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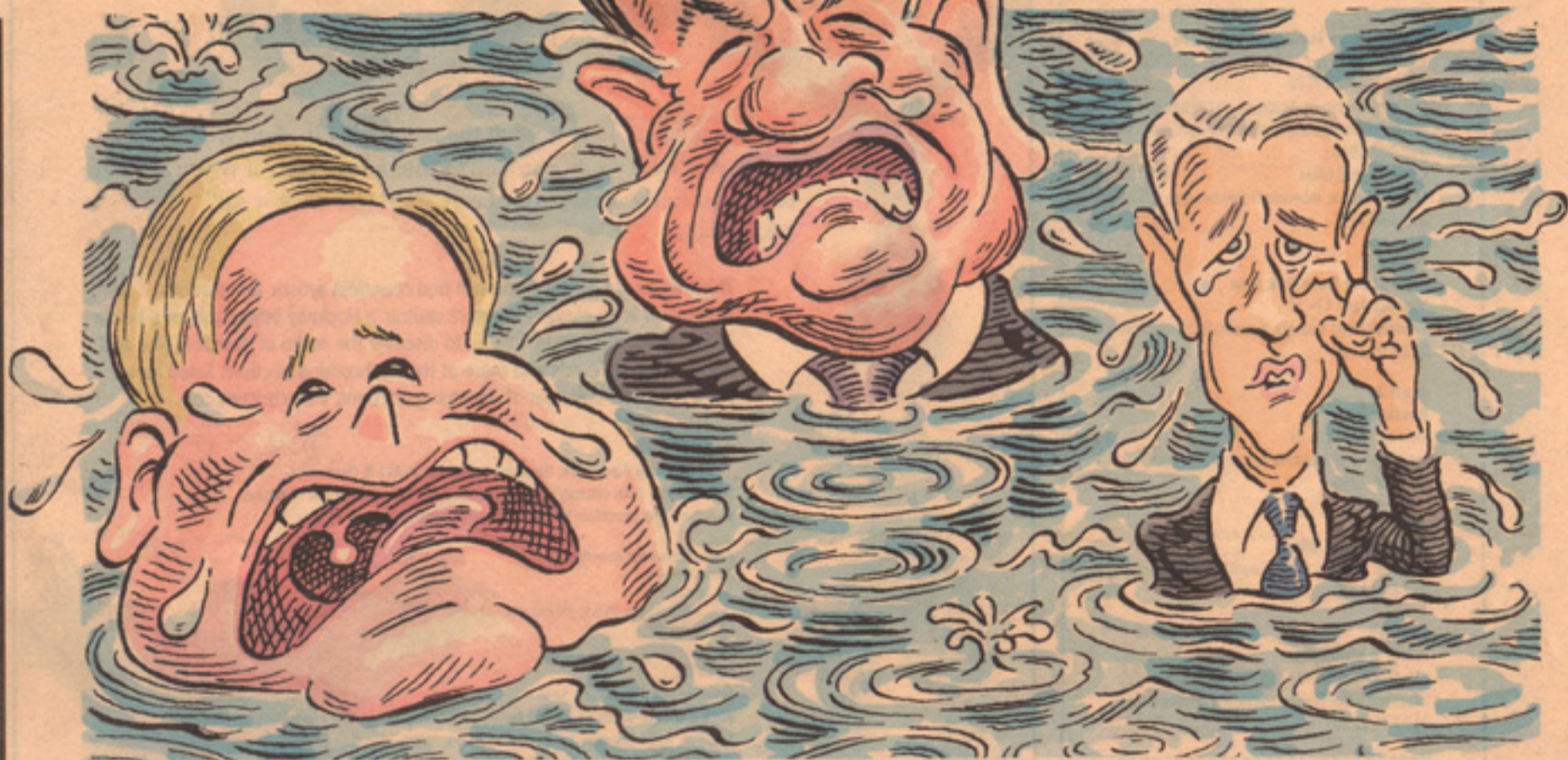
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NEW YORK'S SMA

# What Will You Do For Your Summer Vacation?

From creative writing to medical Spanish, the summer is a time of opportunity

by **Jillian Blume**

Robert F. Kennedy made a speech in Cape Town, South Africa in 1966 in which he stated, "There is a Chinese curse which says, 'May he live in interesting times.' Like it or not, we live in interesting times..." Today, the "interesting times" can be viewed as a curse or as an opportunity, particularly for students, to examine all the paths possible within an area of interest. These are certainly challenging times with the global financial markets in turmoil and a job market that can be classified as dismal. Simultaneously, technology, culture, and just about every professional field is rapidly and continually transforming, which makes the need for continuing education more relevant the ever.

"Summer programs can be tremendously important for students," says Shannon Duff, college coach and founder of Collegiate Compass, which is based in New York City and Greenwich, Connecticut. According to Duff, summer programs

can help students in a number of different ways. They can be used to further a particular interest such as creative writing, to explore an extracurricular pursuit such as dancing, that will add to a student's credentials and further their talent, or to determine academic direction. "If students are thinking about majoring in engineering, I suggest that they do a summer program in engineering to get their feet wet," she says. "It can also help to support a student's case for a particular major. It shows that they've been prepared and that they know a bit about that subject, so admissions officers will see their application as credible."

It can be hard to stand out in a crowd of applicants for spots in the top graduate schools, and summer programs can make the difference between getting in or not getting in. There are a wide variety of opportunities in the summer, including intensive language programs, painting and writing, business courses, and unique volunteering opportunities,

which provide experiences that look impressive both on an application and in an interview.

New York City offers a wealth of programs including some of the top ranked colleges in the country and some of the most unique cultural and creative opportunities. In this section, *The Educated Observer* takes a look at some of the most intriguing,

## **Fashion U: The College for the Business of Fashion**

Fashion is a serious, competitive, and lucrative business. The College for the Business of Fashion is a private institution founded in 1939 that is set apart by its singular focus on the fashion industry and by its location in New York, one of the world's fashion capitals. Their Fashion U, a program for visiting college students, runs for five weeks in July with a schedule of three-credit courses including core courses and electives. With class sizes of no more than 19 students, there's in-depth interaction

**At Fashion U, the experience is hands-on as students become trendspotters over the summer.**

between faculty and students, and the curriculum is based on learning through experience.

Urban Chic, a core course, has students examining the fashions of New York's diverse neighborhoods. "We go to the Lower East Side, to Williamsburg, Harlem, the Upper East Side, and the East Village, and then students compare these

fashions with the goal of becoming trendspotters," says Terry Burstein, Associate Chair of the Fashion department. Industry experts and guest lecturers teach the courses including the second core course, Cultural Connections to Fashion. "Fashion is also a reflection of the times," says Burstein, "and this course helps our students understand that

