is one of them. "I'm going to get the vaccine, mostly because my physician advised me to, even though it's not one of the vaccinations that NYU requires."

Olivia has cause to be concerned about meningitis. College freshman have a six-fold increase over the general public of becoming infected with the disease. Dr. James C. Turner, who chairs the vaccine task force for the American College Health Association, credits the increase to the "congregate, crowded conditions" of dorm living. In dorms, it is more likely for meningitis to be spread through coughing, sneezing or kissing.

There are two categories of meningitis, bacterial and viral. According to Dr. Turner, the bacterial form-especially meningococcal meningitis-is what college students should be concerned with. Early symptoms of the disease include a low fever, a mild headache and body aches. At this stage, it is often dismissed as a case of the flu. In later stages, an excruciating headache and red spots on the legs or feet, indicating blood poisoning, can develop. The meninges-the lining of the brain-become inflamed, potentially resulting in death. Each year, says Turner, around 2,500-3,000 Americans become infected. Of that number, 100-150 are college students. 20% of those students will suffer permanent complications such as amputation, kidney failure and brain damage. Another 10-15% will die. "It is an extremely dangerous disease," warns Dr. Turner.

Though the chances of getting meningitis are relatively slim, after a person becomes infected, the outlook is bleak. "Despite modern technology, the mortality rate hasn't changed much," reports Turner. As a result, the Centers for Disease Control recommends that college medical providers "give information to students and their parents about meningococcal disease and the benefits of vaccination." Dr. Turner believes that universities are successfully doing their part in meningitis prevention. "Virtually every health service is providing education or providing the vaccine." Over two million students have been vaccinated in the past few years. At Fordham, Kathleen Letizia, the Director of Student Health Services, sends freshmen a brochure about meningitis and mails letters about getting vaccinated. She says that over 90% of students have been vaccinated this year, and next year it may be required. Dr. Carlo Ciotoli, Medical Director of the NYU Health Center, says NYU also takes numerous steps to protect its students. Aside from sending out letters, informative measures include "mentioning the vaccine at orientations, flyers and brochures distributed in the Health Center, Residence Halls and the annual Health Fair, and articles and ads in the school paper.' Based on a random sampling in year 2000, 50% of NYU students were estimated to have been vaccinated.

The vaccine itself is "very safe and effective," although not guaranteed to prevent meningococcal meningitis, according to

Attention Women

Continued on page 46

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& ADDICTION

TREATMENT



VACCINES REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL

By HERMAN ROSEN, M.D., F.A.C.P.

With the school year about to begin, it is useful to review the New York City Department of Health's requirements for school children. By law, all "new" students-children entering day care, nursery, pre-school and kindergarten through grade 12 in NYC for the first time (not those who graduate or transfer to another NYC school)-must have a complete medical evaluation. All pre-kindergarten or younger children must also have vision and hearing screening as well as a blood lead test. New students who enter the school system in secondary schools (intermediate school or higher) must have a tuberculin skin test.

The law also has requirements for vaccination before entering the school system. All youngsters born after 1999, who are at least a year old, must have received at least one dose of chickenpox vaccine in order to attend day care, nursery or pre-school. Starting this school year, every student in the 7th, 8th or 9th grade must have had the full series (two or three doses depending on the formulation) of hepatitis B vaccine. For full compliance with Department of Health rules,

vaccination against the various childhood diseases is necessary. These immunizations vary somewhat with the age of the student. Day care and pre-kindergarten students should receive the prescribed courses of DTP (diphtheria -tetanus-pertussis), poliovirus, MMR (measlesmumps-rubella), Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b), hepatitis B and varicella (chickenpox). For older students, vaccines are prescribed as appropriate for their age.

New students may enter school provisionally without full compliance with the immunization requirements with generally an initial dose of each vaccine. However, they must complete the vaccinations within a designated time or exclusion from school is mandated. Parents should consult their child's pediatrician for immunization and health care. For more information about referral to physicians and clinics in their neighborhoods, parents can call 1-(800) 325-2445, anytime. Health insurance is available for most uninsured children under age 19 in New York City under Child Health Plus, 1-(888) NYC-6116.#



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A NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS: T

Schools Lose Great Teachers In a Sea of Red Tape

By MARIE HOLMES

As classes begin this month throughout the five boroughs, a slew of newly certified teachers step to the front of the classroom. Yet staffing needs have not increased. In fact, according to the Independent Budget Office, the BOE actually lost 7,100 students last year. The majority of these new teachers, then, are hired to replace those who have left the system.

While many spots open up simply because teachers retire or move away, often seeking higher-paying positions in the suburbs, an

unknown number of young, caring professionals quietly exit their classrooms each June. Many don't leave the city. Some continue to work with at-risk children.

As power shifts into the mayor's hands, city schools continue to be characterized by a laundry list of deficiencies: not enough classrooms, not enough graduates, not enough certified teachers. The BOE and a number of national and local organizations have been successfully closing this last gap by actively recruiting anyone with a bachelor's degree and



Elise Merrow

a conscience to fill the vacancies, but can anything be done to keep good people in the classroom?

Richard Calton left the BOE to devote his full-time efforts to Harlem Live, the on-line newspaper written and produced by New York City teens that he founded with a few former students. The publication has received numerous accolades, but when a grant from Teacher's College at Columbia University ran out last year, so did Calton's salary. He is currently collecting unemployment and has no plans to leave the organization that he built.

"I have the dream job of any teacher," he says, "because you don't have the bureaucracy hanging over your head and you can really empower the kids."

Not that rules and regulations hampered his style when he was teaching in the schools. Realizing that it would take months to build the kind of trust necessary for real learning to take place, Calton took groups of students on trips after school, supplementing the instructional day with not only his own time but also his own money. He returned them individually to their front doors in the evening.

"In the classroom they're all performing for each other, so you take them out in groups of five or six," he explains, "and they act like real people."

Elise Merrow, who recently finished a parttime stint as the Service Learning Coordinator for Summerbridge at the Town School, an academic program for middle school students, used similar tactics when she taught at the intermediate level on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Written requests to family members and friends helped her raise money to take her Italian class out to eat in Little Italy. Showing off their linguistic talents, the kids made an impression on the people at the restaurant.

It was an eye-opening excursion for the students, she says. "Their experience in downtown is that white people clutch their purses when they walk by.'

Both Calton and Merrow saw immediate academic improvements in troubled students who accompanied them on these field trips. Both also complain that institutional regulations staunched their best creative efforts.

Merrow was thrilled to find, at the last minute, that she would be teaching ancient cultures, only to discover that her experiences in India and Mexico wouldn't contribute much to the curriculum. She was required to teach about the aboriginal peoples of Australia, a topic about which she admittedly knew next-to-nothing.

High-stakes testing proved to be yet another hurdle, discouraging the students and, in turn, discouraging their teachers. "They don't feel good about this wonderful thing they wrote for Ms. Merrow . . . It's just the numbers," she laments

Josh Merrow, a former teacher at El Puente in Brooklyn, says, "You had to submit a written request to make photocopies . . . because there was only one copy machine.'

He cites a general lack of time, materials and support as his main obstacles."It was a struggle to stay on top of everything. You have a full day of classes, plus meetings, then homework to correct, classes to plan. You have to buy materials out of pocket and wait a month to be reimbursed, if there's money. The administration of El Puente did a great job stretching government funding, even raising money from foundations and private donors. Even so, it wasn't enough. It seemed to me that most of the staff were overworked."

The first year, they agree, is the most difficult. Having earned a Master's in Education from City College, says Calton, "I was handed a sponge and a piece of chalk and it was like, 'Good luck.'"

A conflict between a new female assistant principal and a group of older male teachers, as well as what Calton describes as blatant racism, made for a contentious working envi-



Richard Calton

ronment in which he was perceived as a troublemaker.

"I had the kids write letters to Mayor Koch." he explains, "because [they] were sitting four to a book." The mayor later visited the school, although Calton was assured that it wasn't because of the letters. By June, he had been transferred. Made wary by this experience, he choose to substitute teach in a variety of districts to test the waters before committing to another permanent position. He taught and did administrative work before leaving for Harlem Live.

Merrow stuck it out for a second year at her school, even though a beloved director had left. The new director "seemed good," she says, for a brief moment. "He beat us down with protocol.'

"I left because I won't teach with anyone . . who's not a visionary, who's not willing to bend the rules for the kids."

Both would go back into teaching, under the right circumstances. Calton continues advising, organizing and, when he has a spare moment, fundraising at Harlem Live, while Merrow would like to organize biking trip/ cultural immersion experiences for students. Small class sizes, rather than salary increases, would top their list of demands.

"If you have smaller classes," says Merrow, "you don't need [to offer teachers] more money." Twelve to fifteen students, they agree, would be ideal.

Yet all the money and resources in the city can't fix what Merrow and Calton view as the crux of the problem-administration.

"The kids are never, ever the problem," declares Merrow. "It's the leadership." It's the adults," adds Calton.#

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CKLING THE TEACHER SHORTAGE

New York City Welcomes Over 8,000 New Teachers

By MARIE HOLMES

Last year, hundreds of teaching positions were still vacant just days before school started. A lot has changed since then, and with the academic year about to kick off, only a handful of openings were left, likely to be filled by uncertified teachers.

The BOE received so many applications this year that it actually turned away over a thousand people, reported the *Times* in a recent article declaring an official end to the teacher shortage. 2,000 of the more than 8,000 new hires are Teaching Fellows, career changers and recent college graduates who do not have degrees in education but are working toward their master's while teaching in low-performing schools. Hundreds of others entered the system through similar programs.

The economic downturn, the proliferation of fast-track certification programs such as New York City Teaching Fellows and Teach for America, as well as the increased interest in public service that has been a by-product of the fervent nationalism of the past twelve months, are popular explanations for the surge of applicants. However, the single largest factor contributing to this upswing, teachers and administrators agree, is the new teachers' contract, which raised entry-level salaries from \$31,910 to \$39,000.

While it remains to be seen whether the shortage will return and whether these fast-track programs offer a sustainable model, few dare complain when the number of uncertified teachers working in the schools is at a new low. Many of the new teachers do not yet hold a master's degree, and some of the Fellows and other mid-career recruits got their first taste of the profession during their brief but intense summer training.



A Teach for America Teacher works with students

The Teach for America Corps Member

Due to over-hiring and the usual beginning of the year confusion, some new recruits had not received their assignments at the end of August. Monique Cueto, 23, who spent her first two years out of college working as a paralegal in order to make an informed decision as to whether she wanted to pursue a career in law or in education, was still waiting for her bilingual elementary assignment in mid-August. During her two-year commitment, she will also take classes at Bank Street towards her master's degree.

"I just feel like I'm supposed to be a teacher," said Cueto. "I want to be in the classroom for as long as I have the energy to do it." Having made her decision, she was eager to jump right in.

"My interests just fit practically and philo-

sophically with Teach for America," she said. Many Teach for America corps members, like Cueto, use the program as a springboard for a career in education, and most do remain in the profession. The program recruits heavily on the campuses of the nation's top liberal arts colleges, such as Cueto's alma mater, Georgetown, and a number enter law school and medical school after their two-year commitments. Teach for America has even established partnerships with several J.D. programs.

The organization's objective is not only to provide well-educated teachers for the country's poorest children, but also to build a national movement advocating each child's right to a quality education. This collective sense of mission, and the support network that it assumes, is a key selling point for service-oriented young people.

Cueto is convinced that between her Bank Street courses and the resources available via Teach for America, she'll be able to find any help that she may need in the upcoming year.

"I think that the five weeks of training gave me what I needed to start," she said, admitting that she was, of course, anxious. "But I feel like I have a good kind of nervousness in me."

The Teaching Fellow

Heather Maguire found her way into the classroom just over a year after graduating from SUNY Cortlandt with a degree in physical education. She worked a variety of jobs, including substitute teaching. "I had pre-K and kindergarten and I really liked it," she said. "This program came up and . . . everything worked out."

Maguire will be teaching 5th grade in one of the city's Schools Under Registration Review, a school that falls below state standards. Unlike Cueto, she knew which Bronx

school she would be teaching in, but still lacked a definitive classroom assignment. Over the course of the next two years, while she is teaching, she will earn a master's degree from Mercy College. The program covers the Fellows' tuition. The 2,000 Fellows, selected from a whopping 16,000 applicants, also complete an intensive Summer training session, during which Maguire served as an assistant teacher in a 5th grade classroom in the mornings and attended classes with other Fellows in the evenings.

"I know it's going to be hard, and I know that my first year is going to be the hardest," said Maguire, who readily admits that the summer training could not possibly prepare anyone for all of the issues she will confront in her classroom this September. "Your first year is your first year. You just kind of have to jump into it."

Maguire plans on teaching for as long as she loves it, a sentiment that became clear when she suddenly realized that she was actually enjoying the work. "All my other past jobs . . . I was always looking at my watch. I think I've finally found what I want to do."

She has thought a lot recently about all the baggage that her students will bring with them to school every day, as well as the myriad roles that the teacher is expected to play in their lives–instructor, counselor, nurse. One of her goals for the upcoming year is to connect with her students. "I think that's how you gain respect and how you get them to want to learn."

The School of Education Graduate

Stephanie Kandel, who will be teaching kindergarten on the East Side this fall, made a big investment when she decided to become a teacher. Two years at Bank Street–which she describes as a hands-on immersion experience, working as an assistant teacher in the public schools while completing her coursework–have left her with thousands of dollars in student loans.

Yet Kandel choose to bypass the fast-track certification programs. Despite having held various volunteer positions working with children, she did not feel that she had the background necessary to manage her own classroom. "I felt like I would really be doing the children a disservice," she said.

An English literature major, Kandel moved to New York to pursue a career in public relations. But after a few years at various firms and companies, she was "unfulfilled" in her profession. "People were just so consumed by money . . . I thought, when I'm my boss' age, what am I going to have to show for my work?"

Her classmates at Bank Street, she explained, included a number of young women moving away from the corporate world, some mothers with school-age children preparing to reenter the workforce as well as a few recent college graduates.

She has an advantage over other new teachers in that she has not only been placed but has been able to set up her classroom. Kandel real-



Stephanie Kandel

izes this, and is concerned for the Teaching Fellows that she met in the city's new teacher orientation workshops. "There's a lot of stuff as a new teacher that you do have to buy, and they don't have the money," she noted, on the scholarships they receive to get them through the summer. During the new teacher orientation, she also overheard a few Fellows wondering aloud how they were going to get books for their classrooms.

"I worry about them because it's tough enough being a teacher without having to worry about basic things like pencils."

Kandel herself feels ready to meet her next big clients. "I'm anxious and I'm also nervous, but I don't feel overwhelmed because I got such wonderful preparation from Bank Street and from my mentor teacher."#



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HOMESCHOOLING Education Update · September 2002

HOMESCHOOLING: EDUCATION WITHOUT LABELS

By JAN UPTON, Ph.D.

Homeschooling offers kids who do not easily fit into the system an educational option that can be more readily tailored to their individual needs. A lot of people do not realize that Thomas Edison got kicked out of school and was homeschooled by his mother. We similarly expected the school system would either kick out our son or require us to label and medicate him. Instead, we chose homeschooling.

Our son has never been in public or private schools precisely because, more than anything else, my husband and I feared the labels that the system would place on him. It was obvious that he would have difficulty with any environment in which he would have to sit in one place for long periods of time, deal with a room of 25 or more people (most of them also children), be "taught" things that he already knew, and the list goes on and on. Instead of dealing with the school administration on a daily basis, we chose to educate our son on our own.

This kid could very easily be labeled ADHD (Attention Deficit with Hyperactivity Disorder), ODD (Oppositional Defiant Disorder), and LD (Learning Disabled) and likely traumatized by the experience. Instead, at age 10, he is learning pre-algebra, doing his own Powerpoint presentations, composing original compositions on his Casio keyboard, and developing an art portfolio. He has incredible self-esteem and is one of the happiest kids that I know.

I do not blame or have any anger at the school system. In my opinion, it is unrealistic to expect the system to successfully educate children like ours. He is simply too far off the normal curve. In reading, math, and science, he is operating several years ahead of his peers. Nonetheless, although he works well independently, social interaction with more than a couple of people at one time can still overwhelm him. As parents, we recognize his strengths and limitations, encouraging him regularly to work on his weaker areas. At the same time, we know better than to place him in a noisy classroom with 30 others, in which failure would be highly probable.

An increasing number of parents with such kids are quietly making the decision to either remove them or not enroll them in the system. Most of us are quiet about it because it is not the socially accepted thing to do. We are taking our so-called defective children and we are educating them, often without the use of psychotropic medications. In most cases, with effective parenting and education customized to their needs, these children are able to learn and feel good about themselves. Yes, it is controversial and although it is a very quiet move-

ment, there is a growing community of parents who are protecting their children in this way. Many of us are weary from battles over IEPs (Individual Education Plans), and homeschooling is a much less stressful option.

Homeschooling allows parents to design instruction based on the needs of their children. For example, when you have a seven year-old who is reading at a 6th or higher grade level, you really do not have to spend a lot of time teaching them how to read. In addition, you can cover a lot more material in a shorter period of time with one-on-one instruction (homeschooling is basically personalized tutoring). Finally, the kid can move around more–go to the bathroom as needed and ride his bike or roller-skate in the middle of the day (believe me, recess is essential for active kids). Homeschooling is one of the best decisions that my family has ever made.#

Kellogg's Awards Scholarships



Rosie O'Donnell & Tony the Tiger with grand prize winners

Recently, parents, students, teachers and a variety of Kellogg's representatives-including Snap, Crackle and Pop and, of course, Tony the Tiger–gathered in the Hudson Theater in mid-Manhattan to honor the accomplishments of ten young people who have overcome significant obstacles. The children were presented with Tony the Tiger statuettes and entertained by the Backstreet Boy Nick Carter and performance artist Jean Francois Detaille. Rosie O'Donnell, who has awarded Kellogg's scholarships to special children on her television show, hosted the event.

The Gr-r-reat Tony the Tiger Awards program was established to celebrate the 50th "birthday" of the Frosted Flakes mascot. Parents, teachers and other adults were invited to nominate children who exemplified the "Tony the Tiger spirit of achievement." Volunteer judges from national children's organizations selected finalists from among the applicants. These ten children, ages 9–14, flew with a parent from their hometowns to New York City to receive the awards. For many, it was a first visit.

"It's wonderful. The people are so nice here!" said Heather Bandy, 14. Heather, who is legally blind, was the winner of the 2001 National Braille Challenge and volunteers with other visually challenged students. All of the finalists, each of whom has a physical disability, work with various organizations dedicated to their medical conditions. Several had personally raised thousands of dollars for medical research.

Kellogg had announced that judges would select one grand prizewinner, who would receive a \$10,000 scholarship and appear on a box of Frosted Flakes with Tony the Tiger. The other nine finalists were to receive \$2,000 scholarships; however, at the ceremony's end, Jeff Monte, President of Kellogg's Morning Foods Division, announced that all ten finalists had earned the grand prize. Each will receive \$10,000 and appear on the cereal boxes.

"I want the parents to know," said O'Donnell, "that I asked each child who they thought would be the grand prizewinner, and they all said they hoped someone else did. You've raised amazing kids."#



HOMESCHOOLING Education Update · September 2002

BEYOND PHONICS

A new way to sharpen dull reading skills is to use the *Beyond Phonics* workbook. The *Beyond Phonics* method helps students differentiate between words that sound and look the same (such as *we're* and *were*) and also helps them become familiar with common letter combinations (such as *-tion* and *kn-*). The workbook is made to be used in conjunction with a textbook. First, a story full of similar sounding words is read from the textbook. Then the student reads the story again in the workbook but fills in blanks where the similar words were. For instance, "My *ear* can't *hear* what you *heard*" becomes "My _____ can't _____ what you _____".

Though the workbook is useful for grades 1–12, the entire method can be covered in a few years. It is useful for independent remedial study, English as a foreign language, special education and more. More information on *Beyond Phonics* can be found at *www.beyondphonics.com*. A Christian version is available as well.

MATH & THE COSMOS, MATH & MUSIC

As if astronomy was not educational enough, Wildridge's Math & the Cosmos pairs it with mathematics, physics, history and mythology. In this original blend students learn about constellations, graphing star charts, planetary motion, Newton's Laws, the motion of the sun and more. The program demonstrates real world application of such fundamentals as graphing, angles, trigonometry, and scientific notation making math more than just a subject at school. There are even connections to Greek literature included! The package consists of a teacher's guide, a student guide. textbook, and a CD. Of course the CD teaches the lessons but it also includes a help option, a glossary, progress reports, a Final Challenge on completion of the program and a slide show of galaxies and other celestial phenomena. Wildridge also offers Math and Music. It emphasizes fundamental math skills by relating these skills to the basic elements of music. The history of ancient number systems as the basis for understanding the number theory is explored. The physics of sound and vibrating strings help to explain harmony. The program is meant to help students build a mathematical foundation necessary to understand algebra and appreciate diverse musical forms. The lesson format is basically the same: textbook, workbook, student guide, CD etc. The CD itself covers topics from basic math functions to the abacus to music throughout time. Both the lessons are best suited for children in grades 7-12 due to the complexity of the subjects. For more information visit www.wildridae.com.



GROWLER TAPES

Through audio cassettes, stories unravel for the listening pleasure of kids. Growler tapes, produced by Earthling, Inc., tell stories through intense sounds—original music, the voices of children and special audio effects. The 31 tape series are mostly dramatic science fiction tales where children solve mysteries. In tape 7, the Growler kids play with a magic machine that creates a snowstorm. Strange noises coming from the woods call for the Growlers to investigate in tape 13. In tape 26, the Timefish create openings in time through which they can travel to other time zones.

The stories combine challenging vocabulary and story concepts with ear-grabbing audio effects to create a thought-provoking activity for kids. Most cassettes are around 30 minutes long. Growler tapes are targeted to children ages four through 12. More information, including sound samples from the tapes and ordering information, can be found on *www.growler.com*. Experience the storytelling power of sound.

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_ING SCHC Education Update September 200



The basis for the growing modern home-schooling movement can be traced back to Virgil M. Hillyer, who championed the idea of a formal homeschooling program almost a century before its general acceptance.

Hillyer (1875-1931), a Harvard-trained scholar who served as Head Master of the Baltimore, Md. based Calvert School shortly after its founding in 1897, said: "The nearer to the heart of the home, to the bosom of the family, the richer is the environment, and the nearer the child is to the center of his world."

In 1905, Hillyer convinced a downtown Baltimore bookstore owner to sell copies of his private school's Kindergarten curriculum to families who could not afford a private school education. Hillyer began advertising in National Geographic, and soon his home-school courses were being shipped all over the world.

Nestled in the detailed daily lesson plans was Hillyer's educational philosophy. He believed in the three Rs, calling them the "meaty" part of an education. But Hillyer also had his students, as early as Kindergarten, introduced to science, history, geography, art and music, for he believed that an education had to be well-rounded to ensure his goal of creating "life-long students."

Hillyer always advocated lessons that worked from general to specific. He emphasized constant drilling, and he encouraged teachers to vary their approach to avoid boring students. "Milk may not appeal to many children, but a milkshake always does," Hillyer explained.

He also believed in perfection. No task was complete-be it memorization, a composition, or math work-until it was absolutely perfect, and students who use the modern Calvert curriculum continue that practice.

Virgil Hillyer's vision shaped modern homeschooling and remains an unwavering part of the Calvert School homeschool curriculum. What has become known as "the school in the box" has shipped more than 186,000 courses over the last decade, each containing important pieces of Hillyer's philosophy, once revolutionary, but now widely accepted.#

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MAKING SPELLING SENSE

Bonnie Terry, a teacher who has taught for over 20 years, created Making Spelling Sense to help kids learn to spell. Her workbook, subtitled "Spelling the 500 Most Used Words," thoroughly teaches the spelling patterns of common words. Fill in the blanks exercises, word searches, phonics lessons and word recognition puzzles combine to create a comprehensive teaching plan. Ideal for use in the classroom, the Making Spelling Sense system can be used at home as well. It helps students write papers and take exams.

Terry has also written a second workbook, subtitled "A Step Beyond Spelling the 500 Most Used Words," which goes into a deeper detail of spelling patterns. Terry also has written books that help develop better reading skills and better study skills. For more information, visit www.bonnieterrylearning.com.



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HOMESCHOOLING Education Update · September 2002

WHY DICK AND JANE CAN'T DO MATH

By Paul Ziegler There were some fundamental changes in education that took place in the 1960s and are still with us. Before the 1960s the U.S. held a very high place in literacy and mathematics education in the world. Now, forty years later, we are at or near the bottom internationally. In math, which is my field. US graduates came in 19th in a field of 21 industrialized countries according to the 1999 TIMSS (Third International Mathematics and Science Study). We beat only South Africa and Cyprus. The test also showed that the longer children were in school, the farther behind they fell. In their 1999 report, "Middle School Math Reform", Cogan and Schmidt found that we expect the children to learn 27 to 32 topics in grades 5-8. The highest achieving countries teach only 20 to 21 topics but they do it more thoroughly. The top achieving countries teach only seven topics in the first three grades. The U.S. teaches 20. In short, we are teaching concepts too early and spending too little time on them. There is too little concern for readiness. I would suggest that the path forward is actually back to what worked in the past. Before the 1960s, math was taught systematically. The object was to teach for an *understanding* of the rules and algorithms of math. Based on that understanding, students could do problems that they had never seen before. Today we use the "spiral curriculum" approach. Under the spiral

approach, children are taught to *memorize* how to do specific kinds of problems and *guess*, or estimate, the results. Because it is based on memorizing, the children get high grades on daily work but six months later they have forgotten what they memorized. We end up with a generation of mathematical illiterates. If we teach understanding of the rules and system of math, they are reinforced each time the students do math. The theory of the spiral approach is to briefly expose students to many different mathematical concepts and revisit them year after year. This is actually not new. In the preface to his 1904 math book; "Advanced Arithmetic", David Eugene Smith wrote, "The extreme spiral system, in which no topic is ever thoroughly treated at one time, but each is repeated until the pupil

wearies of it, is psychologically too unwarranted to be considered seriously."

Another thing that happened was the development of the Federal Department of Education. Before it was founded, we teachers had a lot of autonomy. Now education is a top down bureaucracy with no accountability to the community. It has, in fact, been federalized and we are too busy indoctrinating the children to have time to teach them. Education has become totally politicized. The colleges that train teachers have become politicized and I see no way back.

So who cares that Dick and Jane can't do math, as long as they are politically correct? *Math teacher since 1962.*







A WORD WITH JESSE SHEIDLOWER, LEXICOGRAPHER, OXFORD U. PRESS

By MARIE HOLMES

Part cultural archive, part authoritative database, nothing, perhaps, fits the definition of "living document" as well as the dictionary. By the time it's in your hands-the new *Shorter Oxford English* is about to hit the shelves-some of the linguistic units that it contains will have already acquired new meanings, and the technocrats or the snowboarders or the I-bankers will have coined new terms for the latest fads.

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) online currently contains some 500,000 entries. Jesse Sheidlower, Principal North American Editor, estimates that by the time the OED has been fully updated and revised it would fill some 40 volumes. Whether it will be printed at all, or simply continue to be sold in its on-line form via subscription service, remains to be seen. And they never delete a word.

"We are an historical dictionary," says Sheidlower. "Our purpose is to reflect language throughout its entire history." Editorial groups in England, as well as Sheidlower's North American group, work in alphabetical order to revise and update the OED's thousands upon thousands of entries. One group is devoted entirely to the task of researching new words. While Sheidlower's background is in publishing and academia-he studied Early English linguistics at Cambridge-the OED counts among its 60 full-time staff members an M.D., persons with terminal degrees in mathematics and the sciences, as well as "people who've competed in obscure sports [and] people who know about knitting." The editors also consult with hundreds of experts when drafting their definitions. So who decides which terms make it into the dictionary?

"For well over a century," explains Sheidlower, the dictionary has relied on a citation program. "Volunteers and staff members will spend a certain amount of time reading a wide variety of books, ranging from mainstream literary sources to news media to highly restricted things in any field, whether it's cell biology or wooden boat building or criminology or education."

In the past, these words were noted on slips of paper and filed away for later reference; computer databases hold more recent additions.

blo- tion–Sheidlower says it's now under consideration.lips "There's this belief that the OED is solely

concerned with literary things and with formal English," he admits, asserting, however, that this is not the case. "We

the lookout for baby mama in the next edi-

spend a lot of effort including technical terms, scientific terms, slang terms– we're not trying to be just the dictionary of formal written English."

descriptive rather than prescriptive linguist, is committed to the equality of all languages, or, in his case, all words. "There's nothing about putting something into the dictionary that makes it a 'real' word or an 'official' word. There's no such thing as an official word," he asserts.

"So anything that's out there is a word, whether it's highly technical or regarded as ungrammatical or slangy or very new or very old," he explains. "They're not ham sandwiches; they're not tables; they're *words*."

As a historian of the English language, Sheidlower places the much-hyped "explosion" of new technical terms into a broader perspective. "English has always expanded and it will continue to expand," he says.

"Yes, the language keeps changing, but the way in which it changes is often surprisingly constant." While the Internet has sped up the rate at which new terms enter into common usage, the influx of new words in itself is hardly anything new. "If you look at the history of the language and you look at any particular time period, you'll usually find that the number of technical terms coming into the language has been stable for a very long time," explains Sheidlower, citing studies that have found that proportion of technical terms was almost identical in the 1750's as in the 1950's.

The lexicographer takes the oft-lamented loss of linguistic aptitude, characterized by dismal standardized test scores and the booming test prep business, with an equally generous pinch of salt.

"We should read more, certainly," he says. "I would very much like people to use more words." Yet he sees no crisis in the average American vocabulary.

"You can express extremely complex and difficult thoughts with a very small number of words and you can use big, complicated words for no purpose other than showing off. So the number of words in itself that you use is [not what's important]."

A former Classics major, Sheidlower even questions the belief that learning Latin gives students any verbal advantage.

"There's something in English known as the etymological fallacy, which is the belief that a word's history has some deep bearing on how it's used today," he says.

"Words mean what they do because of how they are currently used, not how they were used 500 years ago, and not how they were used in Latin 2000 years ago."

One doesn't need to know, for instance, that Homer Simpson's *D'oh!* precedes him by at least 50 years, or that in the original script the sound was referred to as "annoyed grunt" and it was in fact the actor who came up with the expression. But if you were curious, today or a hundred years from now when the word has fallen out of vogue, then the OED would be the place to look.#

City Schools

<u>Continued from page 6</u> might not be finished on time. Within the last

two weeks, additional testing performed by a PA environmental consultant showed that the auditorium is heavily contaminated by asbestos. "There have been some outright lies," said Edwards, citing the BOE's October 2001 reassurances to parents that the building had been subject to a thorough cleaning and asbestos abatement, when it had not. "The continued finding of contamination at Stuyvesant should be of concern to any school in the area." But little action has been taken on the part of those schools. Edwards said some have dismissed the CSPA as alarmist. Incoming freshman Innokenty Pyetranker said, "The only thing that worried me is that [we] haven't been getting any updates on a situation that is vital to us.'

Poly Prep Subject of Documentary Film

Poly Prep, a non-denominational private school whose full name is Brooklyn Polytechnic Preparatory Country Day School, took its share of 9-11 blows: eleven alumni died, a student lost her aunt, and a teacher lost her brother. The school is the subject of a Channel Thirteen documentary, a special of the New York Voices series produced by John DeNatale. "Lessons of September: One School Remembers 9-11" airs at 10 p.m. on September 5th. Robert Aberlin, business manager and history teacher at Poly Prep, co-produced the program, which does not include graphic footage of 9-11 but rather chronicles grief and recovery though actor John Turturro's narration and interviews with members of the Poly Prep com-

munity.

examples.'

Turning to nature for solace in the weeks after 9-11, the Poly Prep administration created a garden. Turning to art, Cameron Bossert wrote a musical about September 11th and performed it with his fellow students. First grade teacher Pat O'Berg, who lost a brother in the attacks, found strength to carry on in the children, who built the Twin Towers out of blocks and decided to let them stand.

Many students were gathered in the chapel, the central assembly room of the school, when news of the attacks reached them. Later, portraits of the lost alumni were hung on one of its walls, joining the portraits of alumni who were killed in wars. A moment of silence was observed for 9-11 victims at every chapel meeting this past year. This September 11th will begin with an extended chapel, at which the documentary will be shown. Athletic events but not classes will be cancelled. Aberlin expects the yearly commemoration of 9-11 to continue at Poly Prep for at least a decade, because the tragedy was so close to home. But the school will forever continue to award scholarships, matching current seniors with families of lost alumni.

In Jewish tradition, there is a prayer called the Mourner's Kaddish which is recited daily for eleven months by anyone who has lost a close relative. Similarly, the past year has been one of mourning for (and celebrating the good deeds of) dear ones killed on September 11th. This month, with the airing of the Thirteen documentary, Poly Prep will begin a new year along with other New York City schools, all of whom have learned the same lessons.#



"My youngest son will connect and program it as soon as kindergarten lets out."



Jesse Sheidlower

The paper files alone contain over five million

entries. As a rule of thumb, a word must be ref-

erenced at least five times in three separate

sources before it will be considered for inclu-

sion in the OED. "On the other hand,"

Sheidlower adds, "most of the time if there's

something you've heard of, it would be very

easy to turn up an extremely large number of

Poor candidates include highly scientific

terms used only in specialty sub-fields, non-

sense words only articulated once and words

that deviate from the common spelling, but not

meaning, of a pre-existing word. Some of the

latest additions include cramming, Bollywood,

gansta, tough love, big hair and D'oh! Be on

NYU Child Study Center & Museum of the City of New York Sponsor Joint Art Exhibit

The Day Our World Changed: Children's Art of 9/11 **On View From September 11,** 2002–January 19, 2003

An exhibition marking the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center presents the art of New York area children made in the days and months immediately following the tragedy.

The exhibition pays homage to the role of children as witnesses to this cataclysmic moment in the history of New York City. By examining how young people express in pictures what the attack meant to them, the exhibition can help adults understand how deeply children were affected. Their drawings do more than document the wound suffered by New York and New Yorkers; they can help us all move forward.

The exhibition includes 83 paintings, drawings, and works of collage-ranging in scale from 12 foot murals to six by eight inch sketches-that tell the story of 9/11 through the eyes of children. Divided into five sections, the story begins with drawings of the brutal attack itself, scenes full of crashing airplanes and towers engulfed in flames. The feelings of sadness, fear and anger brought on by the attacks are chronicled next, followed by a sensitive portraval of gratitude for all the heroes and helpers, from the police and firefighters to the

brave rescue dogs. Painted memories of the way the city looked before 9/11 and tributes to what was lost lead up to the final section. The exhibition concludes with optimistic images of renewal and rebuilding, reflecting our youngest citizens' hopes for the future.

The exhibition and accompanying publication are the result of a collaboration between the Museum of the City of New York and the New York University Child Study Center. The Center solicited children's artwork made in response to September 11 by reaching out to parents and to public, private and parochial schools in the greater New York area. Out of more than 800 submissions, 83 works were chosen by a jury of artists, curators, art teachers mental health professionals and students. The participating artists range in age from 5 to 18.

The publication, The Day Our World Changed: Children's Art of 9/11. (Harry N. Abrams, Inc., September 2002, \$19.95 hardcover), reproduces in color all 83 works in the exhibition. Accompanying the images are essays by prominent historians, artists, writers, mental health professionals, and religious and political leaders from across the New York metropolitan region. A movingly personal commentary by former Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani serves as the book's introduction.

Public Programs will be held at the Museum in conjunction with the exhibition, including: MCNY KIDS Rebuild New York on Saturdays.

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Children and their caregivers will design and build a new city, using wooden blocks and a variety of art materials. Families may wish to combine block building with a guided tour of the exhibition. Art Sundays: Hands-on activities for families designed to encourage children to express themselves through art. Using the art on display in the exhibition as an inspiration, art therapists and mental health professionals will guide children and their caregivers through the creation of such projects as coping collages, diversity quilts, personal time capsules, framed memories, "picking up the pieces" kaleidoscopes, and "My Hero" magazine covers.

Lecture for Educators: "School Response to September 11: Mental Health Diversity in the Classroom," Wednesday, September 25, 6 p.m., Mary Courtney, Ph.D., Director of School-Based Interventions, NYU Child Study Center, Child and Family Recovery Program, discusses the unique challenges educators face when children in the same classroom have different reactions to trauma. Discussion will focus on how educators can address children's varied needs and handle their own responses to emotional upset.

Parent/Teacher Workshop: "Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Children," Thursday, September 26, 4 p.m. Elissa J. Brown, Ph.D., Director of Trauma Services and Research, NYU Child Study Center Child and Family Recovery Program, will share the most up-to-date information about the causes, warning signs, and treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder in children. Her talk will be followed by a question-andanswer period.

Lecture: "Coping With Tragedy: Obstacles and Opportunities," Sunday, October 6, 2:30 p.m., Robin F. Goodman, Ph.D., Director of Bereavement Services and Outreach of the NYU Child Study Center and co-author, The Day Our

World Changed: Children's Art of 9/11, discusses how trauma and loss can affect children. Adults have the opportunity to help children become resilient through such difficult times. Key principles and strategies for coping will be addressed.

Parent/Teacher Workshop: "Depression and Anxiety in Children and Adolescents," Thursday, October 10, 4 p.m., Anne Marie Albano, Ph.D., The Recanati Family Assistant Professor in Psychiatry, NYU Child Study Center, discusses current information about the causes, warning signs, and treatment of depression and anxiety disorders in children and adolescents. A question-and-answer period will follow.

Parent/Teacher Workshop: "Artistic Development in Children," Thursday, October 17, 4 p.m., Robert Forloney, MCNY Learning Programs Coordinator, will help teachers analyze artistic, personal, and cultural expression in children's art. A tour of the exhibition will be followed by discussion on interpreting and encouraging children's artistic expression at home and in school.

Admission to all events is free.

The NYU Child Study Center is dedicated to the understanding, prevention, and treatment of child and adolescent mental health problems. The Center offers expert psychiatric services for children and families with emphasis on early diagnosis and intervention. The Center's mission is to bridge the gap between science and practice, integrating the finest research with patient care and state-of-the-training, utilizing an extraordinary new facility and the resources of the world class New York University School of Medicine. For more information on the NYU Child Study Center, or how you can help, contact the NYU Child Study Center at (212) 263-6622 or visit www.AboutOurKids.org



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A Hearing Impaired Teacher Helps Children Discover the World

Bodner's life dramatically changed on her

eighth birthday "when I got a hearing aid as

a present. My family said I became a different

child, became more calm as a result of

Academically, Bodner was doing fine. Social

life, however, was another matter. "All throughout junior high and high school, people

would say I was talking funny," says Bodner,

who speaks almost perfectly. "It made me

extremely self-conscious. It wasn't until college, when I started to take speech therapy

classes, that I became more confident in my

communication skills. College, overall, forced me to be a far more independent person, made

me speak up for myself. It was a wonderful

Bodner attended the University of Florida,

then Oglethorpe College in Georgia and, final-

ly, Cal State Northridge where she majored in

psychology. In reflecting on the obstacles she

had to overcome, Bodner felt that regular class-

being able to hear."

experience.'

By TOM KERTES

Linda Bodner has been teaching hearingimpaired children at Saticoy Elementary School in North Hollywood, California for 17 years. Since she's completely deaf in one ear, and has severe hearing loss in the other, Bodner brings an amazing depth of love, knowledge, and life experience to the job.

"I'm just so happy and fulfilled that I can help these children," she said. "And I am really excited about all the wonderful technological developments that have occurred in recent years. They make it so much easier for hearing impaired people these days to cope-and even succeed.'

Bodner's childhood was anything but easy. She contracted chicken pox from her sister when she was just three months old; the high fever led to nerve loss. It was not until she was two, and not speaking, that her parents sought medical advice. Several doctors could not diagnose the problem and after three years of searching, one at UCLA "decided I was mentally retarded. They even wanted to institutionalize me. Thank God, my parents refused."

Finally, when Bodner was in the second grade, the famous John Tracy Clinic opened in Los Angeles. "They gave me a hearing test and finally found a severe hearing loss. My parents were so happy! At last, we knew what was wrong!" I was enrolled in a regular elementary school with a deaf and hard of hearing department in Los Angeles. All the children had hearing aids; Bodner wanted them too. For the next three years, she survived without hearing aids. She bit, kicked and was unmanageable because she couldn't communicate

es with few support services made her lack social skills and become lonely. She "mainstreamed" herself by being extremely active athletically, being in parades, being a good dancer. At Cal State, she became more social, "discovering a large deaf community," she

says. "I grew up speaking orally but within this community we communicated by both lipreading and using sign language. The warmth, camaraderie and respect within the hearing impaired community was wonderful," added Bodner. She went on to earn a master's degree in deaf education from Cal State.

At this point, in the mid-1960's, hearing aids began to improve and television started to use caption decoders as well. What a contrast to the boxed hearing aid Bodner wore on her chest as a child!

Today Bodner teaches in a school that uses a strictly oral program but, she's a great proponent of "total communication" (oral and signing). "It all depends on the child's needs, the parents' wishes and the extent of the hearing loss," she says. "But, overall, I find total communication a wonderfully liberating thing. Sign language is beautiful, especially in conjunction with music. Bodner is quick to point

Linda Bodner (L) and family

out that there are no secrets when people are signing. And it's very helpful in a dark room or restaurant where you can't read people's lips."

Of particular importance in Bodner's life was 'seeing how deaf people functioned and assumed leadership roles, of being among other hearing impaired people who do so well.'

Bodner is married, with a "wonderful son who's an engineer and two fantastic grandchildren." None are hearing impaired. She plays the piano quite well and, with the now available ultra-modern hearing aids, which have a telephone coil, she can converse normally on

the telephone. In fact, this entire interview was done by telephone! Still, "the single greatest thing is the increased acceptance by society," she says. "There's really no more stigma attached to being hearing-impaired. It's a far more open, more equal situation. Now you can pretty much lead a normal, happy life. And that is a wonderful thing."#

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DVD: The Technology of the Future: Has DVD Made the Opera House Obsolete?

By IRVING SPITZ

The advent of DVD (digital video discs), a medium that combines an outstanding digital video image with superb surround sound, has revolutionized the presentation of music in general and opera in particular. The leaders in this new technology are Universal Classics, representing the Decca, Philips and Deutsche Grammophon labels, and Naxos, who distribute the Arthaus Musik, BBC/Opus Arte and TDK series. When I first came across DVD recordings, I was somewhat skeptical. How could the drama and excitement of the opera house possibly be transferred to the living room? But it didn't take too long before I was completely won over.

Decca has recently released two Puccini favorites, Tosca and Madame Butterfly, which were recycled from laser discs, that short-lived technology, which, like the ill-fated betamax, never really caught on. Both of these performances are true cinematic versions. Tosca, whose story encompasses the intrigues of love, jealousy, politics and murder, is particularly well suited to the film medium. Directed by Gianfranco de Bosio, it was filmed in its precise settings in Rome; Act 1 in the Church of Sant'Andrea della Valle, Act 2 in the Farnese Palace, while the finale is played out in the Castel Sant'Angelo. The triad of murders-Tosca's stabbing of the evil Scarpia with a knife, Cavaradossi's execution by the firing squad and Tosca's subsequent suicide-are vividly portrayed. In Butterfly, director Jean-Pierre Ponnelle brings his genius into play most effectively in the successive scenes which reveal Madame Butterfly's initial shock, then hope, when she fantasizes of returning to the U.S. as Pinkerton's wife, and her ultimate desperation and suicide. Ponnelle effectively utilizes close-up images and subtle changes of shading and lighting to highlight her emotions. What is particularly impressive is that these films do not sacrifice the integrity of the staged opera. In fact they enhance it.

Tosca (recorded in 1976) features Raina Kabaivanska in the title role, with Placido Domingo as Cavaradossi and Sherrill Milnes as Scarpia. The New Philharmonia Orchestra is conducted by Bruno Bartoletti. Madame Butterfly (first issued in 1974) has the Vienna

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Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Herbert von Karajan with Mirella Freni as the hapless Cio-Cio San. Placido Domingo is featured again, this time as the American naval officer Pinkerton, and Christa Ludwig is Suszuki, Butterfly's servant. As expected from this roster of singers, the vocal performances are impeccable. The young Domingo is in the prime of his voice in these two dramatic roles. Mirella Freni's is simply stunning. These DVDs should be regarded as treasured items and will long be considered gold standards by which future performances will be judged.

Arthaus Musik (distributed by Naxos) has released two of the Mozart-Da Ponte trilogy, Cosi fan Tutte and Don Giovanni from the legendary Zurich Opera house productions directed by Jurgen Flimm and conducted by Nikolaus Harnoncourt. Filmed staged performances can never be as visually compelling as the cinematic equivalent, but nevertheless, director Brian Large does certainly succeed discs, making DVDs competitive with CD boxed operas. The visual format adds immensely to the overall enjoyment. Indeed, Universal will probably stop producing operas in the CD version, concentrating exclusively in presenting opera in the DVD format, which, in view of the quality of the product, is a wise and prudent decision. With this new technology, the multi-language libretti of the boxed CDs are no longer required. Instead, there is the possibility of selecting subtitles in multiple languages. The DVD package also comes with informative discussions of the opera as well as the artists, and an easy guide enabling the listener to identify and replay specific arias.

Nothing, of course, can replace the magic of a live performance in the opera house. Only the privileged few, though, can afford the hefty prices of the best seats and fully enjoy facial expressions in the live performance. These are images which are easily seen in a DVD. In addition, this new format has the ability to capture legendary singers in their prime and is available to the music lover as a permanent record.

Yes, music for the masses at affordable prices with perfect visibility and sound has arrived. With the advent of DVD, the opera house has been successfully transplanted to the living room.#

Literary Riddle by chris rowan In which piece of work does Rip Van Winkle appear as a passenger on the NYC Subway? ANSWER:

The Bridge (1930), a poem by Hart Crane.




By ANDREW SCHIFF

Throughout history, education has usually placed emphasis on the teacher-student relationship. Socrates taught Plato, Anne Sullivan taught Helen Keller and other examples flood the history books. Modern education, with its emphasis on classroom learning, has brought a new dynamic to the student-teacher relationship. With such strong emphasis on the teacher-student system, less attention has been centered on self-education. Probably one of the greatest examples of success in self education is that of the inventor Les Paul.

In the world of rock music, Les Paul, who was born Lester Polsfuss in Waukesha, Wisconsin on June 9, 1915, is seen as an icon.

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He not only invented the electric guitar arguably the most important invention in music history, at least in the twentieth century—he also invented the guitar amplifier and sound effects such as reverb, delay, chorus and flange. He also was the inventor of sound-onsound recording, a precursor to the multi-track recording used today.

Interestingly, Paul's education, however, was not in a university setting under the guidance of professors with doctoral degrees. In fact, Paul never finished high school.

Paul's formal education ended when he accepted an offer to join virtuoso guitarist Joe Wolverton in Saint Louis to be part of a musical duo (Paul, who also was a fabulous selftaught guitarist in his own right, played harmonica in the duo). Prior to teaming with Wolverton, Paul had actually replaced Wolverton in the very jazz band he had been performing with. There he earned \$12 a night, outstripping the weekly \$8 he would have earned doing neighborhood chores. Because of his music talent, his guitar and the harmonica playing virtually led him from the classroom to the ballroom.

"I look back now and I say what I learned from actual experience, I would have never learned in high school. That doesn't sound right, but in high school they didn't teach music and I wouldn't have learned electronics; [besides] there is nothing like being taught where it's hands-on."

Paul's curiosity led him from being merely a musician to being someone interested in recording. Paul eventually took his stereo and phonograph and turned it into a recording studio. Later, Paul decided that he needed to learn more about electronics to improve the sound of his recording. He journeyed to the local radio station that was transmitting the songs he had heard on the radio. Paul asked the engineer to teach him what he knew. So every Sunday Paul would study with the engineer and would augment his learning by going to the library



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Les Paul

and taking out books on electronics until he became well versed in the field. Later, when he ran his own recording studio during the 1940s, Paul would offer free recording sessions in exchange for the opportunity to experiment with different recording techniques. Some of his clients included Bing Crosby, Billy Holiday, the Andrews Sisters and Dina Shore. He developed a reputation as a great producer because of his willingness to learn and experiment. By the early 1950s, Paul also released his own material with his wife singer Mary Ford.



Together they recorded some of the greatest hits of the decade like "Vaya Con Dios," "How High the Moon," and "Mockin' Bird Hill."

Regarding advice to parents, Paul has this to say: "Parents should understand what their child is qualified to do. Today, you'll find a lot of young men in their late twenties and early thirties who are still trying to figure out what to do with their lives."

One of the keys to his success Paul says is that he knew early on what he wanted to do and his mother was there to encourage him. But he set realistic goals for himself as well.

"I made sure that I didn't set my sights so high that I would drop it," Paul said. "I am a believer; I knew what I was going to be and set out to do that."

When asked about the kind of things he would advise kids interested in a particular field Paul said, "I know that they are going to have to work hard. But I also know that you've got to love what you do. You really have to love your job."

One thing that fans of Les Paul have been doing for the past fifty years is loving the job that Paul has done.#

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From the Superintendent's Seat By Dr. Carole G. Hankin with Randi T. Sachs

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"Where were you?" For many parents of schoolchildren today, that question was usually followed by "when President Kennedy was shot." Thirty-nine years ago, the baby-boom generation was in school, and depending upon which time zone you lived in, the news may have first reached you when you were sitting in the classroom. Although anyone old enough to remember November 22, 1963 will always know the answer to that question, we will also be able to answer the question, "Where were you on September 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center was hit?" And so will our children.

Our children were in school. It was a beautiful, sunny day and school was still brand new for the year. The news filtered in, slowly at first and ultimately in a non-stop barrage. In Syosset, our thoughts immediately turned to our students. Would some children's parents be unable to get home? As Superintendent, I quickly made plans to stay overnight at school if necessary, and a number of my colleagues volunteered to stay as well. We decided that our number one priority would be to ensure that no child in elementary school or middle school be sent home unless we were certain that a responsible adult would be there for him or her. PTA volunteers helped form a telephone chain. What seemed like an overwhelming task, contacting the parents of close to 3,000 children, was accomplished with dedicated teamwork. The day was a horrific disaster for our country, but we were comforted with the knowledge that we were able to ensure the safety of the children entrusted to our care during the school day.

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In each of our schools, students, parents, faculty, and administration worked together in the days, weeks, and months following September 11, 2001, to help in some way with rescue efforts and with contributions to help those who had suffered losses in the attack on the World Trade Center. Eventually, as the school year progressed, we settled back into a sense of normalcy, although we were forever changed.

As the anniversary of September 11 approaches, we plan on the best way to commemorate the day and to give our students the feeling of security they deserve to have at school.

We will hold assemblies. It is important for us all to be together at school, as together we feel safe and strong. We will sing songs and read poetry and essays in praise of the many brave men and women who helped those affected by the attack. We will display artwork inspired by both tragedy and heroism. We will memorialize those individuals who lost their lives so suddenly.

We will give our students the opportunity to express their feelings-both on that day and now, one year later. We will again make our counseling staff available to our students and encourage anyone who wants to seek comfort in their guidance.

We were in school on September 11, 2001, and it is most appropriate that we are again in school on September 11, 2002, proving for all the world to see that we will not allow our freedoms and our way of life to be taken from us by anvone.#



If You Ask Dr. McCune About Children and Grief-in the Long Term

BY LORRAINE MCCUNE, PH.D. Some believe that if a loss occurs when a child is too young to know their parent personally, or to remember a parent who has died, that the impact is less than on an older child or adult who has had the opportunity for personal caring with that parent. From my own experience I can say that the impact of the death of a parent in infancy differs from later loss, but the effect of even the earliest loss is life-long. My father died in WWII when I was 6 months old. My earliest awareness included a sense of loss, a sense that continued through childhood and early adulthood. My father's death was a defining event in my life. Only as a mature person was I able to let my father and my loss go. experiencing some pain in the process, followed by a new lightening of feeling. I wonder if the grief of the others around me, and their inability to provide a gradual knowledge of loss along with a sense of safety as I grew up, kept me on the treadmill of orphaned sadness. Perhaps there are ways of helping children with grief.

Some come to mind . . . The early loss of a parent is a lifelong condition. In addition to the sadness of their loss, a parent also leaves a

legacy of love and guidance. As children grow and change, their sense of loss will naturally be re-experienced and perhaps deepened. Adults can help by empathizing with their loss as the children show their renewed feelings. They can also help the child to know the parent they have lost. Photos, family stories of the parent at their age, even meeting people that were close to their parent can help. In early and later childhood and as an adult these experiences helped work the impossible magic of bringing my lost father close to me. Knowing my father's strong qualities, some of his foibles, and the thoughts he expressed about me have given me the father I never knew when he was living.

Sometimes a child can feel a need to carry on the life and goals of their lost parent. This can be an impossible burden that interferes with the child developing new attachments. If a widowed parent remarries, a child needs to know that it is OK to care for the new person in their parent's life.

It is challenging to help children with these life issues, especially for a living parent who is also confused and grieving. Knowing the parent who died would wish the best for the loved ones remaining can sometimes give courage.#





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September in History Compiled by Chris Rowan

Labor Day

On September 5, 1882, the Central Labor Union, an association of 36 unions, held the first Labor Day Parade in New York City. In 1894, Labor Day was observed as a federal holiday for the first time - on the first Monday in September. The day honors America's workers. Other Firsts

On September 8, 1565 the first European settlement in what became the United States was established in what was later named St. Augustine, Florida.

On September 2, 1910, Blanche Stuart Scott became the first female airplane pilot to make a solo flight. On September 2, 1948, Scott became the first woman jet passenger.

World History

In 1939 (on Sept.1) Germany invaded Poland, beginning World War II. In 1945 (on Sept. 2) the Japanese signed a surrender agreement aboard the USS Missouri, formally ending World War II.

In 1983 (on Sept.1) the Soviet Union shot down a Korean passenger airline, Flight 007, killing all 269 persons aboard, including 69 Americans.

American History

In 1774 (on Sept. 5) the first Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. In 1776 (on Sept.22) Revolutionary War hero Nathan Hale was hanged by the British in New

York City. In 1787 (on Sept. 17) the U.S. Constitution was signed.

In 1974 (on Sept.8) President Ford pardoned former President Nixon for all crimes he "committed or may have committed" as President.



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The BookEndz line has recently been expanded to include accessories for the Apple iPod. These are the iPodWrap, which provides complete wrap-around protection for the iPod and keeps it looking new; the iPodCradle, to hold your iPod on a desktop; and the iPodDock, which has audio and FireWire connection ports-holds your iPod while using your home stereo system and when transferring music or data from your Mac. BookEndz products are manufactured in Minneapolis,

Minnesota, by Photo Control Corporation. Photo Control has been in business for 43 years, designing, manufacturing, and selling equipment for the professional school picture and high volume portrait photographic market. BookEndz Docking Stations were added in 1998. Further information is available at www.bookendzdocks.com or from the Photo Control Corporation, 4800 Quebec Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55428, telephone: 763-537-3601.



The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a five-year, \$18.5 million contract to a special joint venture to develop a national What Works Clearinghouse, which will summarize evidence on the effectiveness of different programs, products, and strategies intended to enhance academic achievement and other important educational outcomes.

The clearinghouse will help provide education decision-makers with the information they need to make choices guided by the best available scientific research. The use of research-proven strategies based on sound scientific evidence is one of the key principles of No Child Left Behind. "By providing educators with ready access to the best available scientific research evidence, the clearinghouse will be an important resource for enhancing the quality of local decision-making and improving program effectiveness," said U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige. "And it will help transform education into an evidence-based

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tifies potentially replicable programs, products, and practices that are claimed to enhance important student outcomes, and synthesizes the scientific evidence related to their effectiveness.

-An evaluation studies registry, which is linked electronically to the educational interventions registry, and contains information about the studies constituting the evidence of the effectiveness of the program, products, and practices reported.

-An approaches and policies registry that contains evidence-based research reviews of broader educational approaches and policies.

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MUSEUMS AS EDUCATORS

Transit Museum Runs Nostalgia Train

By TOM KERTES

Riding the New York Transit Museum's Nostalgia Train really does make you ponder the passage of time. For instance, what would happen in 2002 to a Subway train with leather seats, an open ceiling fan, and exposed light bulbs? One can only shudder at the thought. Yet these BMT Triplex cars, first put into service in 1924, were used all the way up to 1965.

The Transit Museum, of course, is all about history. "It's no exaggeration to state that public mass transportation has impacted seriously on all aspects of society," said Mark L. Watson, the Museum's Director of Education. "Before the Subway, which began operations in 1904, the borough of Queens was no more than a series of small settlements, mostly farmland. Many other areas of New York City were either not developed or not reachable as well. The reach of the Subway encouraged developers and land speculators to buy and build more than any other single factor."

The first Subway line merely ran from City Hall to 42nd Street where, switching to the current IRT line, it continued up to 145th Street. In 1908 the line expanded to the East Side and Brooklyn and, once the train's importance became clear, further additions quickly followed.

"Truth is, we still use much of the original equipment when it comes to switches and many other things," Watson smiled. "Not because we don't want to modernize but because it is wonderful sturdy stuff. Because it works." Originally, only the IND line was owned by the City; the BMT and IRT lines were owned by private corporations. However, the BMT-then called the BRT-went bankrupt in 1910 and by 1940 the City ran all three lines.

The Museum, located in a decommissioned 1936 IND subway station at the corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street in Brooklyn, is currently undergoing a major modernization process. The Education Department is being reconfigured to include an additional classroom for children's workshops, a computer lab and a reference library.

Present educational programs serve approximately 60,000 students a year. The Museum's focus is hands-on workshops such as "Building the Brooklyn Bridge," in which students use mathematical skills to build a huge (16-foot) model of a suspension bridge. Another workshop, "Miles of Tiles," teaches students how to make those colorful mosaics you see in many Subway stations.

Many of the workshops are mobile; Transit Museum staff frequently visit the Brooklyn Children's Museum, St. Francis College and all 69 branches of the Brooklyn Public Library.

"All the workshops and lectures are in strict coordination with City and State educational standards," Watson said. "You could safely say that educating children–and educating them in a fun, creative manner that inspires them to learn–is one of the chief missions of the New York Transit Museum."#

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at (212) 570-3792, Monday - Saturday, 9:30am to 5:00pm. Or visit www.metmuseum.org and click on Events & Programs The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Exterior: Fifth Avenue Facade, View to North; photo by Robert Gray

SPORTS

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Q

New School System: Unfinished Business

By ASSEMBLYMAN STEVEN SANDERS

On July 1, a new system of governance for the New York City public schools was begun. This marks a truly historic new beginning for public education.

SEPTEMBER 2002

The legislation, which I negotiated and which was passed into law by the State Legislature, gives to the Mayor the power to appoint a majority of the members to a recast central board of education–now to be known as the Panel for Educational Policy. It also allows the Mayor to unilaterally select and hire a Chancellor.

Each Borough President retains an appointment to the Panel, but each of those five appointments must be a parent of a student currently attending a public school in the city.

Moreover, the new Panel–or central board, as many will still call it–retains important decision-making authority as it relates to adopting a school budget each year, a capital budget and any budget modifications. It must vote on any important policy issue, including key contracts, matters dealing with privatization and systemwide curriculum issues.

Gone are the days of a central board of education's micro-management of the system and interference with the Chancellor's responsibility to run the day-to-day operations of our vast school system of 1,100 schools and 1.1 million students.

Very significantly, the new law will prevent the Mayor from making cuts in education so as to balance the city budget, as was the all-toooften-used practice by previous mayors of both parties. And state school aid increases to the city will not be available for poaching-they can no longer be nullified by reductions in the city's *own* total-dollar public schools appropriation. Two matters of great importance still remain to be resolved. Currently, the U.S. Justice Department is reviewing the power given to the Chancellor to unilaterally appoint community district superintendents. This review is necessary because *any* change in the powers of the elected school boards (which previously nominated candidates for superintendent subject to the Chancellor's final say) are governed by provisions of the Federal Voting Rights act.

In addition, later in the year, I will chair public hearings in every borough of the city to consider how the current school boards should be replaced when they are phased out on June 30, 2003. What system should be instituted, community–or boroughwide–to provide essential parental and community input into educational policy? It is very important that the entities that are developed to replace these school boards be representative of the people who live in the various neighborhoods across the city, and that they enjoy a much greater degree of credibility than most of the elected community school boards, now on their last legs.

I am determined to insure that the parents, students, teachers and all concerned citizens are given an opportunity to not only shape the future of local education decision-making, but also to actually participate, meaningfully, in the reforms we will eventually adopt.

A schedule of these hearings will be posted on this page in future editions.#

Steven Sanders is chairman of the NYS Assembly Education Committee. You can contact him at 201 East 16th Street, New York, NY 10003 (e-mail: sanders@assembly.state.ny.us; tel.: (212) 979-9696).



Report Helps Finest and Bravest Build on 9/11 Heroism

By MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG

Five months ago, Police Commissioner Kelly and Fire Commissioner Scoppetta asked the highly respected consulting firm of McKinsey & Company to study the responses of the NYPD and FDNY to the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center. Their goal was to learn from the experiences of our uniformed services on September 11th and make certain that we are prepared for possible future terrorist attacks and other major incidents. The McKinsey report findings illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of the NYPD and FDNY in handling large-scale emergencies. The reports also highlight significant opportunities where these vital agencies can improve their capacity to respond to potential crisis situations in the future.

In reviewing the NYPD's response to the attack on the World Trade Center, the McKinsey report suggested that the Department improve mobilization procedures and the distribution of equipment to personnel. In addition, the report stressed that the NYPD should develop a response blueprint that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of key NYPD officials during large-scale emergencies.

The NYPD has already begun to address many of the issues raised by the McKinsey report. For example, since January 1st, 2002, the Police Department has created a counterterrorism unit, expanded their intelligence division, revised their command and operational succession plan, and upgraded equipment for police officers.

After reviewing the FDNY's performance on 9/11, McKinsey also identified several areas for potential improvement in that Department's emergency response capabilities. McKinsey stated that the FDNY should create specialized

incident teams, institute effective staging and recall procedures, establish mutual aid agreements with other agencies, and improve its internal and external operational capabilities in emergency situations by utilizing its Operations Center to coordinate incident command and control throughout New York City.

EDUCATION UPDATE

The FDNY has also taken proactive measures independent of the McKinsey report, such as expanding and reorganizing the Fire Department's top uniformed ranks through the appointment of five Staff Chiefs as Borough Commanders.

Some of the McKinsey report's recommendations mirror initiatives launched by the FDNY and NYPD over the last few months to promote inter-departmental cooperation, communication and coordination. The FDNY and NYPD have assigned Departmental liaisons for placement at the agencies' respective headquarters. They have established an interagency senior executive coordinating committee to review and resolve operational issues. They have begun placing FDNY Chiefs on NYPD helicopters in certain emergency situations.

We are also examining ways in which the NYPD's radio infrastructure might enhance the FDNY's communication system. Interagency competition may be unavoidable, and even healthy to some extent, but it can never impair our ability to respond to emergencies. The stakes are just too high. New Yorkers will never forget the incredible bravery, professionalism and sacrifice of the FDNY and NYPD on September 11th. Putting aside any risk to their own safety, they carried out what the McKinsey report describes as the most successful urban emergency evacuation in modern history. We owe it to those we lost and to those left behind to learn from this tragedy and help the FDNY and NYPD build on their proud traditions of being the world's Bravest and Finest.#





Wendy Hilliard Brings Gymnastics to Harlem

By TOM KERTES

The first African-American to make the U.S. Rhythmic Gymnastics National Team-she later became its captain and coach-Wendy Hilliard also heads her own foundation, a successful non-profit group devoted to bringing gymnastics to children in disadvantaged communities. She's been an active and important athlete-representative on the United States Olympic Committee. Hilliard is also a network sports broadcaster-she's done two Olympics in the booth-and a prominent member of the Board of Directors of NYC 2012, the organization responsible for attempting the near-impossible feat of bringing the 2012 Summer Olympics to New York

In the midst of all this, she somehow still had the patience to personally direct 380 chattering 6-12 year-old Summer Gymnastics Program participants in a featured dance number-set to music from the first "Austin Powers" film-at the 7th Annual Gymnastics Gala at the Harlem PAL.

"I think bringing gymnastics to kids who otherwise would never be anywhere near it is extremely important," says Hilliard. "The impact of this sport goes way beyond athletics: this is a highly structured activity that creates commitment and teaches discipline. It'll help you in all walks of life." Hilliard's' classes are not "merely" gymnastics as we know it from the Olympics; they include rhythmic gymnastics-a sport where athletes use equipment such as a hoop or a ball in their difficult routines-trampoline art, and dance as well. "They all start with the same basics," says



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Hilliard. "And, ultimately, they all teach the same things." The kids certainly

had a ball. Their fun was only exceeded by the pride of the parents who attended the gala in record numbers, helped in innumerable ways, and cheered at deafening levels. "I'm from Los Angeles,' parent-helper Debra Brown said, pointing to her 12-year old daughter, LeAna. "We heard about this program from the Dance Theater of

Harlem in L.A.-they



Hilliard's students performing on "Today in New York"

partner with Ms. Hilliard. Yes, it is a sacrifice to spend six weeks in New York. But this is what LeAna wants to do-so it's worth it.'

The goal of the partnership between the Wendy Hilliard Foundation and the Dance Theater of Harlem is to have a diverse team of young women who were trained in Harlem compete in the 2012 Olympics. Which, if Ms. Hilliard has anything to do with it, will be held in the Big Apple.

"We are doing our best to convince the world," she says. "We're bringing major athletevents-the National Triathlon Championships, the U.S Weightlifting Championships, the Wrestling Worlds-to New York City to prove to the different federations

that we have the facilities, the transportation, the infrastructure, and the interest. We have tough competition, both from inside the U.S. [Washington, San Francisco, and Houston also want the Games] and from around the world [Moscow, London, etc.] But I feel we have a great chance at succeeding. For one thing, those foreign cities already held Olympic Games. And, among the American cities, I feel that New York has an edge both because of its innate uniqueness, and due to the horrible events of 9/11," says Hilliard.

"It would be historic to hold an Olympic Games here. And the Olympics has a great sense of history."#



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Revolutionary Afterschool Series on PBS

By JAN AARON

Continue to inspire post September 11 patriotism with the "revolutionary" new kids' show, Liberty's Kids, a clever animated PBS series which features a galaxy of movie stars reenacting leaders from American history. Premiering September 2 (Labor Day), the 40-part series then settles into its regular 30-minute afterschool slot, Monday through Friday (check local listings for time). Additionally, six new episodes will run in November, with the remaining nine scheduled for early 2003. Through innovative story telling and first-rate animation. Liberty's Kids covers American history from 1773 to 1789, starting with The Boston Tea Party and ending with the inauguration of America's first President, George Washington.

Aimed at seven to 12-year-olds, the series focuses on key historical incidents through the eyes of James Hiller (Chris Lundquist) and Sarah Phillips (Reo Jones), two young apprentices working in Benjamin Franklin's (Walter Cronkite) Print Shop. Together, they prove they can get the scoop for Franklin's paper, as they meet revolutionary superstars such as Patrick Henry (Michael Douglas); Paul Revere (Sylvester Stallone); Thomas Jefferson (Ben Stiller), and Abigail Adams (Annette Bening). Eight-year- old Henri (Kathleen Barr), a French urchin befriended by Franklin, is the duo's sidekick and Moses (D. Kevin Williams), a slave who bought his freedom, keeps an eye on all three.

Two pilots available to the press did a fine job of dramatizing the whys, wherefores and reprisals of "The Boston Tea Party" and the British Parliament's "Intolerance Acts" in response to it. Here, at Franklin's request, Moses, James and Henri travel to Boston to meet Sarah who has arrived from England on a tea-laden ship under raid by the colonists. Fleeing, they hide in the house of the African–American poet, Phillis Wheatley (Tina Dixon), where Sarah first learns the horrors of slavery. Lesser-knowns of history like Wheatley add value to the series. Each segment also features three oneminute flash games and news segments, which further reinforce the learning elements of the show and lead to its website (www.pbskids.org/ libertyskids).

Produced by DIC Entertainment in association with Public Broadcasting Systems, Liberty's Kids' research team included Stanford's Professor Jack Rakove and UCLA's Dr. Gordon Berry. #



Liberty's Kids L-R: Sarah, James, Moses & Henri

COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

In the Mix: The New Normal

Airs on Channel 13

September 15, 22, and 29, 11:30 am and 6:00 pm A collection of documentaries in which teens relay personal stories about the day of the attacks.

An Evening of Reflection and Hope

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Center Manhattan Symphony Space, Broadway & 95th St. www.jccmanhattan.org September 10, 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

A commemoration of the one-year anniversary of September 11th with written testimony and music. *Free admission*.

New York City's September 11th Commemoration

September 11, 8:00 a.m.-10:29 a.m. www.nvc.gov A procession of pipe and drum corps led by the FDNY, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the NYPD and the City Corrections and Sanitation Departments, marching from each borough and arriving at the World Trade Center site at 8 a.m. At the site there will be two moments of silence; former Mayor Giuliani will lead a reading of the names of those lost. The President will visit the site late in the afternoon. At sunset, there will be an observance at The Sphere in Battery Park. Candlelight vigils will be held in Central Park, Van Cortland Park, Prospect Park, Flushing Meadows Park and Snug Harbor.

Music of Remembrance and Voices of Inspiration

Metropolitan Museum of Art, September 11 www.metmuseum.org,

A daylong series of free special programs: "Music of Remembrance," as listed below, in the Medieval Sculpture Hall; and "Voices of Inspiration," selected readings appropriate to the date, at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in The Charles Engelhard Court.

11:00 a.m. –Judith Serkin, cello, and friends: works for four cellos

12:00 p.m. –Parthenia, A Consort of Viols 1:00 p.m. –Stephanie Chase, violin: Bach violin sonatas

2:00 p.m. –Paula Robison, flute **3:00 p.m.** –Edward Arron, cello, and friends: Schubert Quintet in C major. Free with Museum admission.

Spring Will Come Again

Lincoln Center–Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse Rose Building, 65th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, 10th Floor, September 11–6:00pm www.lincolncenter.org An evening of song and poetry Admission is free; tickets available at the Juilliard Box Office.

September 11 Observed: Yahrzeit

Museum of Jewish Heritage 18 First Place in Battery Park City www.mjhnyc.org Open 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. and free on September 11th Exhibit on display through January 5,2003 An exhibition of the yahrzeit-the Jewish observance that marks the anniversary of death-of September 11th.

Art and Observance

School of Visual Arts 209 East 23rd Street www.schoolofvisualarts.edu September 11–October 9 Reception is on September 11, 5 pm-8 pm An exhibition of artwork created by SVA faculty and students. Faculty art is displayed in the Visual Arts Museum at the above address and student work is at Westside Gallery on 141 West 21st Street.

Post 9/11 Resources

Columbia University's Teachers College http://dlp.tc.columbia.edu/teachin A website launched by Teachers College with resources for teachers interested in a more global approach. It will include lesson plans, video presentations and other materials from leaders in curriculum development and diversity issues.

September 11 Commemoration

Barnard College 3009 Broadway

September 11, 8:40a.m.–9:00p.m.

Barnard College has planned a daylong commemoration, including tree planting (4:30 p.m.), an art mural which three city elementary school children will paint in memory of the tragedy (12:45 p.m.–4:00 p.m.), a candlelight vigil (9:00 p.m.), and other memorials to mark the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

ARTifacts: Kids Respond to a World Crisis Gallery in lower Manhattan 180 Maiden Lane September 1st - the end of the year Monday-Friday 9:00a.m.–5:00p.m. The Center for Arts Education and the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Inc. jointly present an exhibit of artwork by New York City and tri-state area students, in grades K-12, expressing their reactions to the attacks of September 11th.

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Cuomo

Award

Winner

Continued from page 4

dropout prevention philosophy, the initiative will include a literacy component. Each mentor and mentee will receive an age-appropriate list of books on B.R.A.V.E. Juliana themes (ethnic heroes, non-traditional families, world religions, geography, immigrants and immigration, history) from which they may choose those books which interest them most. Mentoring USA will order the books-which will be the child's to keep-with the understanding that they are to be read and discussed with their mentors. In addition, Mentoring USA has created a guidebook of activities that build upon the book list, such as "Everyday Acts of Kindness and Courage," "Don't Tell Me What I Can't Do: Identifying Gender-Stereotyped Attitudes," "What to do with the Empty Lot: An Exercise in Problem-Solving,' and "What is Community."

Yet B.R.A.V.E. Juliana is more than simply a literacy program. In addition to the reading and discussion sessions, Mentoring USA will schedule a "speakers' bureau" of consultants, including experts from various fields (child psychology, religion, conflict resolution, diversity education, theater, dance and movement, visual arts) who will facilitate interactive group programming with mentors and mentees around B.R.A.V.E. Juliana themes. We piloted several such sessions last year, to great success. Mentees and their mentors engaged in a wide variety of horizon-expanding activities, including some of the following experiences:

• Making identity collages. Youth and mentors made autobiographical artworks using pictures and text found in magazines which they then pasted all together to represent their community centers or schools.

• A theater workshop consisting of individual skits depicting conflicts experienced in real life by the youth, with peaceful solutions presented back to the group in the form of skits.

• A book-making session, led by a psychoanalyst who specializes in art therapy, in which each youth created a book with the help of his or her mentor, and each writer got a chance to read his or her story to the group.

Using various educational and experiential methods, Mentoring USA hopes to complement our existing mentoring programs by offering our mentors and mentees both a process and a forum for advocating cultural diversity. We are grateful that David McCourt, little Juliana's father, has selected Mentoring USA as a vehicle to share some of his daughter's exceptional sensitivity to the feelings of others, a spirit which is embodied, to some degree, in all children. It is our responsibility as adults to continue nurturing this spirit.

In David McCourt's words, "Juliana, at four years old, was an extraordinary example of a person who displayed sensitivity to everyone's feelings. Her gift of love to all children was manifested in her mother's love. If we can pass that gift on to create more harmony among children, future generations will be more compassionate. After September 11th, I realized that I could spread Juliana's message of love and thereby teach children to live without hate."

Let Mentoring USA train you as a mentor to help a child live and learn about other children in their school and neighborhood and around the globe. For more information on how to become involved with B.R.A.V.E. Juliana, visit www.mentoringusa.org or www.julianamccourt.org.#

Matilda Raffa Cuomo is Founder and Chairperson, Mentoring USA. Susan Moesker is Acting Director.

Levy

Continued from page 4

the fact that principals and other administrators who lead schools still do not have a contract, that assistant principals make less than teachers they supervise, and the recent teacher contract demands more of their time and resources. Not withstanding the potentially disastrous state of our fiscal situation in the city and its effect on schools, I believe that the future holds promise.

For those of us who believe strongly in the value of public education, the path is clear. There is unity, a common purpose, that energizes the atmosphere. There are those who are still asking, "What is the Mayor's vision for our public schools? When will he articulate it?" He certainly hasn't shared it with me, but if I were to guess, it would be very simply stated, "NYC will have the best public education system in the nation."#

Jill Levy is the President of the Council of Supervisors and Administrators (CSA).

Meningitis Continued from page 22

Turner. It is made of a derivative of the protein that coats meningitis-causing bacteria. The vaccine becomes effective after 14 days and protects for three to five years. The average cost of the vaccine is around \$75-\$85, but many colleges provide the vaccine at a lower cost.

Although the risk for off-campus students is less than those who dorm, it is recommended that they receive vaccine as well. "I don't push as hard, but I still think they should get vaccinated," says Kathleen Letizia. "We review the risks and benefits of the vaccine and provide it based on the student's decision," says Dr. Ciotoli. Amee, a sophomore who commutes to NYU, believes off-campus students are treated differently. For example, she says, "People who move in get a package of info that we don't get."

Although some do not receive the meningitis vaccine believing the chances of becoming infected are small, experts say the benefits outweigh the cost. "There is a high mortality rate for meningococcal meningitis even with treatment, so prevention is important," advises Dr. Ciotoli. As for Olivia, she realizes the importance of prevention as well. "I remember hearing on the news last year about a student at another university who got meningitis and died from it. I'm not saying something like that will definitely happen at NYU, but it's always best to be safe and get the vaccination."#

Letters

Continued from page 2

Special Education

To the Editor:

Do you have any information on help for children labeled as Mild Intellectual Disability?

Karen Campbell-High Via email

To the Editor:

I am in desperate need of information on afterschool programs for an 8 year-old with learning disabilities. Annamaria Rios

Via email

Sirvis

Continued from page 19

Northeast, including New York City, and, with an increasing infusion of grant money, has become a more prominent competitor as a "career-oriented liberal arts college."

Students love the place, the president says, because "here they are individuals." There's the young African American who created her own program, "The Gospel Diva," on the college's expanded radio station, the Jewish student who arrived with his electric menorah, and the foster child from the Bronx. And then there are Vermont's own, such as the undergraduate who went on to become the local police chief. "We are," the president says, "a private college with a public mission."

Do they succeed? Well, they have a 70 percent retention rate, which is considered "excellent" for an institution such as SVC, and a 90 percent employment rate, in the first year after graduation. Students receive extraordinary attention as freshmen, do at least one field placement (service learning), and enjoy entry into a diverse job market. At SVC the hot fields are also the open fields: Criminal Justice, Nursing, Psychology and Business Partnerships with hospitals have been growing, collaborative programs especially in radiologic technology. Since 9/11, the number of applicants in justice fields-police, sheriff, immigration and naturalization, paralegal, etc.-has gone up three times overall and six times for women

The special place that is SVC has in Dr. Barbara Sirvis a special person in more senses than one. A former special education teacher, with particular interest in children with physical disabilities, she received her doctorate from Teachers College, Columbia University and went on to pick up degrees and expertise in management and administration. Before coming to Vermont, Dr. Sirvis was Vice President of Academic Affairs at SUNY Brockport and has held and holds national and international posts in higher education. As for Baileigh, she's just special all on her own.#

Math Adds Up

Continued from page 8

In a third room, staff member Dawn Selnes is using colored tiles to help teachers see what happens to the area of a shape as the perimeter is changed.

In her own classroom Dr. Fosnot is transformed from a scholarly professor to an energetic teacher with bare feet and a baseball cap. Faces light up at the conclusion of her lesson. "So what you're saying is this triangle here is similar to this triangle here," she points to shapes that students drew on the blackboard. "Can kids do this?" she asks. The teachers nod.

She explains that teachers used to start by proving the triangles were similar. But now they are starting with real world problems, like the swimmers that might have been hit by the boat. "Mathematics is about ongoing observation of the world around you," she says, "It's about teaching a discipline that's alive."#

For more information about Mathematics in the City call Dawn Selnes 212-650-8148 or Pablo Carvajal 212-650-6346 or go to www.mitccny.org

Fantastic Fall Festivities in Everett Children's Adventure Garden, NY Botanical Garden

This fall surround yourself with the orange, yellow, and red leaves of the trees in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden and experience the beauty and excitement of nature in the one-of-a-kind, 12-acre indoor/outdoor science museum where children can explore, discover and learn how plants live and function. There are so many things to do-from ballet dancing to building scarecrows. Participate in our specially designed inquiry-based programs that stimulate a child's enthusiasm for science, ecology and conservation.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES FOR CHIL-DREN OF ALL AGES

Tuesday –Sundays and Monday holidays: 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Throughout the season, children dissect plant parts such as seeds and flowers, experiment to find out if plants make sugar to use as food, investigate bugs that help plants grow, use microscopes to see plants up close, press flowers and plants to take home, and much more. We encourage children to explore, examine, inquire and question just like scientists. A few of the many things children discover include, what's in a flower by taking it apart and putting it back together — and children have an opportunity to look at things through a bee's eye view!

Budding Botanists *Every Tuesday–Friday,* 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Join us for activities specially designed for the early learner (2–5 year olds). Nature crafts featuring recyclables and experiments abound. Using washed juice boxes, milk cartons, soda bottles, or egg cartons create an instrument, garden pet, or experiment to take home. Activities change regularly and are complemented with a colorful story each week. Drop in!

September

Ballet Among the Blooms–Saturday, September 21, 3–5 p.m.

Delight in an afternoon of ballet in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden. The New York City Ballet's education department along with the School of American Ballet dancers will introduce children to ballet steps and choreography.

Scarecrow and Harvest Weekend-Saturday and Sunday, September 28 and 29, Adventure Garden 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Family Garden 1-5:30 p.m. Come enjoy Scarecrow and Harvest Weekend at the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden and the Everett Children's Adventure Garden. At the Family Garden, build a scarecrow to live at the Family Garden, make corn husk dolls, and sip apple cider. Then stop by the Adventure Garden where children can dissect apples and make fruit prints, create a fall field notebook with autumn leaves, decorate gourds, participate in a fruit and seed hunt, and much more. For more information please call (718) 817-8700. The Everett Children's Adventure Garden has been made possible by the leadership generosity of Edith and Henry Everett.

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Resource Reference Guide

To most people R & R means rest & relaxation. To Education Update, R & R means Resources & References around the city. The listings that follow will help you gain greater knowledge of the city's enor-mous and enriching array of offerings.

BOOKS

Bank Street Bookstore, 112th St. & Bway; (212) 678-1654 Exceptional selection of books for children, teachers and parents. Knowledgeable staff. Free monthly newsletter. Open Mon-Thurs 10-8 PM, Fri & Sat 10-6 PM, Sun 12-5 PM.

Logos Books, 1575 York Avenue , (@ 84th Street), (212) 517-7292 A charming neighborhood bookstore located in Yorkville featuring quality selections of classics, fiction, poetry, philosophy, religion, bibles and children's books, as well as greeting cards, gifts and music. Books can be mailed. Outdoor terrace.

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CAMPS

Sol Goldman YM-YWHA of the Educational Alliance, 344 E. 14th Street, New York, N.Y. 10003, (212) 780-0800

The New Town Day Camp, for children ages 2.9-6.0 years, is located at the Sol Goldman Y of The Educational Alliance, 344 E. 14th Street. The camp provides outdoor activities including rooftop playground and sprinkler time, and indoor fun with music, arts & crafts and drama. Field trips to The NY Aquarium, CP Zoo, and other interesting places play an integral part in the camp pro gram. Call 212-780-0800 Ext. 241. The New Country Day Camp for children ages 5-11.5 years, is located at the Henry Kaufman Campgrounds in Staten Island. The campgrounds feature two swimming pools, boating ponds, athletic fields, and hiking and nature trails. Call 212-780-2300, Ext.. 357. The Edgies and Torah Tots Day Camps are located at the Educational Alliance, 197 E. Broadway. Both camps are for children ages 2-5 years and pro-vide outdoor/indoor play, art activities, dramatic play, music, water play, trips, picnics, and more. Torah Tots features strong empha-sis on Jewish practice. Call 212-780-2300, Ext. 360.

COLLEGES

September Events at Sarah Lawrence College

EXHIBIT: American Pastoral- Paintings by Joy Moser. Sunday, September 1 through Monday September 30. Esther Raushenbush Library, Free

Sarah Lwrence college alumna Joy Moser's landscapes grew out of her work as an abstract painter and memories of her childhood in the mountains of Pennsylvania. A former Professor of Art Education at New York University, Moser is now a full-time painter. She uses a camera as a sketchbook, shooting multiple points of view and using photographs as a catalyst for her paint-ings. "The process of painting a landscape is always a media-tion between memory and the photographic image pinned to my easel," Moser says. Her paintings have been exhibited in solo and group shows in New York and Massachusetts. For more information, please call (914) 395-2411.

LECTURE: "Black Feminists Living for the Revolution: A Multimedia Presentation"- A Talk by Dr. Kimberly Springer. Wednesday, September 18. Pillow Room, Esther Raushennbush Library, 6 PM, Free

Dr. Springer will deliver a mutimedia presentation on the history of black feminist organizations from 1968 to 1980. The editor of the anthology, Still Lifting, Still Climbing: African American Women's Conemporary activism, Springer uses oral history interviews and archival documents to trace the emergence and activities of these organizations.

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Polish Press Agency on Asia, Latin America and Africa he befriended Che Guevara, Salvador Allende and Patrice Lamumba; witnessed twenty-seven coups and revolutions and was sentenced to death four times. Kapuscinski is the author of The Emperor: Downfall of an Autocrat, about the fall of Ethiopia's Haile Selassie, Shah of Shahs, about the Iranian revoltion and most recently, The Shadow of the Sun, about his experiences in Africa

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