

## Major Construction Plans to Change Neighborhood

By Nabila Taj



On Ashland Place, just a couple of blocks away from Tech, you might find yourself trapped in the maze of what one might call a pedestrian walkway. On the rainier days, this walkway has the ability to drench you in filthy water from head to toe. You take every step with a fear of stepping into another deep and mucky puddle. However, after this short, but sordid stroll, you will find yourself at the doors of the BAM Harvey Lichtenstein Theater, formerly known as the Majestic Theater.

What type of construction could be going on next door to this major performing arts venue? In the near future, the intersection of Fulton Street will be bestowed with the presence of Forté Condominiums, a residential foil to the BAM Cultural District. Designed by the 27-year old renowned architectural firm FXFWOLE, Forté is expected to be 30 stories high and housing over 108 condominiums.

In addition, BAM Local Development Corporation is on a mission to construct a district spanning between Fulton and Lafayette streets near Fort Greene Park. This cultural district will consist of The Theatre for New Audience

(collaboration between Frank Gehry and Hugh Hardy), a dance studio in a 20-story residential tower, a Visual and Performing Arts Library, and a public plaza built with an underground 400-car parking lot. For the most part, the goal is to transform Fort Greene into a mecca for artists and performers.

Mayor Bloomberg, a supporter of this scheme, believes that the BAM Cultural District will be a great asset in expanding the city's third largest business district in Downtown Brooklyn. The city will be contributing \$75 million in direct capital costs for this \$650 million project.

Jeffery Horowitz, the Founding Artistic Director, said, "It will be a center devoted to the power of language in the theater. We will produce Shakespeare alongside classic and modern plays exploring common themes between past and present." He is also interested in expanding the company's scope to thousands of students

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through education programs aimed at New York City public schools.

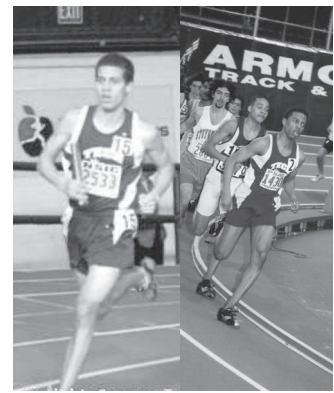
Bruce Baskind, Tech's AP of Social Studies, agrees that the cultural district can have a lasting effect on our own Tech community. "I certainly would want to work cooperatively with them. I'd like to see our own kids to be a part of it," he expressed.

Nonetheless, the question remains as to how long this project will actually take to fully develop. The blueprints for the Theatre were released in early 2005, and a substantial amount of headway has not been made as of yet.

Already, there are delays in the Visual and Performing Arts Library. The plans have been put on hold, and may even be completely deferred.

## Tech Track Stars Moves Tech to 12th in the Nation

By Melinda McLaren



Rafael Klein-Cloud and Darryll Oliver

Ever since 2003, Darryll Oliver and Rafael Klein-Cloud have become the shining stars of Brooklyn Tech's track team. This dynamic duo has raised the standard for fellow track teammates, recently placing 16th running the distance medley relay in the Penn Relays, one of the most prestigious and popular track meets in the world.

Between both student-athletes are many individual championships and team wins. Rafael has run all over the country including most of the East Coast, Ohio, Texas, Nevada and California. As a freshman, Rafael was a cross-country city champ. In his freshman indoor track season, he won the mile run at a Frosh/Soph City Championship with a time of 4:51.1 and Darryll came in second with a time of 4:51.4. Rafael later outdid Darryll in the mile run in his sophomore year. Darryll has been Borough and City Champion, and went to the Outdoor National Championship for the mile run as a freshman. They have both been on the Tech Distance Medley Relay team for two indoor seasons in a row. In 2006, their team ranked 17th in the nation and this year they rank 12th.

When Rafael was asked how was his experience as a Brooklyn Tech student-athlete, he said, "There have been really great guys on the team. For the most part, I've never really received the coaching I needed. For an overall experience, I have to say positive in spite of the fact that some of my goals remain unfulfilled."

Darryll and Rafael, running the same distance, often train together. "We're good friends who talk regularly. Every now and then we hang out on the weekends and we're in the same major [Bio-Med]. We train together and whatever I'm lacking in running capabilities, he makes up for it. We complement each other when it comes to training," said Darryll. While Darryll is known for his speed, Rafael has great endurance.

Both athletes are currently gearing up for academic and athletic life in the Ivy League. Darryll plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania and Rafael plans to attend Princeton University this fall. They both intend to join the track teams of their respective colleges.

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## Brooklyn Tech's 6th Annual Band Showcase

By Aida Mekonnen

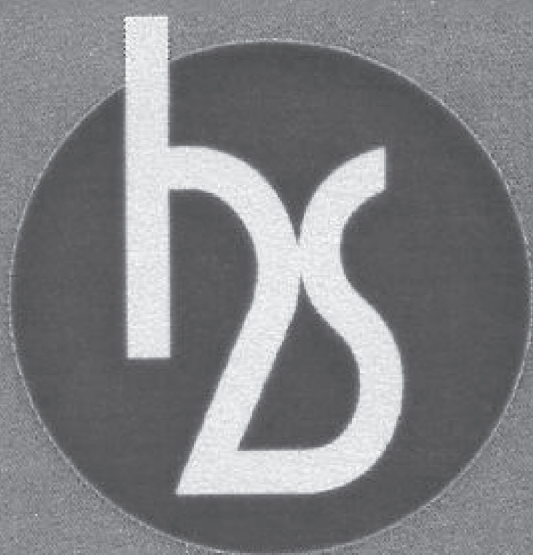
On Friday April 13, around forty students showed up to attend Brooklyn Tech's sixth annual Band Showcase to watch three bands perform. Each band had a different style and sound.

The first band to perform, TNT, gave great cover versions of The Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Dani California" and Bob Dylan's "All Along Watchtower". The last song performed by them, although not as great, was a good instrumental cover of "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin.

The second band, Vudka, introduced metal to the showcase and performed two covers, "Open Car" by Porcupine Tree and "Mechanix" by Megadeth. Before finishing, Vudka showed off their guitars and drums with a bit of improvisation at

the end. The last band to take center stage was "Are You Experienced?" Covering Jimi Hendrix's "Voodoo child", "Fire", and "Foxy Lady" the band almost instantly pleased the crowd.

At the end, although a very close competition, "Are You Experienced?" proved to be a crowd favorite with their Jimi Hendrix covers getting first place. Following "Are You Experienced?" was Vudka, whose frontman, Danny is now looking to form another band. Coming in last, although delivering good vocals and instrumental performances, was TNT. All the bands gave great performances, covering artists from Bob Dylan to Jimi Hendrix making the showcase all the more worthwhile.



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