

The SLAM!/USG table was set up to the direct left of the stage which featured performers such as Full Circle, Nature, and Vegas, and provided hip-hop and reggae music. Due to city and neighborhood association imposed time constraints on outdoor amplified sound, several acts were unable to perform. The acts that did perform however, exemplified the talent that Hunter students possess. I caught sight of several pairs of legs high in the air as break-dancers took over the stage.

On the other side of the SLAM! table stood arguably the best stress-relieving device around, an inflatable boxing ring. Free of cost, students battled each other with oversized gloves until their cerebrums were spinning and the breath was beaten out of them. While recovering from his boxing defeat, Luis Fermin relayed: "The boxing ring was exhausting but fun."

Luis, one of the many people coming in from outside services, participated in the Street Fair as a representative from Youth Enrichment Services, an outreach program offering counseling, information, and support for Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning Youth. "The Street Fair is helping unite youth, gay or straight," Luis volunteered. Staff leader and Program Director Walter Hunt added, "I am having a good time here as well. I feel like a generation gap is closing as I haven't felt like a youth for some time. I am impressed at how many people are taking information from our table."

There were many other tables arranged on the street. Organizations such as the Korean American Student Union, Daughters of Africa, Puerto Rican Club, Gay Men's Alliance and Lesbians Rising, Free Tibet, Haitian Club, and the Bangladesh Student Union were among the many groups represented with welcoming signs. The eclectic personality of Hunter was epitomized by the arrangement of club tables. I had trouble deciding which tables to visit because each projected a desire to be investigated. All were being represented by the colorful flyers and pamphlets being distributed.

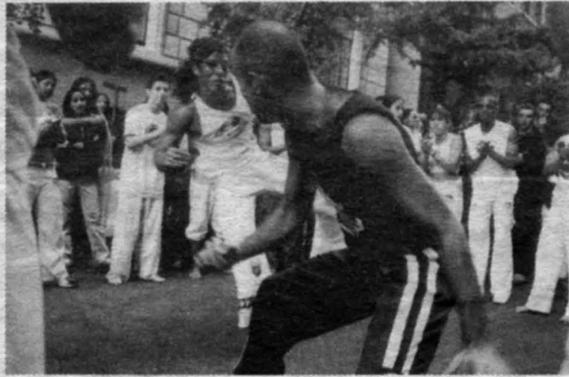
While visiting the Bangladesh Student Union I learned how to make a popular dish known as Jhalmuri. I watched as chickpeas, onions, ginger, and chanachur (a snack with dried chickpeas) were thrown into a Pringles can, and shaken. The concoction was then poured into a plate for my hesitant and slightly frightened tongue to taste. Needless to say, I survived the food and was actually pleased to find it more than palatable. The Union encourages students of all ethnicities to visit their club room.

Besides the free Bangladeshi food, other items were gratis. The Chinese Student Union was distributing free contraceptives neatly wrapped in discreet red envelopes traditionally used for gifts during the Chinese New Year. Nelson Ho said, "This is my first year here. I love this Street Fair because it is helping people open up to other cultures. My job today is to promote the club, give away free stuff, and try to get people to come visit."

Political and career oriented organizations were also represented. The Chemistry Club displayed balloons with the club's emblem. There was also information about the Anthropology Club, The Career Services Center, The Health Services Center, as well as a table for voter registration. Nader 2000 was a rather vocal group supporting Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader in the upcoming elections.

Also represented was the Bahai Faith, an alternative organization committed to the idea of unity and equality among all races. The sign hanging above their table boldly stated, "Regard ye not one another as strangers; ye are the fruits of one tree and the leaves of one branch."

Overall, the Annual Hunter Street Fair was a success; arguably better than previous years. Junior Juliette Wertz captured the sentiment of many as she conveyed, "I think this Street Fair is good for Hunter. In a school where there are so many people and no one talks to each other, it is nice to see people socializing. I feel a little cheesy with the games because this is college, but it is nice to see some type of school spirit". My only complaint is that this organized promoter of school spirit is not held each semester, but only once a year.



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ELIZABETH BORDA



PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA KLEIN, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

**STREET FAIR SCENES.** Clockwise from top: Capoeira Club rips it up; Hip Hop Advocates (2); Caribbean Student Union does their part for the insane buffet that is Hunter; Palestinian club speakers testify about the tragic situation in Jerusalem; Columbian Club cutie dropping jaws as she belly dances to Shakira; Below, SLAM members take a well deserved chill. Cynthia Carrion, on right, was one of the MCs for the day.



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