On December 3, 2013 students from all three schools dropped over 2,000 ping pong balls down the Grand Staircase in protest of the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct. While the event did not injure anyone, first semester students were called to a judiciary hearing by Campus-Wide Safety Coordinator Alan Wolf. In a judiciary hearing, the accused are brought before a panel of three students—one from each school—and two administrators along with the complainant. This panel decides the punishment given to the accused.

Two of the students—Maja Griffin and Martina Cox, both Art ‘15—accepted 50 hours of community service as a punishment, rather than having to attend the judiciary hearing. Two other students—Harrison Cullen (BSE ‘15) and Pete Halupka (Art ‘15)—attended the hearing and received 45 hours of disciplinary probation. The fifth student, Aaron Kuhn (Art ‘14), did not take part in the action and was fairly accused of doing so by complainant Wolf. In a statement made public by Kuhn, the student stated: “I wasn’t anywhere near the site of the incident when it happened. I had nothing to do with it actively or passively. Actually, I wish I had.” Kuhn later speculated as to why Wolf named him as a participant, listing the possibilities as “The administration is devoting so much time and energy to collaring and penalizing students for what was indeed a very silly and harmless action that they, in their exhaustion, have halocephalized my presence in the security footage.”

In a statement read aloud at the judiciary hearing, Harrison Cullen notes that he and Pete Halupka “have prepared a petition to which thirty-seven members of the Cooper Union community have attached their signatures, thus formalizing their own involvement in the ping pong ball drop.” In his statement, Cullen took issue with Wolf’s complaints and questioned the Safety Coordinator’s motives: “It’s possible that Alan Wolf’s accusations are founded upon sincere concern for the students of the Cooper Union, his recent history as Campus-Wide Safety Coordinator contradicts this notion.” Cullen cites Wolf’s involvement in “restrict[ing] access to restrooms and water fountains while simultaneously blocking fire exits with private security guards, which occurred last May during the occupation” among other incidents. In a similar statement read aloud, Halupka closed with a statement to Cooper students: “We have to be reminded of what we value before we stand up for it. You compose this place. I was reminded looking at my peers in the hearing today that the students united will never be defeated.”

**TCP: How much do you like your job at Cooper?**
**BA: I love this job!**

**TCP: What advice would you give to Cooper students?**
**BA: Travel as soon as you can and often. See the world and experience cultures different from your own.**

**TCP: Who is your favorite professor at Cooper? Why?**
**BA: Out of deference to my colleagues, I’ll simply have to say... myself.**

**TCP: What are some of your hobbies?**
**BA: No hobbies. I have an art career that takes all the energy I can give it.**

**TCP: Do you have any closing remarks?**
**BA: If you’d like to see my work, my website is www.betsyalwin.com**

**NEO NEW YORK**

For the past couple of weeks, Cooper students have found themselves stopping near the large glass panels in the NAB that overlook the gallery space of LL1. Curious students and faculty peer down to see tables, projectors, stickers and quietly looking individuals at a convention of sorts. This is NEO NEW YORK, as the large label on the windows across suggests.

“NEO NY is focused largely on defining visual thinking and conceptualization.”

NEO NEW YORK is a Cooper Union-based workshop that aims to educate and assist students through a series of lectures, portfolio reviews and meet-and-greets, culminating in a final exhibition hosted on February 13th. Through an application process, NEO NEW YORK picked workshop participants, many of whom are Cooper students. NEO NY is focused largely on redefining visual thinking and conceptualization.

Workshops were headed by prominent designers, artists and innovators such as Paul Saher, Maja Cole, Jake Yuzna, Aleksandra Gornyuski and Maria Olson as well as the NY-based trend-forecasting group K-Hole. The Pioneer spoke to Virginia Commonwealth University Graphic Design student Michael Walker who attended NEO NY about his experience. Walker stated, “I found my NEO NY experience to be an engaging exploration of objects, methods, and ways of thinking. Collaborating with international students via a system of small groups created tiers of interaction; it made it so that I could focus intensely on one subject in my group and learn from the way other groups engaged with their subjects.”

In a progressively virtual and visual world, workshops such as NEO NY at the Cooper Union truly work towards the advancement of Art, spreading the changing ways that designers and artists define the way we perceive and depict.  

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**FACES OF COOPER: IRV BRAZINSKY**

**ALISON TAU (‘77)**

The Pioneer recently sat down with Professor Irv Brazinsky to discuss how he became interested in Chemical Engineering, what brought him to the Cooper School of Engineering, and his advice on learning engineering.

The Cooper Pioneer: Where are you originally from?

Irv Brazinsky: Well I was born in Manhattan right here at Beth Israel Hospital, and it's right across the street from where I went to high school at Stuyvesant. I think my parents were living in Manhattan at the time, and I moved to Brooklyn when I was two and a half. I didn't leave Brooklyn until after I graduated from Cooper Union, which was at age 21, and then I went to live in Cleveland for a year. I've been around to some extent, lived in Bledhelshen, Pennsylvania for a year, I lived in Cleveland for a few years, and I lived in Boston for about ten years, and then I came back to Jersey. So, New York City area. But you could say I'm from Brooklyn.

TCP: Could you tell us a little bit about your educational and professional background?

Irv: [I went to] public school, first through fourth grade, Hebrew Parochial School, fifth through eighth, then Stuyvesant High School, Cooper Union undergraduate, Master's at Lehigh, and PhD at MIT. I worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for a few years in Cleveland between Master's and PhD, then I worked for several companies after MIT: Polaroid, Celanese, Foster-Wheeler, and I'd say I have about twenty-five years of industrial and government experience. Then, about thirty years at Cooper Union, Sarah Lawrence, Cooper Cooler research administration.

TCP: So what made you choose engineering and what do you like about chemical engineering?

Irv: Well, originally, for some reason, I remember wanting to be a chemist. And in high school, my classmate Jack Fried said, “Oh, you should be a chem, engineer, because you like math, you like physics, and chemists don’t get into that,” of course he was wrong, and then he told me about Cooper Union. So here was the chance to go to a great school and be an engineer. So the fact that Cooper Union offered engineering, and there was a heavy math and physics component made me decide to go into chemistry, engineering.

TCP: “He told me about Cooper Union. So here was the chance to go to a great school and be an engineer.”

Irv: “...he told me about Cooper Union. So here was the chance to go to a great school and be an engineer.”

TCP: How do you think Cooper Union has changed since you were a student?

Irv: Well, in some ways it's changed a lot and in some ways it's stayed the same. First of all, there's a manned moon program, there was no master's program when I was here. So that has led to research, and this research has filtered down to the undergraduate level.

TCP: What brought you back to Cooper Union and when did you start working here?

Irv: I started working here in 1983. Actually, what brought me back, well, I was working in industry and I used to ride the bus with a guy name S.I. Cheng. We got to talk, and you know, I was coming out of New York and we'd drive, and it turned out that he was a professor at Cooper Union, so we had a lot to talk about. And then, he felt that I would fit in with the chemical engineering department, given my background, so he convinced me to apply to Cooper Union. So I applied, this was about 1984, and he and I both got the job. He told me that he had to hard work about whether I wanted to change the focus of my career, from working in industry, doing design, and that's sort of the reason Cooper hired me. And it took me a while. It was a good career move at that point.

However, I couldn't leave right away, so I remember making the commitment during the summer of '84, but I did not come to Cooper until '85. During that time there was a lot for me to finish up at Foster-Wheeler, which included three months in Dublin, Ireland working, basically, on Splenda. And we worked on the pilot plant to produce Splenda in a suburb of Dublin. And after I came here in '85, I must have spent about ten years consulting for Foster-Wheeler. Mostly the process I consulted on was the decalcification of coffee using supercritical carbon dioxide.

When I first came to Cooper, I used to give a lot of problems in thermodynamics, so not too much anymore.

TCP: What is your role at Cooper? What is your department? What is your research?

Irv: Chemical engineering, I believe, was the last of the engineering to be formed at Cooper; in the late '50s. Chemical engineering is a very versatile engineering, the others are not, but chemical engineering is the most versatile. That's kind of the role of chemical engineering to supplement what the others do. A lot of people originally didn't even think of chemical engineering as engineering. Industrialized chemistry, maybe, and that was the role in society.

The first five years here, I was '75 to '80, I had core curricula with curriculum coordinators. But we received a distinguished ABET review in '75. It was here for about a month, and I was really shocked and I didn't really know what was going on. And with what they decided was that they would take Cooper, and it was the more direct disciplines. And they appointed her in new Eleanor, Braun, and she think she's an expert on ABET. And after she came, the whole school's self review. During my early years here, the chairman of the department was S.I. Cheng. He was chairman from when we were established, departments, from '76 to '79, then he retired and I became chairman until this past twenty years. Twenty-five years, that's long enough.

TCP: How much do you like your job here at Cooper?

Irv: I really like it very much. I look forward to it every morning despite my five-hour round trip door-to-door commute. I like the teaching, I like the research, and it's really good interacting with the students that we have here. You can see that some of them are really interested in what you're saying. And the research, I just came from a Cooper Cooler research meeting.

TCP: What advice would you give to Cooper students?

Irv: Some thing I say in class is you're not here to learn, you're here to get a degree. So, if you have any problem, you can do that. You're here to learn how to learn, and to understand what engineering is about. Engineering is very science-based, so pay strict attention to your math, physics, and chemistry courses. You get a lot of a math, physics, and chemistry here. I think within the first couple of years probably a couple of courses short of what you would need to get a degree at other schools. Ask them about the career. I think you don’t do that. Oh, and don't be afraid, when you go to graduate school, and be afraid, but for the best. Ultimately, what you can do because you went to Cooper Union is so good, that you will stand individually. So don't get discouraged. You've gotta keep your chin up.

TCP: Do you have a favorite professor or colleague at Cooper?

Irv: I kind of like most of the professors here; I don’t know that I should mention anyone in particular. Alright. I mention a few, Jameel Ahmad, and the reason I’m going to mention him is because, when I was deciding whether to come to Cooper Union or not—and I took six months to decide which job to offer was the job—Jameel Ahmad from Cooper Union came and gave a presentation. Jameel said the work was very impressed with him and I think, you know, maybe other people I’ve got at Cooper Union. Of course I didn’t tell him at the time. And when I showed it up, I said, “remember me from Foster-Wheeler?” S.I. Cheng, well he’s still alive, he’s 95, and I really liked him very much. I still visit him occasionally in Toms River, NJ. I kind of like colleagues of mine that I had when I was a student. Elliot, in particular, he has been so passed away. When I came here, we overlapped by ten years, and he was a favorite of mine. John Boe, of course, a tremendous favorite of mine. People always ask did you take Professor Boe for organic? And I say no. He started teaching in September '58, and graduated in June '59, so I missed him by a summer.

And then, of course, there’s Dean Baker. He and I worked almost immediately after I started teaching at Cooper Union, and here’s why. I played one year of junior varsity basketball, and I taught another basketball for Cooper in the late 1950s. The varsity coach was the other football and he also coached Savannah Union (a phys. ed. school) to two national championships in the late 1950s (equivalent to Division I today). The star of that Savannah Union team was “Henry” Baker, Dean Baker’s father.

There are many others, but I just mentioned a few.

TCP: What are some of your hobbies?

Irv: I do a lot of reading. I read a lot of history, military history, and out of United States history, [there's also] sports; I can't really play anymore, though I used to play. In fact, in the mid-90s, we had intramurals and I played on the Chem-ical Engineering intramural softball team [for two years]. I was the second baseman and Dean Baker was the third baseman. We won the championship twice in those years. My hobbies used to be playing a lot of sports, which I can't really do anymore, but I still keep for exercise. I watch sports, that's a hobby. I love Broadway theater music, [and] I love Broadway musicals. I listen to the theater; even though it's very expensive.

TCP: Do you have any closing remarks for the Cooper Pioneer?

Irv: The thing with engineering is that there are just so many problems in the world that have to be solved. We need very heavy engineering input. I think that if you come to Cooper Union, you’re going to get a good education for.