



Visionaries

College Night

By Shu Ming Fung

College Night was a series of workshops that helped educate high school seniors about the process of choosing and applying to the right colleges. Two introductory sessions taught students about the nuts and bolts of applying to college, including a timeline of deadlines, how to present grades and extracurricular activities on an application, and interview tips. A college bound senior's biggest challenges is how to choose the right school. We discussed a variety of topics including comparing different types of colleges. For example, a small col-

lege meant that students and teachers have a closer relationship, while a big college meant more diversity in the student body and the types of courses offered. We also compared private versus public colleges. For instance, students learned that private colleges are likely to be more expensive, but they also offer better financial plans. Another session was dedicated to essay writing; students brought their college essays, and tutors were on hand to give advice and critique their work. We finished the workshop with a panel of college gradu-

ates who shared their experiences in college. They offered their view on matters such as having a roommate, the types of courses, their majors, studying abroad, working part time, financial aid, etc. We would like to thank our panel speakers: Megan Bulfin, Vince Kwan, Amanda Castello, Gerry Amelio, Christy Clayborne, Nili Yossinger, and Otto Lee.

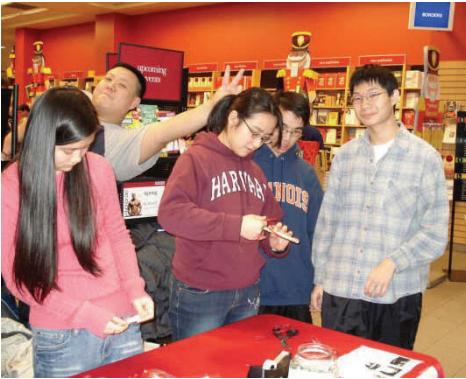
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Spirit of Giving Wraps Books

By Joyce Tam



Busy elves wrapping gifts.

Each holiday season, Project: VISION's volunteers wrap gifts for customers at local Borders and Barnes & Noble bookstores. This is one of our biggest fundraisers, and this year, we had a record number of students work the many shifts all over the Chicagoland area. One student reflects...

'Twas the weekend before Christmas, or Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, or Christmakkuh, or Festivus, or whatever your traditions may be. And all throughout bookstores in Chicago, every creature was stirring, including Project: VISION volunteers. With packages of books wrapped with care, each wrapper hoped they had eased the shopper there. The children were busy with adhesives stuck to their fingers. Shu in his hat and gloves had just settled

down when another rush came through the store. I sprang from my seat to assist in the matter. Away to the rolls of paper, I flew like a flash, tore off the price tag and threw up the nutcracker paper. The neon lights on the plane of the shiny store windows gave the luster of midnight to downtown Chicago. When, what to my sleepy eyes should appear, but a line of stragglers, and their bags of unwrapped gifts. With sheepish smiles, shoppers seemed rushed yet relieved, and I knew in a moment I'd be working overtime this eve. We flew to our station as if Santa commanded. "Now, Alex! Now, Michelle! Now Shu Ming and Brian! On, Andy! On, Melody! On, Sheron and Joyce! To the top of that stack! To the top of that pile! Now get to work! Get to work! Get

to work all!" As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, when they meet with an obstacle, crank it into overdrive. So up to the shoppers, the scissors they flew, with hands full of paper, and bags full of books. And then in a twinkling, I heard the door lock with he clinging and clanging of the keys to the store. As I drew in my scissors and was turning around... another customer?!?!

With the hard work of Project: VISION youth and the spirit of giving in our customers, we raised over \$9,000 this holiday season! We would like to thank our dedicated volunteers and generous donors! These funds will help us continue providing free youth services in the year to come!



Cut 1, 2. Tape 1, 2.

ACT Class

By Alex Kwan

It comes every year, and each year, students cower in fear. But no matter how fast they run, no matter where they hid, ready or not, here it comes! Yes, it's the ACT. All around the country, students are studying for the ACT hoping for a perfect score. It is a daunting task, but our community youth don't have to go it alone. Project: VISION has started its third year of ACT prep classes, helping high school students prepare for the Spring exam. In the last two years, over 30 students have completed the course, and of these, 70% have

made a significant two-point or greater improvement in their scores. (See figure 3-1). This year, participation has grown to 40 students. These students come from various schools including Whitney Young, Jones College Prep, Curie, and Kelly High Schools. This year's 12-week course is being taught by Megan Bulfin, who has been with Project: VISION since June 2006. She is an aspiring history teacher and has done a great job tutoring students so far. We wish these students and Megan good luck in their quest for that perfect score!



Student ACT Score Change

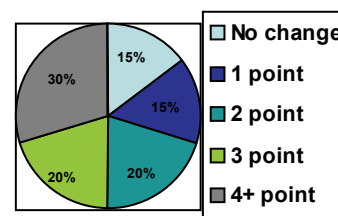


Figure 3-1

70% of students made a 2 point or more (statistically significant) improvement on their composite ACT scores after participating in our ACT Prep Class.

Local A-Listers Make Appearance at Shindig of the Year

By Joyce Tam



It was a frosty December night when the youth of Chinatown and Bridgeport gathered for the social event of the year (ok, not really)! The event? Project: VISION's Annual Holiday Party, of course! Provisioned with Rico-bene's pizza and pasta and donations of sweets and chips, the youth of Project: VISION partied hard on the eve of New Year's Eve.

The main attraction was Dance Dance Revolution, a PlayStation game. An inability to find

an adequate speaker caused the dancers to resort to Alex Kwan's speaker, which seemed to have one volume: VERY, VERY LOUD DESPITE THE PILE OF COATS ON TOP OF IT. Lucky for them, the rumble of the highway and rattle of the train outside drowned any noise from falling on neighboring ears while partygoers tried their luck at the game based on footwork and rhythm.

In the other corner was the game of Jenga. The clattering blocks of wood was fair competition to Alex's speaker. Though this game of physics was much slower and the players more cautious, they enjoyed themselves just as well as the frantic dancers.

Inside the cubicle, there was a riveting game of Monopoly. Surely these players would be the future real estate buyers and sellers of America. One could cut the

tension with a knife as the die fell from each player's hand and clattered on the board.

Next to this never-ending game was the game of Taboo, much more fun without the rules. Laced with back-handed compliments, it was all in good fun for this lively group.

Being the wild party animals that they are, the youth of Project:VISION reveled until the break of dawn, or, rather, 10:30 PM. Exhausted, yet satisfied, each partygoer went home with a smile, or leftover pie.



Creative Corner

Project: VISION

The mission of Project: VISION is to provide youth in the Bridgeport & Chinatown areas of Chicago with tools for educational, professional, personal, interpersonal, and civic development.

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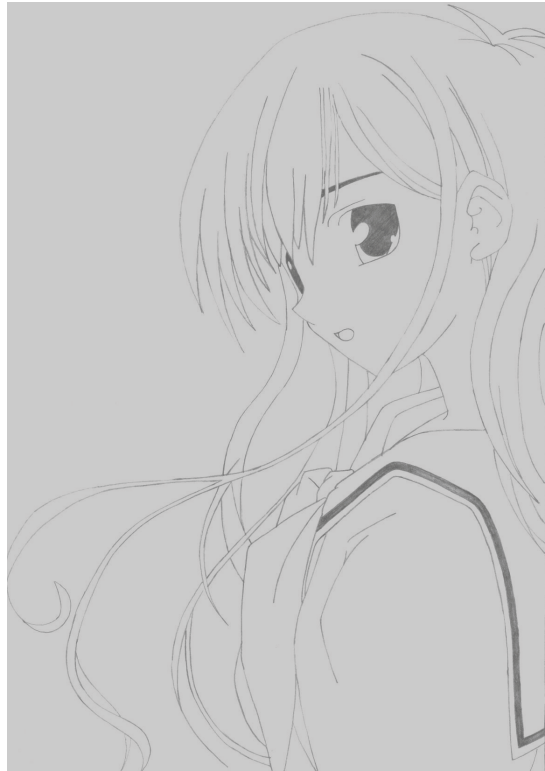
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Artwork by Jasmine Moy

New PV Student Committee Convenes

By Shu Ming Fung

One of Project: VISION's most exciting programs is our Student Committee. Last year, six dedicated students made up the group. Their accomplishments included creating our newsletter, *Visionaries*, helping coordinate PV's Open House, and hosting social activities such as a Halloween Party. During the year, youth learned about leadership and teamwork.

This Fall, we elected our second class of Committee officers:

President: Alex Kwan, Senior, Whitney Young High School

Vice President: Joyce Tam, Senior, Whitney Young High School

Secretary: Jasmine Moy, Freshman, Loyola University of Chicago

Treasurer: Shu Ming Fung, Senior, Whitney Young High School

The Committee has already coordinated the Holiday Party 2006 and helped give us many ideas for new PV programs. The group already has many plans on the horizon including a Game Night Fundraiser and a Summer Retreat for fellow PV students. Congratulations to our new officers! We wish them a successful and fun year with Project: VISION!

