

COLUMNS

Students in the Spotlight

by Jason Levy

"Let's go Kirmser!" Hundreds of people in the Nassau Community College arena look in the direction of the screaming as coming from. They see a group of thirty ecstatic Port Washington students standing together in one section of the arena. Two of the fans display a Jolly Rodgers flag—the trademark of Port's Great Blond Hope, now wrestling for the County Championship down below. Among those lending their support for Jamie Kirmser is Josh Weissman who had earned a third place berth earlier that day. His right arm is in a sling, as he wrestled every match with a torn rotator cuff—one of the most painful injuries around.

Josh Weissman has always wrestled in pain. In his first County match, he injured his right shoulder. Despite the pain, he kept wrestling until he finally got beaten by an opponent

who would ultimately be the second best 138-pounder in all of New York State. The "Counties" are nothing new to Josh, who has made the trip four times. This season was the first year that he placed. By the time his final match came up, Josh was in so much agony that he planned on starting the match and then forfeiting if the pain was too great. But he recalls some advice that the team's assistant coach, Dan Wetzal, gave him.

"He told me that if I decided to wrestle, I had to give one hundred percent. Either I was going to do it or not."

Perhaps Josh's toughest match of his life was against a good friend who had defeated him in the regular season by one point. In the post-season competition, Josh turned the tables and registered a 3-0 victory. It was difficult to win, but they hugged afterwards. His most memorable match was in eighth grade, when, with ten seconds left and eleven points down, he rallied to pin his opponent.

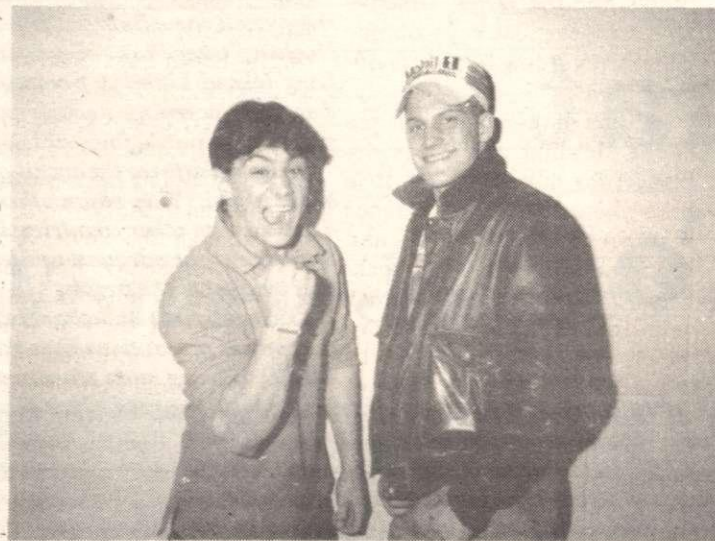
If you talk to Josh, you'll most definitely notice some sort of bizarre ornament dangling from his left ear, perhaps the only part of him that has not been injured. He admits that his grades suffer during the wrestling season, but that has not stopped him from achieving excellence in high school, with a

top ten percent ranking. Josh can always be counted on to lend a different point of view, which explains his love for Far Side comic strips.

"People shouldn't compare wrestling to boxing," he says as the familiar half-serious grin appears in his eyes. "In boxing you hit a guy over and over, trying to knock him down. In wres-

burns, he says "You've got to do something to get your mind focused; something out of the ordinary." But the "focused" intensity and lingering pain experienced by Josh during the wrestling season does not get to him, because, simply enough, "I love wrestling."

When it comes to individuality, Jamie Kirmser has cornered



Josh Weissman and Jamie Kirmser mug for the camera.

ting, you use coordination and balance to try to keep a guy in place. Wrestling is a lot more subtle, and also more psychological."

He also has theories as to why many wrestlers choose to sport different hair styles come the post-season. Explaining why he completely shaved his side-

the market. Among other accomplishments, he has recently inspired the question, "Who was that bald guy anyway?" But a (self-shaved) hairless head is just part of Jamie's multi-faceted story. One of Schreiber's most talented artists, his work can be appreciated from above the student store to an unknowing

friend's binder. He has won too many contests to name, and hopes to ultimately pursue art as a career. Since "he likes to make people happy," Jamie often thinks of drawing cartoons for Disney. For him, art is a way to make people feel good "without even having to crack a joke."

Although he has participated in Port Washington football, wrestling has been Jamie's most rewarding athletic commitment. He takes the season very seriously, and believes in going more than all-out in practice, because although it might hurt at the time, it is for his own good. He lost in points in the County finals and says that he went in thinking that he could win. Both Jamie and Josh maintain that a positive attitude is crucial for a wrestler; if you think you are going to lose, you probably will.

As co-captains of this year's wrestling squad, Jamie Kirmser and Josh Weissman did more than lead exercises of yell support. Able to balance grades and social life with the demanding wrestling season, the two stormed to second and third place finishes in Nassau County. Jamie describes Josh as "one of the toughest guys I've ever known." Josh similarly maintains that Jamie is "as tough as nails." To wrestle well, you have to be.

Photo by Dan Fisher

Craig's Court

Politics will
be tried

by Craig Johnson

The 53-47 vote by the United States Senate to reject the nomination of Senator John Tower as Secretary of Defense brings up the issue of politicians and their private lives. Should John Tower's so-called drinking problems and womanizing be used to judge him as a good or bad candidate for Secretary of Defense?

I can see many reasons for which a person's private life should be used in disqualifying

him for political office. If the person has been convicted of child molestation, has abused his family, has been convicted of any felony, has been known to have received and used illegal contributions, has accepted bribes, etc., then that person should not get a seat in any government.

However, in the case of John Tower, it is my belief that having different female companions or having a few drinks too many should not be used to judge whether or not he will be a good member of the Bush cabinet.

We have had many presidents in our history who were known for having women on the side. Thomas Jefferson, besides being known for authoring the Declaration of Independence, is also famous for fathering many children with his female slaves. Grover Cleveland was bothered by truthful accusations during his election for fathering a child

out of wedlock. Franklin Roosevelt carried on an affair with his personal nurse for a number of years, and John Kennedy is famous for his flings with women other than the First Lady, most

By not allowing Tower to be confirmed, we are becoming a society of hypocrisy.

notably Marilyn Monroe. Yet, these personal affairs did not affect judgement, intelligence, and wisdom in carrying out their job. Nor would it affect Tower's job as Defense Secretary. However, it seems that Tower is being rejected more because of his drinking and not so much his womanizing.

Don't get me wrong! I am NOT defending John Tower. However what I do not like is the main reason used by the Senate

to reject him. If the Senate rejection was based solely on financial contributions made to Tower's political campaigns by military corporations he had lobbied for in the past, then I

would not disagree with the disqualification. However, the excuse that Tower drinks too much is very weak.

According to Senator John McClarn(R-AR), "We have changed the confirmation standards for this nominee; they are different from any I have heard of... These new standards clearly don't apply to the people who are setting them!"

While some senators have stated that they have seen John

Tower less than sober on the senate floor, some have also said that they have seen other senators who were more drunk than Tower while on the floor. Historically, in fact, the Senate has been tolerant of heavy drinkers. Senate pages have been allowed to bring alcoholic beverages onto the senate floor. Barry Goldwater stated that if sobriety were a standard, many senators would not be able to meet it.

By not allowing John Tower to become Secretary of defense because of his drinking and woman problems, we are becoming a society of double standards and hypocrisy. While one type of behavior is fine for a member of the Senate, it seems that it won't be tolerated when a person is nominated for a cabinet post! Maybe senators should realize this and change their morals to ones identified with and accepted by the American public.

have learned about surviving the harsh journey to school every morning.

Your traveling methods used in Autumn were rendered useless; walking? —not advised. Biking? —can be harmful. Driving? —the only way. Now, some of you may be complaining that you're only fourteen or fifteen and can't drive, but don't worry. There are ways.

The first person approached when arranging for a ride to school is usually a parent. "You want a ride to school? It's a beautiful day out. Get out and walk!" [anonymous quote]. Even if it's negative ten degrees and snowing, most parents will still

insist that it's a beautiful day out, so you have two choices in this situation. You can hang up window shades showing meteor showers and convince them that it's not nice out, or tell them horror stories about children who have made the foolish mistake of walking to school. For your parents don't care for you too much, you'll have to randomly select a senior to brownnose for a lift to school.

The most important thing to remember when getting rides from a senior is: Parking stickers make friends. To get a Monfort lot pass is simple — xerox an original and then color it blue. If you are too lazy or

don't have a blue marker, you could always point out the great sentimental value that a super-sticky large sign reading "YOU ARE ILLEGALLY PARKED HERE" will have in your later years.

However, acquiring a staff parking sticker takes a slight bit of work. The three most successful ways to get staff stickers are: buy a cheap used car from a Schreiber teacher; steal the bumper off a teacher's car (first check that the sticker is on the bumper); or, become a teacher! If you don't want to do any of these things yourself, you can hire somebody to do it for you, or you can merely intimidate the

senior either by blackmail or violence (don't try either of these unless you are bigger than the other person).

Now you're set until the end of June, and next year you'll be raking in the money. When the new freshmen are wandering around in September, you can charge them a measly ten dollars per month for a lift to school every day, in addition to the responsibility of recruiting a new senior to give you a ride. And if you're a junior this year, don't panic. Next year you can get a ride from one of your friends. Just be sure not to drive to school; there'll be lazy students climbing all over your car.

It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

By Dan Shodell

Now that we have successfully emerged from the harshest days of winter— snow, sleet, freezing winds, temperatures measured in degrees Kelvin, etc., there is time to review what we