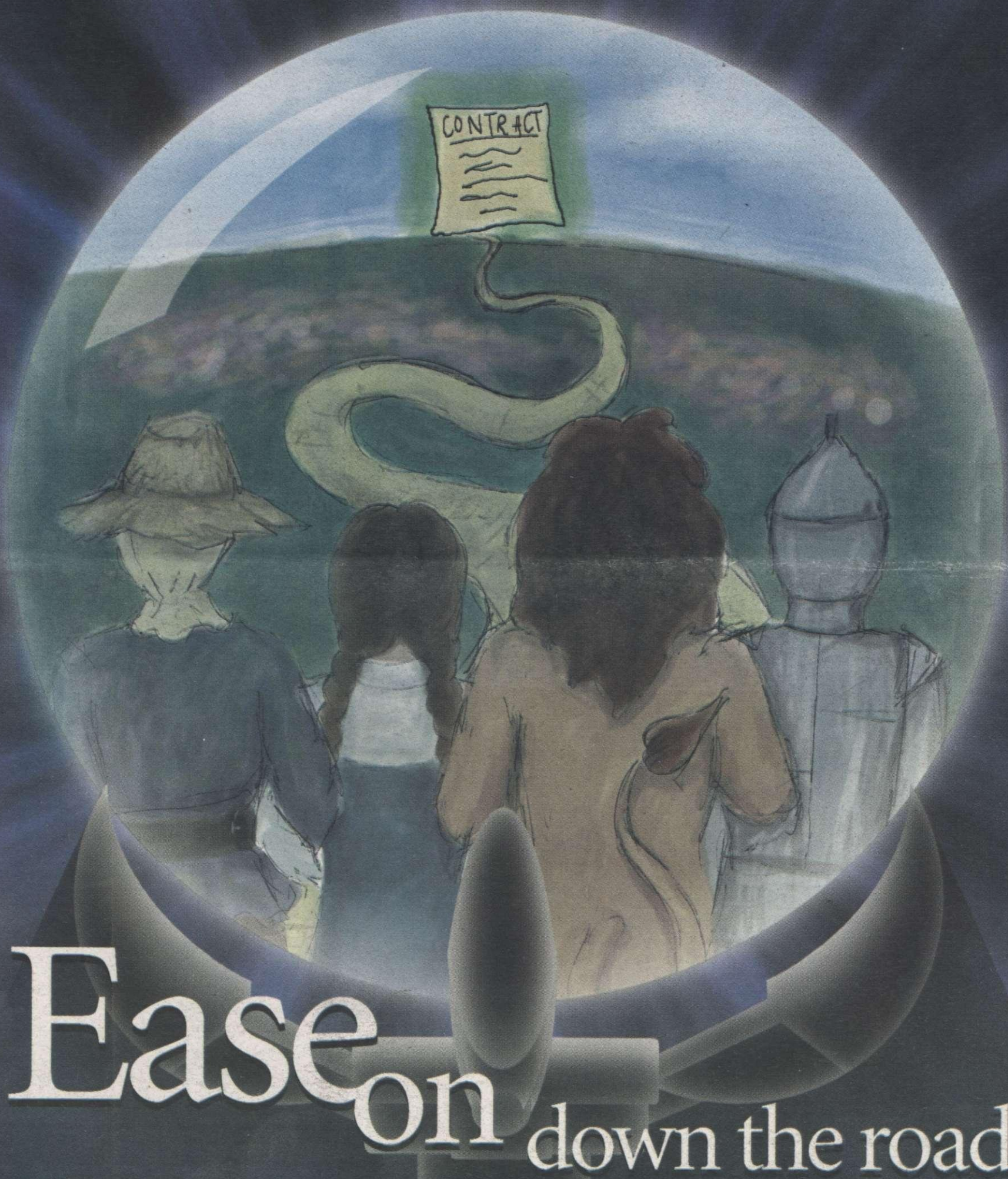


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# THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LVI No. 3



## Ease on down the road



**Boys Soccer  
Makes Playoffs**  
*Sports*



**Teacher Feature:  
Mr. Johnson**  
*Features*

**Classroom Confidentiality**  
*Opinions*  
**Custodians Go Green**  
*News*



# NEWS BRIEFS

## "It's Academic"

The Schreiber "It's Academic" team began the season with the destruction of Garden City H.S. and L.I. Lutheran H.S.

The Schreiber squad took an early lead in the first half, and finished up strong in the second half. Schreiber's total score of 580 was almost as much as the other two teams combined. Garden City had 380 points, and Lutheran had 220 points. Advisor Mr. Carmine Matina said it was a very impressive performance, and was delighted that in his final competition with the "It's Academic" team, the students were so superb.

The team consists of seniors Andrew Gross, Tom Lisi, Carmiel Schickler, Sarah Silvergleid, and Nick Werle. Juniors Heather Larkin and Lisa Schechner, and freshman Stephen Whittaker are alternates. While only four members can play at one time, substitutions allow more of the team to experience playing time.

"The competition was definitely a great start to the season," said Silvergleid. "We really played like a team. Nick even knew a question about pink being the new black."

Students and faculty gathered in the library to watch the epic battle of intellect. With each question, the tension mounted as Schreiber built its lead.

The team, which also participated on the television gameshow, "Long Island Challenge" has several matches left this year. With such a strong start, the team has very high hopes for the future.

- Ben Jaffe

## The Writing on the Stalls

Recently, there has been an increase in the graffiti in the bathrooms of Schreiber. The majority of the graffiti is racist and derogatory.

In addition to the insensitive remarks, there are other complaints. Messages include "there is no toilet paper, please refill," written in excrement.

Some students seem unclear how their classmates justify the defacement. "Well, kids never get in trouble for graffiti, so I guess people don't think it's that big of a deal," said freshman Gabby Brilliant.

After asking ten students if they had ever written in any of the bathrooms, four of them said that no, they never have. Four responded that they have once, and the other two said that they deface the bathrooms all the time.

There is a strict punishment for defacing school property, but it is difficult to find who the culprits are, so students rarely get in trouble.

Many of the bathrooms in Schreiber have been closed off and locked because of the graffiti that was found. This is forcing students who wish to use the bathroom to walk further from their classrooms.

"A lot of the time, when I want to go to the bathroom, I end up going to like three, because a lot of them are locked," complained frustrated senior Johnny Marx. "It takes me like 15 minutes! It's annoying."

- Jared Sichel

## Blast from the Past

In the post-performance excitement of the Schreiber Musical, "The Wiz," we will travel back in time to 1977 to investigate the school drama show. In '77, "Picnic" by William Inge was put on by the Schreiber Drama Club. It was a three-act play directed by Don Jones, and Hillary Schapiro and Jeremy Mann were the lead role characters. Schapiro played Madge, and Mann played Madge Schapiro's (Madge) boyfriend.

The subplot and cast involves a love-thirsty Stephanie Hall, David Pitt, Amanda Berry, Michelle Edmonds, Debby McGuigan, Jeanne Christman, and Alan Parker. This cast was commended locally by the HSA for their outstanding performance. The cast was also recognized by the faculty, and praised for their accurate portrayal of the complex characters.

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Shimon Ishikawa

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# Photo Gallery



Joelle Raymond took a photograph of two BMX bikes parked on Inwood Lane in Manorhaven.

FRONTPAGE by Daryl Koopersmith, Katie Mancher and Jon Seligson  
CENTERFOLD by Daryl Koopersmith and Rebecca Sander  
BACKPAGE by David Baer and Nikki Pond

# THE SCHREIBER TIMES

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Jay Lewis, principal  
Anne Pellett, Evelina Zarkh, advisers  
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# New York State is the first in the nation to clean up its act

BY Rob Bellon

Staff Writer

Governor George Pataki passed a bill requiring the use of "environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products" in schools throughout New York on Aug. 23. This statewide legislation is the first of its kind in the nation and applies to all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools. The legislation will be effective starting Sept. 1, 2006, leaving little time for New York schools to compensate.

Although this legislation may result in a slight initial increase in cost, it should lead to better indoor air quality and will reduce the presence of volatile organic compounds, or VOC's, near the school. VOC's are a primary constituent of most petrochemical products that are used in schools, especially floor cleaners.

Schreiber has already taken a number of steps to make for a safer and more environmentally-sensitive educational setting. No chemical fertilizers are used on Schreiber's playing fields, and cockroach control is accomplished through the use of non-toxic gels rather than dangerous pesticides. Toxic floor polishes are still used, but only because there is no readily available "green" equivalent.

Principal Mr. Jay Lewis said he has noticed a great commitment on the part of the citizens of Port Washington to a pro-environmental campaign, and he believes community members need to make sure they do not harm the environment or people's health wherever it is possible.

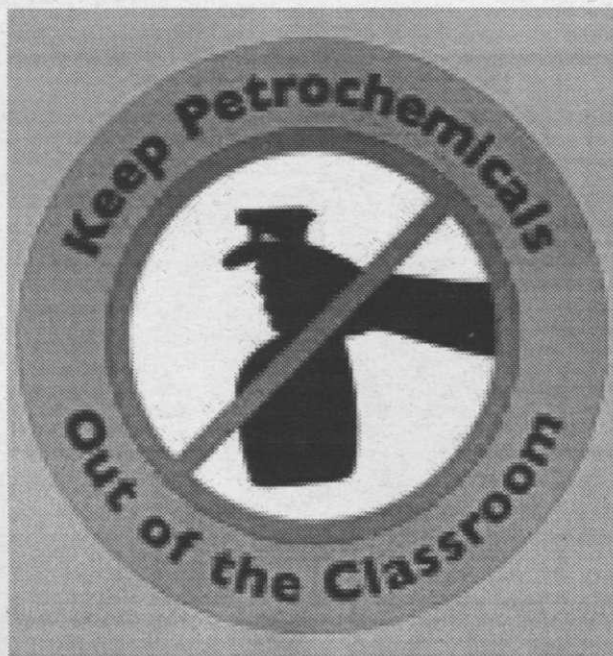
"By and large, the Port Washington community is very environmentally conscious," he said.

Mr. Lewis has a personal link to chronic exposures to toxic chemicals. When he was younger, living in the suburbs of Los Angeles, California, he used to be outside painting houses for three to four hours at a time. Afterwards, he would be lightheaded and nauseous from being exposed to the vast amounts of chemical toxins that existed in the Los Angeles basin.

Lewis is dismayed about the lack of public attention paid to the issue of human and environmental protection. "We have a lot of people who are more concerned about how green their lawn is," he said.

Another problem Lewis points out is the lack of a "natural venue" for

the public school system to educate older people about such issues. Environmental awareness among students is incorporated into the school curriculum through such courses as A.P. Environmental Science, as well as the New York State science curriculum. Yet there is no free municipal service to inform older citizens about



www.grassrootsinfo.org

Schreiber uses "environmentally-friendly" cleaners, but these chemicals may not be entirely non-toxic.

environmental issues.

Mr. Lewis points out that there are people who are, "directly affected, and they know they are affected," but recognizes still that there are "others who are less aware." Clearly, education of the general population on this issue is lacking.

Ms. Patti Wood, the executive director of a local non-profit environmental organization, Grassroots Environmental Education, supports the steps that Schreiber has taken to protect the environment. She believes that although the general public may be environmentally conscious, there is still much that people do not know about the persistent use of toxic chemicals and the deleterious effects that they have on human health.

Part of Grassroots' work is to compile peer-reviewed scientific research and format the research into a body of information that can then be used to educate the public.

While some of the big names in

the chemical industry, such as Johnson Diversey and 3M, are hoping for a more "fluid" interpretation of the new law which would allow them to continue producing and marketing petrochemical-based products for use in schools, Ms. Wood's goal is to educate the public so they will demand safer and more environmentally friendly products.

"There is only one thing more powerful than money," she said, "and that's public opinion."

The biggest debate is over the law's wording. What does "environmentally-sensitive" really mean? For example, the words "less toxic," "least toxic," and "non-toxic" can mean that a product contains entirely different chemicals.

The law states, "Environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products" means those cleaning and maintenance products that minimize adverse impacts on children's health and the environment."

According to Ms.

Wood and other critics of the legislation, such open-ended wording allows chemical companies to market diluted formulations of the toxic chemicals as "environmentally sensitive," which Wood says would undermine the original purpose of the legislation.

"We are trying to ensure that the intent of the legislation actually [comes to fruition]," she said, "and that, of course, is to protect children and others who work in school environments."

Environmentalists and children's health advocates both agree that since New York is the first state in the U.S. to pass such law, it is important to set a good precedent. Grassroots is pushing for the use of strictly bio-based cleaning products, especially for use in classrooms, as opposed to the broader definition of "environmentally-sensitive."

Their campaign for the use of strictly bio-based cleaning and maintenance products uses the slogan "Keep Petrochemicals Out of the Classroom,"

and has been enthusiastically supported by teachers' unions, custodial unions, legislators, school boards, and other activists.

Bio-based products are products that utilize biological, renewable domestic agricultural (plant, animal or mineral), or forestry products. They are environmentally friendly, and pose far fewer health risks to individuals. It is Ms. Wood's belief that bio-based products are the safest products to use in school environments.

"Chronic low-level exposures [to toxic chemicals] can lead to chronic disease," said Ms. Wood, emphasizing why it's important to keep petrochemicals away from kids. "If we don't set the bar way up there, no one else will."

Over the past few months Ms. Wood has met personally with various influential decision makers and organizations in Albany and elsewhere in the state, including the New York State Teachers' Union, the New York State School Boards Association, the Attorney General's office, and Governor Pataki's staff.

She has outlined the problem and proposed solutions, and so far, has gotten a very positive response.

Meanwhile, here at Schreiber, at the so called "natural venue" of public education, the custodial staff has already made substantial progress.

For two years, even before this law was a mere supposition, the custodial staff at Schreiber has been using the "green cleaning system for everything," according to Head Custodian Mr. Dave Albury.

Albury noted a distinct difference between the toxic chemicals he used to use and the safer ones he uses now.

Although both were generally effective, the green products he uses are more sensitive to human health, emit fewer harmful fumes, and have had less hazardous effects to fixtures and surfaces. In the past, other products have damaged faucets and flushometers.

"We're here because the students are here," said Albury. Using less hazardous chemicals, thus providing a safe and clean environment for students and teachers alike is, quite simply, his job.

Wood and Lewis share a similar goal, working for the betterment of students and providing an environment that will be more considerate of human health.

## Science Honor Society inducts inaugural class

BY Jasmine Cheng

Contributing Writer

Science Honor Society, formerly the Young Scientists Club, held its first induction ceremony. Since becoming an honor society, the club has had a great increase in membership.

Over eighty students were inducted into the organization in the Nov. 9 ceremony.

"The induction was a warm gathering of intellectuals," said senior Gabriela Monsanto. "It was nice to see so many scientific minds gathered together in the same room."

The induction ceremony began at 7 p.m. in the auditorium with a piano performance by Jasmine Cheng of "Clair

de Lune" by Claude Debussy.

Before students were inducted into the society, they had to meet certain academic requirements. The students had to have a cumulative average of B+ or higher in their science classes after three semesters, as well as an average of C+ or higher in their math classes and two letters of recommendations from math and science teachers.

In order to maintain their memberships in the society, the members must attend at least three meetings per quarter. Students must also perform services by attending one or more community service activities or lectures per quarter. Tutoring and visiting elementary schools also count toward a total number of required hours of service.

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities for members to attend and participate in the aforementioned activities. Many members choose to tutor younger Weber and elementary school students who are having trouble in their current science classes.

A few times a year, students are able to prepare lesson plans and activities for elementary school students, which introduce students to simple chemistry, biology, earth science, or physics concepts by simply making silly putty or being involved in other similar activities.

"My favorite part of Science Honors Society is being able to introduce different sciences to elementary school students by means of hands on lessons," said sophomore member Maryann

Vlahos.

The Science Honors Society organizes fundraising projects such as the charity drive to help the Osbourne family, which was strongly affected by Hurricane Katrina. Science Honors Society, along with other Schreiber clubs, is currently organizing different fundraising projects to help the family financially. Members of the society have been donating their time by sitting in the lobby with a money jar, collecting any money students were willing to donate to be sent to the family.

"The [Science Honors] Society is a great opportunity for people who enjoy science to become involved with the community," concluded Science Honors Society Co-president Gina Solomita.



# Tough defeat for Long Island Challenge team

BY Sarah Silvergleid  
Senior Features Editor

Four trivia-savvy seniors went up against four students from Solomon Schechter H.S. in this year's *Long Island Challenge*.

The *Challenge* is a yearly *Jeopardy*-type game show in which Schreiber gained a spot. The students competed on Nov. 11 and the show aired on Channel 12 on Nov. 26.

The battle was fierce but ultimately Schreiber's team made up of seniors Andrew Gross, Carmi Schickler, Tom Lisi, and Nick Werle, fell short by 20 points.

Our team went to film on Nov. 11 in the Cablevision station in Hauppauge. The team was accompanied by alternate junior Lisa Schechner and several audience members.

Unfortunately the audience was placed in an "audience room" and unable to view the actual filming. The audience watched the happenings on a television screen and contributed to the "applause track" which was aired on Nov. 26.

The competition was structured into three rounds - multiple choice, lightning Round, and free response. The multiple choice was in two separate sections each with four different categories.

Schreiber's team dominated the competition in both of these rounds.

The first categories were Federal Agencies, General Math, Clichés, and

Oceanography. All four of our seniors demonstrated skill in these topics, as it seemed as though one member took the reigns in each category. Schechter kept up mostly with a stretch of correct answers in the Cliché category.

After a commercial break, Schreiber and Solomon Schechter entered the

dominated Schechter team picked MTV and answered all ten lightning questions for 10 points plus 10 bonus for getting all of them right. As the team answered about "My Super Sweet Sixteen," "Real World," and "Punk'd," Schreiber waited to get the NFL category. Not surprisingly, the foursome answered all

those after the first round.

The next round was a whole different battle. The teams were given buzzers and had to answer free-response. The new set of categories included riddles, ratios, nervous system, and revolutions.

Schreiber's lead fell apart during this round, as Solomon Schechter gained momentum with quick responses in the Revolutions category.

In the final standings, Schreiber was behind by only one question and Solomon Schechter took away first prize.

Gross, Lisi, Schickler, and Werle entered the Long Island Challenge because of their superior performance in the It's Academic team, run by Mr. Carmine Matina.

It's Academic competes in various trivia-based events. The team meets near-weekly to hone trivia skills.

Even though Schreiber won't move ahead in Long Island Challenge, the It's Academic team stands are impressive.

The team won the first match against Long Island Lutheran High School and Garden

City High School that took place on Nov. 10th in the library.



(l-r) Seniors Andrew Gross, Nick Werle, Carmi Schickler and Tom Lisi are members of the Long Island Challenge team. Junior Lisa Schechner is the alternate on the team and attended the Challenge.

lightning round. The opposition team picked of two very dissimilar categories - MTV and the NFL. The female-

10 questions in record speed.

After the lightning round, the standings were virtually identical to

## Board of Education notes: November 1

BY Andy Werle  
Contributing Writer

The Board of Education work session on Nov. 1 revolved around the Weber Middle School end-of-year report and an explanation of two websites, [www.reportit.com](http://www.reportit.com) and [www.reportit.net](http://www.reportit.net), which may be added to the district's repertoire of safety programs.

The meeting began with an amendment to the agenda: accepting a donation of \$52,257 from the Athletic Association of Port Washington to reinstate many JV and JV II sports, including JV II boys' basketball, boys' wrestling, girls' volleyball, and girls' basketball.

Board President Rob Seiden thanked the community for staging Pride in Port. He reported on a June 7 meeting at which Nassau County school board officials met with County Executive Tom Suozzi to discuss bringing more money to school districts, sharing costs with other districts and promoting greater efficiency.

He also said that Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey N. Gordon had worked with the Port Washington Police Department to increase the crossing guards' hours from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays so children leaving after-school programs can cross Campus Drive and Port Washington Boulevard safely.

Dr. Gordon's address urged community members to come to the Nov. 15 board meeting, at which the board will congratulate National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. He also reported an upward

trend in Regents diplomas, from sixty-seven percent in the past to ninety-three percent last year. Dr. Gordon wanted to "publicly thank the students and faculty for their tremendous job in that regard."

Community comments followed. The first came from Chris Jenkinson, a third-grade parent from Manorhaven School, who said that the three third-grade classes there have twenty-six or more students per teacher and about one-third of the students are learning English as a second language. She stated the teachers are "spinning themselves in circles."

Lisa Slote addressed the same issue and noted that she had contributed \$387 for a worthwhile field trip that her child's class would otherwise have missed. Tessa Jordan, President of the Port Washington Teachers Association who is also a Manorhaven teacher, said that the problem of crowded classrooms with many non-English-speaking children exists in other districts, except that the economic disparity is greater in Port Washington than elsewhere.

Frank Russo asked about adding a voting place in the north end of the district. The response was that the board had not yet decided where the new voting stations would be. Russo asked about the board's policy on e-mailing Freedom of Information Law requests, and board members answered rather tersely, that people still need to mail in requests the traditional way.

Next, he asked the board whether it

was considering legal action against the state regarding \$1.7 million lost during 1996-2002, and a board member said that the board cannot discuss its legal positions until they are finalized.

Finally, Russo notified the board that the 9.2 psychologist positions are three psychologists over the legal requirement. According to the statistics provided by the administration, if one were cut, all of the sports cut by the contingent budget could be restored. Dr. Gordon responded with great vigor, saying that what the children needed is what the children would get. This answer was greeted with cheers from the crowd.

Joel Katz asked why the district had lost the money Mr. Russo previously asked about. Mark Marcellus, rising to his feet, told him that it was explained in great detail at previous meetings. Mr. Katz's second and final question was whether the board was satisfied that the loss would not happen again. The board said that it was making all necessary measures to prevent another loss.

Christine Vasilev spoke next. Vasilev, a Manorhaven ESL teacher and PWTA executive vice president, said that the "reputation of this very fine community is in jeopardy." The renewal of the teacher's contract was dividing the town, she said, and "people are not attracted to a community with this kind of upheaval."

With community comments over, the board accepted the donation of \$52,257 from the athletic association

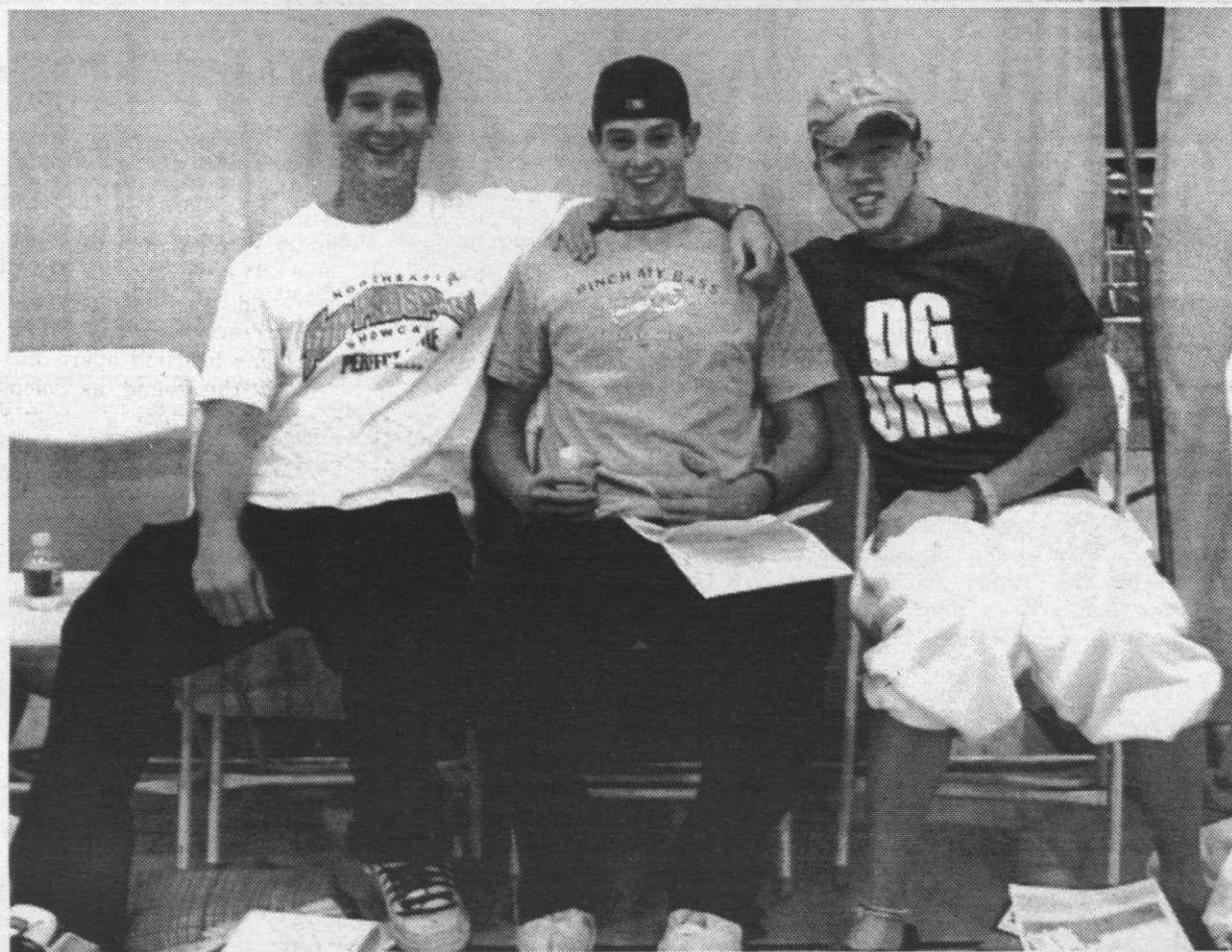
7-0. Dr. Gordon praised the AAPW for its "constructive activities." Jean-Marie Posner, Larry Greenstein and Dr. Roy Nelson each thanked the organization, saying not all parents would do what AAPW members had done for the benefit of others.

The end-of-year report from Weber followed, delivered by principal Marilyn Rodahan. Sixth graders are continuing with the Bully-Proof program and are watching the movie "Odd Girl Out" to study boy-versus-girl bullying, she reported.

Mr. Seiden suggested that people write their questions in advance to the *Port Washington News*. [www.reportit.com](http://www.reportit.com) and [www.reportit.net](http://www.reportit.net) were the next topics of discussion. Mr. Baylen described [www.reportit.com](http://www.reportit.com), which the district already uses, as a website designed for school safety and [www.reportit.net](http://www.reportit.net), which the board is considering adopting, for fraud, waste, and abuse observed in the district. The rates for [www.reportit.net](http://www.reportit.net) would be \$825 for the first year, including set-up, and \$500 for every following year. The board was in general agreement that it was a good investment. A vote will be taken at a future meeting.

Dr. Nelson rounded off the committee reports with policy. The committee plans to review policies on cell phone and e-mail use, among others. At the finale of the meeting, the only old business discussed was the progress of the Manorhaven roof, which should have a report in shortly.





Courtesy of Ms. Susan Gombert

On Nov. 9, Long Island Blood Services held a blood drive at Schreiber that collected more blood than ever before. Of the 184 donors who each gave a pint of blood, 154 were students. The donation process took about twenty minutes per person. After that, people were escorted to a hydration station where they fueled up with water, granola bars, and snacks. Up to five patients can use one pint of blood. A person can donate every fifty-six days. Long Island Blood Services takes the donated blood and tests it for blood-borne pathogens and blood type before it is separated and sent to hospitals. To donate blood someone must be at least sixteen years old and have written parental permission. Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds and cannot be ill. First, a small drop of blood is evaluated for its iron count. If that measurement is low, the potential donor might be anemic and is turned down. About four to six weeks after one's first blood donation, he receives his donor card.

## Former gang member speaks about violence

BY Stephen Nash  
Contributing Writer

Guest speaker Mr. Sergio Argueta came to Schreiber on Nov. 9 to speak at an assembly for ninth and tenth graders, in which he urged them to avoid gang involvement.

Mr. Argueta is the founder of the organization S.T.R.O.N.G. (Struggling to Reunite Our New Generation), which tries to curtail gang activity. Mr. Argueta first came to Schreiber two years ago after gang activity in Port Washington

was identified as a problem.

The current ninth and tenth graders were not in the school to see him, so the administration asked him to return.

"Sergio was very down-to-earth about the gang problems," said freshman Daniel Hauser. "He was the best person to get the message across that gang violence was wrong."

Mr. Argueta gave a powerful presentation, speaking about his past experiences with gangs and told students about the negative effects of gang membership.

Argueta was personally involved in gang activity as a student in high school. He was strongly moved when his best friend died in a gang incident, and then became determined to escape from the gang.

Mr. Argueta went on to graduate from Nassau Community College with honors, and was elected president of his class.

After graduating from Nassau Community College, he was accepted into Columbia University, but was unable to attend due to financial troubles.

Argueta has become well-known across the country, particularly on Long Island, as one of the most vocal opponents of gang

violence. He has received acclaim for his role as a staunch leader in building social programs to turn teens away from the gang lifestyle.

Mr. Argueta has appeared on magazine covers and television shows, such as *The O'Reilly Factor*. He focuses on spreading his anti-gang message through presentations addressing gang violence in high schools throughout Long Island.

Argueta started and finished the assembly with a very direct comment. He encouraged people who know people injured or killed by gang violence to "blame themselves" rather than the gang.

Argueta showed countless examples and pictures of young adults and kids who have been killed due to gang violence on Long Island.

He explained his experiences and the consequences of gang life by warning that if one chooses the gang lifestyle, one will end up in one of three places: a grave, a jail, or a hospital.

"Sergio Argueta was the only person who could have potentially made a difference," said freshman Hayley Fuchs. "He showed the direct results of gang violence and was much more effective than anyone else in getting that message across."

Many students agreed that Argueta's strongest attribute was his ability to relate directly to the students.

Schreiber administrators hope that Mr. Argueta's message will have a positive effect on students.

Argueta's presentation instilled passionate feelings about gang violence in the students of Schreiber, and all hope that the message that he preached will change the behavior of the school.



www.sriboces.org

Sergio Argueta, founder of S.T.R.O.N.G. (Struggling to Reunite Our New Generation), spreads his message to discourage gang violence during his second visit to Schreiber.

## Natural Helpers Induction Retreat

BY Dahlia Hassan  
Contributing Writer

Forty students from Schreiber learned listening and problem solving skills on a training retreat to induct new members of the Natural Helpers program.

"The retreat was a wonderful experience because it allowed me to befriend other natural helpers in a comfortable environment," said junior Lisa Schechner. "The activities also allowed us to be ourselves and reach out to others."

Along with the students and teachers on the retreat, a trainer was brought in to conduct interactive learning exercises and activities such as role playing, sharing, and a trust walk. These activities helped the students and teachers get to know both themselves and others better.

Natural Helpers is a national program based on the theory that kids will seek guidance from other kids before going to adults for help.

"The students trained this year seem to be a terrific bunch and seem to have gained a lot from being a part of the retreat," said Schreiber social worker Ms. Michele Weiden, the supervisor of the school's Natural Helpers program. "Natural Helpers has proven to be a positive program at Schreiber for the past five years."

Each year students from ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades are chosen to become Natural Helpers.

Natural Helpers are chosen based on the results of a survey in which students are asked to name three friends and three faculty members to whom they would feel most comfortable talking to they had a problem.

After the surveys are carefully reviewed, about twelve students from each grade are selected to become Natural Helpers. Faculty members were also selected for the program.

On this overnight retreat held at St. Ignatius Retreat House from Sunday Oct. 23 to Oct. 24, "the new Natural Helpers are trained to be facilitated listeners," said Ms. Weiden. "And once you're trained, you're always a Natural Helper."

The students who went on the retreat were taught new ways to listen to others, without being judgmental. They were also taught what kinds of problems they can and cannot handle. The specifics of these discussions, however, are confidential.

Students are encouraged to evaluate whether they can deal with a situation immediately. Then, they should express their concern, explore alternatives, and lastly, offer advice.

The training to be a Natural Helper continues at school throughout the year.

While only about forty students went on the retreat, there are about seventy-five Natural Helpers here at Schreiber.

"Any student can benefit from what we learned on this retreat," said freshman David Becker. "Knowing that there are Natural Helpers in our school, in my opinion, makes this school a warmer place to be."



## First Schreiber class celebrates fifty year reunion

BY GULUS EMRE  
Opinions Editor

Over the summer, the first class to ever attend Schreiber High School had its fifty year reunion.

"I was proud to see how much our community could come together and celebrate our togetherness," said senior Aileen Scheffer.

Needless to say, things were not how the 1955 graduates left them. According to the visiting Schreiber alumni, Port Washington and Schreiber have both expanded tremendously since they last saw them. "This isn't our school!" was a familiar refrain throughout the weekend.

What made this particular reunion so unique was that the entire weekend-long affair was held in Port Washington, instead of in a hotel elsewhere.

Weekend events began with a dinner at Finn McCools, a tour of the school, a tour of the harbor and of the town, a reception at the Knickerbocker Yacht Club, and a reception at LaMatta's restaurant.

Many things have changed since 1955. The school has practically doubled in size with the addition of the social studies wing, the science wing, the English wing, and of course the new A, B, and C wings which were added just last year.

The only original parts of the school that remain are the auditorium, the gymnasium, and the main lobby. But more than just the architecture of the school has changed; the curriculum is different as well. Classes such as Secretarial Training, Bookkeeping, and German are no longer offered.

Since the Class of 1955 was the first to use Schreiber as a high school, (the old high school was at the Landmark building on Main Street) they had to carry up all of the chairs, desks, and supplies from Landmark to Schreiber.

But being the first class at a new school had its benefits—such as taking advantage of the P.A. system to suspend classes or call friends to the gym for a game of basketball, as Joe and Rich Newman did.

"We would say: 'So and so, report to the gymnasium immediately,'" said Mr. Newman. "And then we would just play basketball for the rest of the hour."

A tour of the original areas of the building also brought back some memories, especially the tour of the old art wing (which was used for study hall and social studies). The former students seem to remember tiny details about their high school life.

As they examined one art classroom, someone called out, "I remember this room...this is where I told you to shut up and sit down!"

Upon touring the school, many of the former students found things that they loved about the new Schreiber.

"I love these new gyms," said Joan Kirkpatrick. "We didn't have these when we were in school."

The alumni also admired the high windows and calm atmosphere that the new library provided.

The Class of 1955's visit to Schreiber sparked nostalgia that current students may feel upon returning to Schreiber in the future.

## Town celebrates Pride in Port

### Activities include parade, football, and dance

BY BEN JAFFE  
News Editor

In a sign of community spirit, the annual Pride in Port parade was held on Saturday, Oct. 29. Pride in Port is celebrated each year in October and includes a parade the Homecoming football game, and then the Homecoming dance held at Schreiber.

The parade, which began at noon, included entertainment and music from the Schreiber High School marching band, as well as dancing from Schreiber's cheerleaders and the Portettes.

Adults, children, and students looked on as the Pride in Port parade began at the Landmark and ended at the LIRR train station.

Schreiber's Homecoming King and Queen, James Pyo and Chase Rosen, rode along with the parade.

The parade also passed along Main Street, which is renamed each year for Pride in Port week.

This year George "Sarge" Mahoney, who passed away last October, was honored as this year's Pride in Port Parade Grand Marshal.

Many groups from the community

had representatives marching in the parade. One such group was a band composed of Schreiber janitors and another group consisted of teachers marching in solidarity while they remain without a contract.

The parade was followed by Schreiber's Homecoming football game, which was held at Seeber Field. The kickoff was at two o'clock, and many excited fans attended the game to cheer on the Vikings.

At the football game, the band started the festivities by playing the National Anthem. They then entertained the crowd and supported the Vikings from the stands with tunes such as "Go Team Go," "Good Golly Miss Molly," and "Land of 1000 Dances."

Afterwards, the "Pride of Port Washington," the Schreiber band, along with the Portettes, performed a half time show for the enthusiastic fans.

The Portettes danced to the contemporary hits of "The Magnificent Seven," "Disco Inferno," and "Enter Sandman" as played by the band.

Unfortunately, the Vikings lost the game to Oceanside with a score of 36 to 24, but there is more to the Pride in Port football game than winning. It is

about sportsmanship and a love for the town. The excitement did not end with the disappointing football loss.

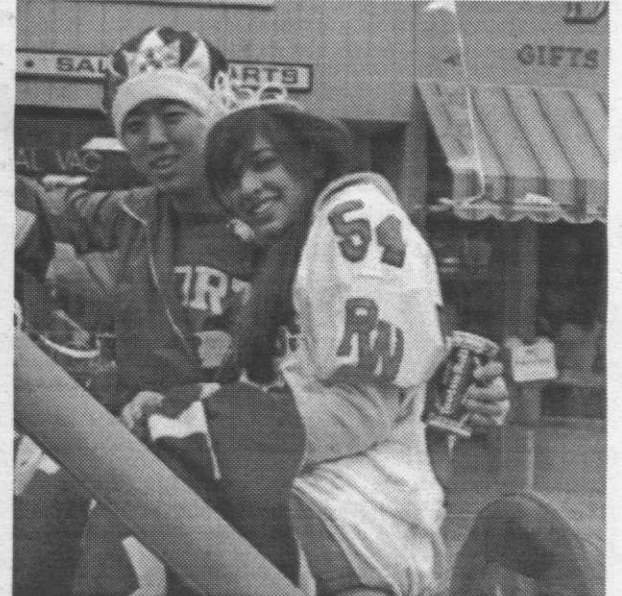
The final piece of Schreiber's Homecoming celebrations was the Student Council-sponsored Homecoming dance that began at 7:15 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Last year's homecoming dance was a great success because of the large turnout of about 220 students. This year's dance, however, suffered from an underwhelming turnout.

Despite the small number of people at the dance, the students who were there were able to have a good time. Mardi Gras masks and glow sticks were also distributed.

"Initially, my friends and I were disappointed with the relatively small size of turnout; however, we were still able to have a fun time," explained junior Katrina Fahey.

"The Homecoming dance proved to be a great conclusion to the Pride in Port festivities. It was nice to see the town really come together and celebrate its town spirit," said senior Student Council Executive Officer Dan Koh.



All pictures courtesy of the Port Light.

(Clockwise) Senior Rebecca Pinkus, drum major of the concert band, led the Schreiber band through Main Street, renamed this year in honor of George "Sarge" Mahoney. Homecoming King and Queen seniors James Pyo and Chase Rosen parade through the streets of Port Washington. Ms. Elizabeth Frangides, a fifth grade teacher at Sousa, marches with fellow Port Washington teachers and administrators. The Port Washington teachers still remain without a contract, which has been an issue of contention throughout the school year.



# Science fiction writer shares "trek" through literature

BY Mike Lau  
Assistant News Editor

Michael Jan Friedman, Port Washington resident and author of over sixty science fiction books, including editions of the *Star Trek* series, spoke at the Knickerbocker Yacht Club on Oct. 19.

The event was part of the Autumn Leaves Series program sponsored by the Friends of the Port Washington Public Library (FOL) which is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to increase awareness of public libraries and to initiate and support library activities and programs.

There are over 500 families that are members of the Friends of the Port Washington Public Library.

Former ESL teacher Ellen Zimmerman, a member of the FOL, invited Schreiber library media specialist Kate Herz and three other students to the event.

Sophomore Alexis Mychajliw and freshmen Hilary Orzick and Harry Weisberg, members of Ms. Kate Herz's Book Club,

were excited to attend the field-trip and to hear the acclaimed author speak about science fiction and literature.

"I chose Alexis, Harry, and Hilary to come to the field-trip with me because I felt that they would get a lot out of it," said Ms. Herz. "They definitely

enjoyed the presentation very much and didn't mind missing a few classes for the opportunity."

Michael Friedman began his discussion by speaking about very early examples of science fiction in Greek literature such as Aristophanes'

concept of "Utopia." He then explained how science fiction has evolved over the years and how "science fiction is the literature of philosophy."

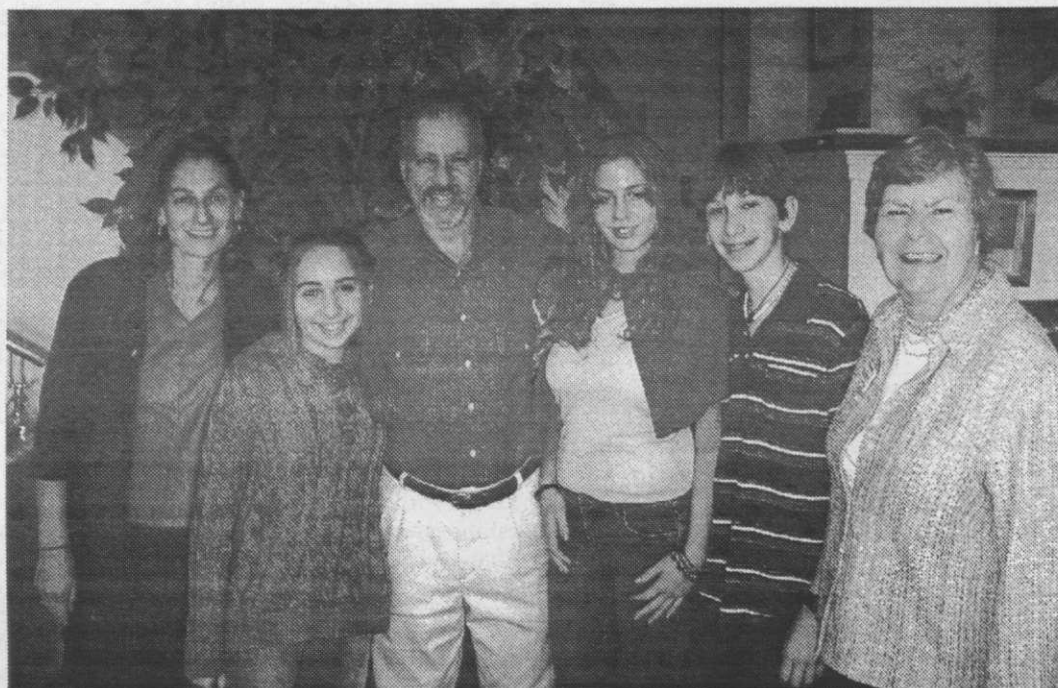
Mr. Friedman discussed his different careers, including the scripting of many *Star Trek* episodes. He explained that *Star Trek* was at first a failure but slowly became popular as it gained a strong fan base. He based his first episode, called "Resistance" on the story of Don Quixote.

During the latter half of the presentation, Friedman told the audience that execution is the essence of writing science fiction, so he asked each audience member to think of an original holiday with which to develop a story.

Audience members were given the chance to interact with Friedman during this time, while they each created a science fiction story with a plot, climax, conflict, resolution, setting, characters, and special effects.

Orzick's "Lawn Creatures Come Alive Day" was developed, with all the aspects of a good science fiction story.

"I was happy that my story idea was used and developed," said Orzick. "I really enjoyed the whole field-trip, and I have always been a fan of science fiction. I have read Friedman's 'Crossover' from the *Star Trek* series, and I really enjoyed it. I think Mr. Friedman is an amazing author."



Courtesy of Ms. Kate Herz

Librarian Ms. Kate Herz, freshman Hilary Orzick, sophomore Alexis Mychajliw, freshman Harry Weisberg, and Ms. Ellen Zimmerman are part of the Schreiber Book Club. They took a field trip to the Knickerbocker Yacht Club to listen to Mr. Michael Friedman, author of many *Star Trek* episodes, speak about science fiction literature.

## New strain of Avian Flu

BY Siddarth Ninan  
Staff Writer

Everyone has heard about the avian flu. It's perpetually in the news, making the occasional headline over the last few years. After an initial scare last year, the avian flu has remained in the backs of the minds of many people, with the occasional death or outbreak renewing interest in the issue.

Worried mothers have been taking their children to get shots of Tamiflu, a drug that seems to help prevent avian flu.

Epidemiologists estimate that an outbreak of the virus could result in many deaths, somewhere between two and fifty million. Many even fear that a global pandemic would have an apocalyptic toll of 180 to 360 million deaths worldwide.

Despite all this hype, the death toll from the flu remains relatively low. Only sixty-three people have died as a result of it so far, all in Asia. The specific H5N1 strain of the flu has not yet found a way to spread directly from human to human. However, the virus is incredibly lethal. More than fifty percent of infections result in death.

Currently, many governments are grappling with this emerging issue, and many people are arguing for travel restrictions. However, some governments have been resisting these efforts.

This new H5N1 strain of avian flu seems to bear a great resemblance to the flu of 1918, called the Spanish Flu. When it occurred at the tail end of World War I, field doctors had never seen anything like it before. The flu surfaced briefly in the spring and early summer and then subsided, leading doctors to believe that the worst was over. However, in the late summer, the flu re-emerged on both sides of the trenches, as both Germans and Allies fell to the ferocious disease.

Around five percent of the infected people died, and when the doctors did autopsies, they were shocked to discover that the lungs of the deceased had absorbed bodily fluids.

After spreading through both armies, the Spanish Flu eventually found its way to the US, striking cities especially hard. In Philadelphia alone there were more than 12,000 reported flu deaths in one month.

If a disease as widespread as the Spanish Flu were to occur today, the results would be far worse because of the increased population and global transportation.

Scientists researching the Spanish flu began to realize that genetic traces might be left in preserved tissue samples of the deceased. By digging up mass graves in Alaska, scientists were able to map the genome of the 1918 flu, and by doing so confirmed what had previously been only conjecture: the strain had most likely moved from some birds to humans.

The conversion of the flu from animals to human is what makes the Spanish Flu and the current strain of avian flu so deadly, setting them apart from the traditional, annual flues. The normal flu strains mutate from year to year, but they stay similar enough for a person's body to recognize it and attack it with little confusion. However, when a strain that has been infecting only animals mutates so that it can infect humans, people have no immunity whatsoever. As a result, the body cannot defend itself. This is part of the reason that the current fatality rate is so high.

Despite the high fatality rate of the avian flu, the fact still remains that it hasn't yet spread from human to human.

## Assistant Principal arrives

BY Sidney Ginsberg  
Staff Writer

In addition to the usual fun and excitement, Schreiber High School received an extra treat this Halloween when Mr. Craig Weiss, the new freshmen grade administrator, arrived ready for a new experience.

Mr. Weiss previously taught at LaGuardia High School in New York City as the head administrator of the Science department.

The switch from one school to the other was a big change for him, because the schools are very different. Schreiber has 1,000 fewer students than his previous school, so Mr. Weiss feels he can have a more personal relationship with his students here.

Although Mr. Weiss enjoyed the experience at his last school, he thinks Schreiber is unique because of its structure; the assistant principals stay with the students for all four years of their academic careers. He feels this enables him to help his students more.

LaGuardia also places an emphasis on the performing arts. Each school day is divided between academics and arts, creating a totally different atmosphere than Schreiber's uniquely block-scheduled academic day. Mr. Weiss believes that Schreiber's flexible schedule promotes the "happy, laid back attitudes of the students."

"It was hard to adjust to free periods," he said. "At my old school, the hallways were virtually empty during class time. I keep having to stop myself from asking kids for their hall passes."

Mr. Weiss received a Bachelors Degree in psychology as well as a Masters in administration. He worked for Outward Bound, a summer teen wilderness program, before he began teaching. He loves being outdoors

and joked that when he had free time, before his baby was born, his main hobbies included outdoor sports, such as kayaking, canoeing, and rock climbing.

After working for Outward Bound, Mr. Weiss certainly had the option of taking up psychology as his profession, but he said that he would rather "work with a lot of great students than bring home the world's problems with me every night." He feels that he can make a greater difference working in education, and for this reason, he began his career as a science teacher.

Mr. Weiss admitted that it was difficult "starting late at such a drastically different school," but he believes he will be successful as an administrator in Schreiber.

"The faculty, students, and everyone I've met so far, have been really great and made it easy to transition from my previous school. It was difficult taking up a position in the middle of the year, but everyone made it less awkward than it could have been," said Mr. Weiss, who grew up in Dix Hills and wants to be a part of Long Island again.

"I feel very at home here, like I could've gone to this school myself," he said.

Mr. Weiss holds Schreiber in high regard due to its wonderful students and faculty, and he feels that "Schreiber has a great community and a great reputation."

"I see myself as an advocate for my students," Weiss said. "If I could get something out of this, it would probably be world peace," he joked. He added on a more serious note, "Schreiber has a lot of smart kids, and some are not going to need my help to succeed, but the idea of helping those who do need me to have successful lives is definitely rewarding."



# Teacher contracts continue to be up in the air

BY Andrew Gross and Daniella Malekan  
Copy Editor and Editor-in-Chief

When students returned to school this fall, many were intrigued when they saw a majority of teachers wearing buttons reading "Schools Without Contracts Don't Work" and "PWTA." Interestingly enough, those buttons are still being worn on a daily basis, because teachers and administrators throughout the district are yet to receive a new contract. Negotiations, which are taking place between representatives of the teachers' union and the Board of Education, are essentially at a standstill.

The previous teacher contract was in effect from July 1, 2002 until June 30, 2005; however, legislation mandates that it remain in effect until a new contract has been agreed upon. There is no set deadline for completion of the new contract, but this marks the first time in the district's history that teachers have not had one in place this far into the school year.

Biology teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty emphasized that contracts are necessary to offer teachers security and to protect the education of students. "Teachers need to be protected because it's such a tenuous job, and having a contract protects the students as well," she said.

The Board of Education has scrutinized the previous teacher contract in order to weigh the different possibilities for the future.

"Basically, last year, we spent a great deal of time looking at the contract and figuring out the areas we really felt we needed to look at to, as a district, do a better job," said Board member Mr. Mark Marcellus.

Following this process, contract negotiations began last January,

when the district and the teachers exchanged proposals that incorporated the amendments that they each wanted to see to the previous contract. After reading each other's proposals, the district and the teachers began discussing their different aspects and justifying the benefit of the respective provisions proposed. Currently, the two groups are still debating different aspects of their versions of the contract and trying to figure out a solution that will incorporate the viewpoints of both groups.

"We're working hard to try and find a way to reach a settlement," said Marcellus.

Several major issues from the previous contract are being reevaluated.

The first issue, quite possibly the one with the greatest impact on the standing and speed of negotiations, is the issue of teacher salaries. Currently, salaries are determined on a step scale in which salary is based on the level of education a teacher has received and the number of years the teacher has been working in the district. The majority of teacher salaries increase every year by three or four percent, in what is called a step increase. The Board has proposed a "true freeze" in salaries, however, which would mean that teachers would not move up to the next step, or have any increased pay due to increased level of education for at least the next two school years, after which terms would be renegotiated under a new contract.

The Board has also proposed a lower starting salary for teachers, contending that at that point the job is still tentative. The teachers' union disagrees with this proposition, arguing

that the district should be confident that it is hiring teachers who are best in their respective fields.

Teachers are strongly opposed to the Board's salary proposals, arguing that if Port Washington wants to continue attracting the extremely qualified and dedicated teachers who have given the school a nationally-acclaimed reputation, then it must also be willing to pay salaries comparable to other successful districts on Long Island.

Teachers have also contended that their requests are not self-serving, and that their greatest concern is for the school and the quality of education provided to students. "Really, we want a good educational environment for students," said Ms. Valerie Siener, a Schreiber math teacher who works on the teachers' union negotiation team. She noted that the Teachers Association has always shown great concern for the students, and has worked for them by providing them with thousands of dollars in scholarships every year. Furthermore, she said that teachers willingly give up their free periods, weekend hours, and their time before and after school to give students the extra help they need to reach their maximum potential.

To be sure, there is a common feeling that teachers have not compromised their integrity as professionals during this unsure time.

"Teachers continue to work at very high levels," said Principal Mr. Jay Lewis.

The Board also rejected an addition the teachers made to the contracts, which proposed that any teacher called to military service not suffer a diminution of benefits during his or her time off. This proposal was created with thoughts of Schreiber Social Studies teacher Mr. Bryan Frank, who did not receive a salary from the school for two years while serving in Iraq.

The discrepancies between the two groups go beyond the issue of teacher salaries, however. While the Board feels it may not be necessary, teachers want to continue to take part in joint committees, which were developed to give teachers a strong word in the Board's decisions on educational policies, such as curriculum changes.

Siener believes that teachers who work with students on a daily basis, are the most aware of what policies would best serve the children who attend Port Washington schools, and that they should be involved in decision making.

"As teachers, while the Board sets the policy, we have the expertise to advise," she said.

This negotiation period is unique in that there has been an increase in the vocal participation of community members who, in the words of Mr. Lewis, "have drawn attention to the cost of education in Port Washington and have focused on the concerns to the point that it has led to the sinking in of the heels of both groups, the Board of Education and the teachers."

One of the most vocal opponents of the proposals of the Teachers Association is Mr. Frank Russo of the Port Washington Educational Assembly. Russo feels very strongly about several crucial issues in this negotiation. The first regards teacher salaries. Russo contends that the number of potential teachers interested in taking up positions in the Port Washington School District is so large that, from a purely financial

perspective, it is illogical for teachers to ask for higher salary and benefits.

Russo points to the effects of monopoly on the education system, arguing that if our district were to operate with truly financial motivations, the teacher salaries and benefits would be even lower than they are currently. "If we had competition in education, we would not be paying these kinds of salaries," he said. "We have nearly 5,000 people dying for a job here."

Russo advocates the denial for the next two or three years of an across-the-board salary increase, under which teachers' salaries would be increased by a percentage on top of current benefits.

Russo is also in favor of increasing the time and effort required on the part of teachers by the new contract. The most significant of these is an increase in the number of hours teachers are required to teach each week, from seventeen to twenty.

Currently, teachers are only required to teach seventeen hours each week, with an additional three hours of resource time built into their schedules. During this time, teachers are available to assist students individually. Instead, Russo advocates requiring teachers to remain after school for an extra hour, twice each week. An additional result would be the potential elimination of fifteen to twenty teaching positions.

Russo, aware that his views are certainly contrary to those held by many teachers and faculty, was not shy in addressing his opponents. "I would love to have a public debate in a friendly, civil way," he said. "It is my public invitation to them."

**“Teachers need to be protected because it is such a tenuous job, and having a contract protects the students as well.”**

In general, he seems to express a viewpoint of community members who would like to keep education standards high, but feel stressed by the financial burdens of the times and the negative media attention that has followed school district scandals in nearby towns.

"It's a slow and important process," said Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Mr. Ed Sallie, who works with the Board of Education on representing the community.

Ms. Siener expressed a similar sentiment when she said, "We hope, in everyone's best interest, to come into an amicable agreement."

The task at hand, however, is clearly very difficult. "The ideal settlement would be one the taxpayers could afford, which gives the teachers what they deserve," explained Marcellus. "Simple to say, but hard to do."

## Werle is semi-finalist in Siemens Westinghouse

BY Melis Emre  
Contributing Writer

Last week, Schreiber senior Nick Werle became one of the three-hundred national semifinalists in the Siemens Westinghouse Science and Technology Competition out of the approximately 1,700 applicants. This year, Werle was the sole winner from Schreiber.

Werle worked on his project this summer at the University of Iowa in the chemistry laboratory of Dr. Sarah C. Larsen. Since it was the summer, many of the graduate students who normally work in the lab were not there. This left Werle to work alone, a rarity in the world of high school research.

Werle's research project, *A Template-Free Synthesis of Nanocrystalline ZSM-5*, was focused on the reducing of the sizes of microscopic crystals, called zeolites, used in petroleum refineries. Other types of zeolites are used in applications as diverse as chemical weapons protection and environmentally-friendly water softener laundry detergent.

Dr. Larsen's lab, is a world leader in the artificial synthesis of zeolites. In the past ten years, research tools have become precise enough to work with nanometer-sized particles. Recent research has shown that the catalytic efficiency of these zeolites increases as the sizes of the crystals are decreased.

Werle's research worked to shrink the size of the zeolites used in industrial oil production. He developed a new synthesis procedure that created

particles more than one hundred times smaller than before. He also devised methods to reduce the chemical waste and cost compared to conventional syntheses. His crystals were about fifty nanometers long, which is fifty billionths of a meter.

Along with the other students in science, math, and social science research, Werle will be entering his project into the INTEL Science Talent Search.

INTEL recognizes three-hundred semifinalists a year out of over 2,000 entrants. The STS recognizes students for outstanding prowess in the sciences and likelihood to pursue science as a career. Werle and the other students will hear from INTEL on Jan. 11.



Daniella Malekan

Senior science research student Nick Werle works with an autoclave in Dr. Sarah C. Larsen's chemistry laboratory at the University of Iowa.



## Point

## Counterpoint

## Should there be complete confidentiality between staff and student?

BY Damian Bidikov  
Contributing Writer

One thing I have learned as a teenager is that talking about problems, such as smoking, drinking, pregnancy, or depression, can be uncomfortable, especially with my parents. Many of my peers share my reluctance to relate with parents in times of concern, and have to find other, more negative ways to deal with their troubles. When these problems are left unresolved, they can become harmful and destructive to their unfortunate young bearers, who may find themselves confused, unhappy, hurt, or in even worse situations.

My peers and I are privileged enough to attend a school that offers guidance counselors and social workers to fill in the gaps that parents sometimes cannot; to guide and help students onward through their turbulent high school journey.

Unfortunately, this raises a concern that erupted into controversy as chronicled by *The Schreiber Times* in June of last year. In the case of student pregnancies, staff members are forced to share information that students have given them. In this case, there is of course the argument that having parent aware of their child's problems is helping the student. Though this seems reasonable, there is in fact little reason to break unconditional secrecy between student and staff member in most situations.

As complex as high school students' motives may be, more often than not the reason for keeping problems secret from parents is lack of confidence or surety about how to approach a parent, or fear of punishment. Also, students believe that having their parents know about their problems might damage the too-fragile child/parent relationship.

The question of whether or not counselors should break confidentiality by informing parents of what students tell them brings up a basic cost/benefit scenario that needs to be applied to each individual situation. With only a few exceptions, it simply isn't worth the cost, which includes loss of a student's trust and possible damage to a student's relationship with his or her parents. The general benefits of breaking confidentiality are always different, of course, but destroying confidentiality is only "worth it" in very few situations.

Obviously, if a student is planning on having the child, the parents will eventually need to know. But if a girl tells her guidance counselor about her pregnancy, breaking confidentiality shouldn't be necessary—surely most students are sensible enough to realize they must tell their parents about an upcoming child. Encouragement and reason should be enough to render deceit unnecessary. And if a student is not planning on having a child, there is little reason that the student should not be able to confidentially abort the child,

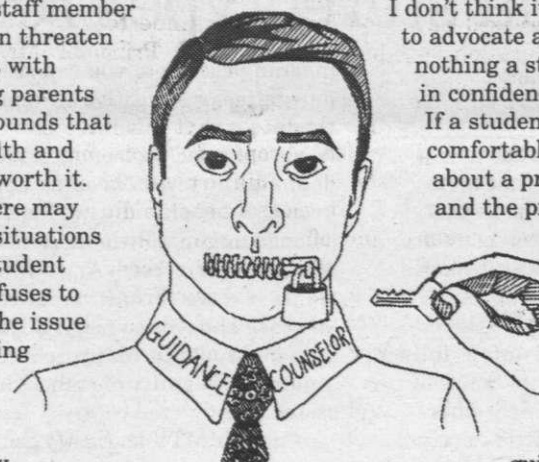
learn from the mistake, and move on, rather than suffer the stress and damaged relationship that will most likely result from parental knowledge.

Perhaps the most common problem that plagues high school students is harmful drug abuse and addiction. If drug addiction and habituation are allowed to continue, they will either reach the point where rehabilitation is necessary, or the student is prone to serious, irreversible self-harm. While this can often be cured without parental knowledge through organizing an intervention by friends and a social worker, sometimes a student lacks the self control and support to improve.

When rehabilitation or other such serious action becomes necessary, once again, encouragement can be enough to make a student realize their parents will eventually "have to" know. It might be extreme, but a school staff member could even threaten a student with informing parents on the grounds that their health and safety is worth it. While there may be a few situations when a student totally refuses to bend on the issue of informing

parents, as with pregnancy, staff members can almost always avoid needing to resort to a breach of confidentiality.

In most cases, there is little reason a guidance counselor or social worker should break a bond of trust with a troubled student. Guidance counselors and/or social workers should respect their student's wishes and preserve complete confidentiality.



Katie Mancher

BY Max Lewin  
Staff Writer

Confidentiality is a word that is a warm blanket of security to the guilt-ridden, the ashamed, and the troubled. But what does it really mean? Confidentiality is the ethical and legal principle between a patient and a doctor wherein the information the patient gives the doctor is kept unconditionally secret, unless the patient gives the doctor permission to disseminate such information. If you were to go to your guidance counselor or a school social worker, you would probably expect this ethical principle to be upheld. But Schreiber guidance counselors, teachers, and social workers are not legally bound by this principle. For various reasons, the practice of student-counselor confidentiality is not upheld in Schreiber, and in my opinion, with good reason.

I don't think it is fair or reasonable to advocate a system in which nothing a student says can be held in confidence.

If a student does not feel comfortable telling her parents about a problem she is having, and the problem does not put her in any kind of danger, then a guidance counselor should be able to keep this problem in confidence. Of course, it is the responsibility of the guidance counselor to

encourage the student to tell her parents. After all, if a student wishes to confide a problem in someone, she probably is only keeping it from her parents because she doesn't know how to approach them or is nervous that she will be in trouble, two things a guidance counselor can help with. There are certain situations, however, when talking to one's parents is simply not possible, and perhaps even unsafe, especially if the student has abusive

parents, and it is the role of the guidance counselor to analyze these situations.

That said, there are some situations when student-guidance counselor confidentiality is simply not reasonable and safe. You may have read an article published in *The Schreiber Times* last year concerning the controversy about the rights of pregnant students, and been surprised to find out that it is a rule of the administration that any faculty member that becomes aware of a student's pregnancy must immediately alert the school social worker, who will in turn alert the parents of the student. Some members of the guidance office believe that, unfortunately, this policy is leading some students to remain silent if they become pregnant. But to what end are these students maintaining their silence? Obviously, if one decides to have her baby she cannot keep her pregnancy a secret forever. And while abortion does not require any parental notification or consent in New York, it is probably best for a student's mental health to tell her parents, even if she thinks she doesn't want to.

Concerning issues of depression and suicide, it is always best for the guidance counselors to err on the side of caution. Even if a depressed student does not show any suicidal tendencies or desires, a guidance counselor should tell his or her parents because otherwise it would be difficult for the student to obtain psychological help and/or medication.

If a student does show signs that he may attempt to take his life, then a guidance counselor should immediately take action and alert the parents, so they can take any preventative measures possible.

In general, if a student exhibits or is aware of a psychological problem he has, it is in his best interest that his parents be informed, whether by him or his guidance counselor. Medication and professional help are not cheap, and students may not be mature enough to recognize their needs for these things on their own, so guidance counselors must take the initiative and inform the parents.

The main problem with a policy of complete confidentiality is that it encourages students to confide only in their guidance counselors, and keep their parents in the dark about their life. While a non-confidentiality policy might discourage some students from coming forth about their problems, it is most important to keep the safety and well being of students in mind, and this sometimes requires telling their parents about problems they would rather keep secret.

## Schreiber Speaks

"I believe that there should be complete confidentiality between students and guidance counselors, except if the student says anything that could endanger someone else."

-James Krellenstein, freshman

"I think there should be complete confidentiality because it's good to have someone you can be sure will keep what you tell them in confidence."

-Timothy Sherman, sophomore

"There shouldn't be a complete confidentiality policy because high schoolers don't have enough common sense to know what's good for them, especially in important life matters."

-Daniel Stewart, junior

"Students and guidance counselors should have confidentiality. Students should have someone that they're willing to talk to if they're not willing to talk to their parents."

-Gabriela Monsanto, senior



## NBA dress code

BY Stephen Nash  
Staff Writer

This year the NBA has instituted a new dress code for players to follow before and after games which demands that players wear business clothes instead of T-shirts, jerseys, shorts, flip-flops or sneakers when they step off the court. It is obvious that this dress code is targeting the hip-hop clothing that players wear before and after games. This new dress code has been controversial throughout the NBA. Some support the code while others call it "unjust." However, I agree with this dress code.

NBA players did not always dress in a hip-hop fashion; this type of dress did not begin until after Michael Jordan retired and the NBA needed a way to continue to reach out to fans and get decent television ratings. The solution to this potential problem was to target the hip-hop culture through sponsorships and endorsements.

The dress code requiring business wear for NBA players was triggered by the outfits of NBA players in America and overseas at the Olympic games. During the last summer Olympics, American players had to attend a dinner in their honor. While the other teams dressed in business suits, the NBA players were wearing jerseys and T-shirts.

The fact is these players are looked up to by young kids, even if that sounds corny. If there are second, third, or even fifth graders who enjoy basketball, they look up to their favorite player. They have posters of their favorite athletes as well their jerseys with the player's name on the back. When athletes wear clothes that are truly inappropriate it sends the message that these things are acceptable. A player's status as a role model might give them certain endorsement deals, such as the deal between Nike and star LeBron James. Even though a player might receive money to wear the clothing, it doesn't mean that such attire is appropriate for public appearances.

Some players are complaining that the league is being racist and this policy is unjust. However, one group is truly to blame for this controversy — the players' union. This dress code was instituted as a result of the collective bargaining agreement. So the players should not complain that the commissioner, David Stern, is racist, but rather complain that their own union representatives negotiated this dress code into their contracts.

Marcus Camby of the Denver Nuggets went so far as to propose that the league pay all players a little extra for them to buy nice clothes. This proposal is absolutely ridiculous. It is absurd to think that Marcus Camby and other players cannot afford to buy suits with their multimillion-dollar contracts.

These players are out of touch with reality: in any other profession there is at least an unwritten dress code. A lawyer can't go into his office or the courtroom in a jersey and shorts, and the lawyer doesn't get paid extra to wear nice clothes. These players are fortunate that they earn so much and have the opportunity to buy nice houses and cars. They can easily afford appropriate clothes.

## The decline of meritocracy in American society

BY Mallory Beberman AND Lara Kovant  
Contributing Writers

Has today's society abandoned all that our forefathers fought for? Although our country prides itself on providing equal opportunities for people of all different backgrounds and rewarding one solely for personal achievement, don't family connections and social status give some people the upper hand in creating their futures?

Take the president of our country, for example. Our president, George W. Bush, is supposed to be the symbol of everything that America stands for: democracy, freedom, equality, opportunity, success, happiness. But instead he symbolizes the prevalence of family connections; his grandfather was a senator, and his father was president. Similarly, his opponent in the previous election of 2004 was Senator John Kerry, the richest man in the Senate. This alone is proof that meritocracy has corrupted our political system and that connections and money do get one far in life.

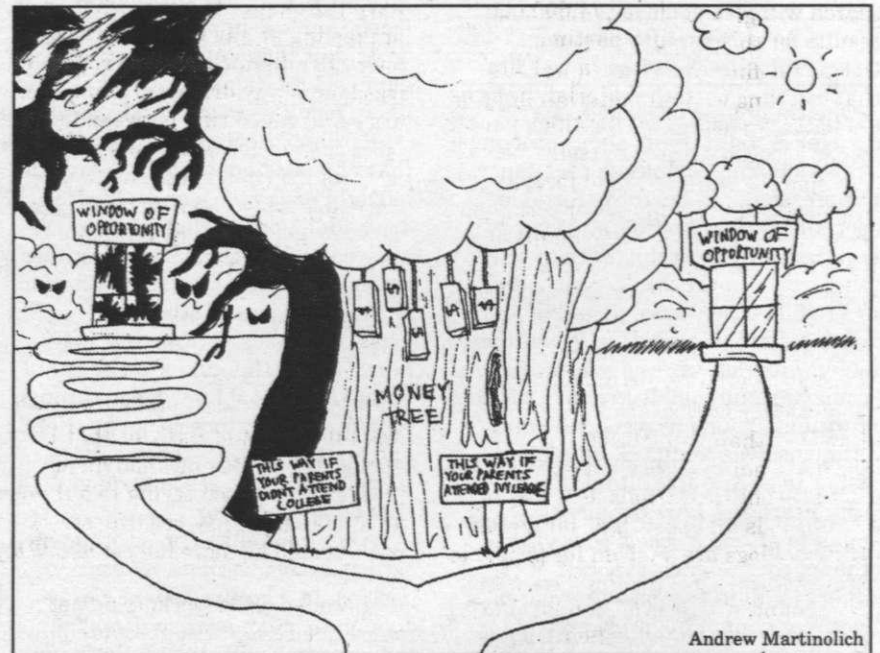
Not only does meritocracy apply to the "top job" but it has also infiltrated our society on many different levels. Although we hear many "rags to riches" stories, presently, social mobility is not what it used to be. According to *The Economist*, a

newspaper focusing on international politics and business news, in 1978, 23% of men classified as belonging to the bottom fifth of the population at birth had risen to the top fifth by the end of their careers. Merely twenty years later, in 1998, that percentage has decreased to just 10%.

On a more relatable level, meritocracy also has an impact on our chances of getting into college. Applying to schools has become more

of "who do I know?" rather than "how qualified am I?" Don't children of alumni and children with connections to those on an admissions board have a greater edge than those with no legacy and no associations? At Ivy League institutions, 10% to 15% of every class is composed of legacies.

Continued on pg. 12



Andrew Martinolich

## Are media stereotypes reinforced by teens?

BY Melinda Salamán  
Assistant Opinions Editor

Because the media is such a powerful force it is likely that most people are familiar with the stereotypes of American teenagers. Teenagers are portrayed as promiscuous and spoiled kids who live in a world of unrestricted and unsupervised parties. While many may argue that these are unfair, fully submerging yourself in the "Schreiber scene" exposes the truth: Schreiber students are doing very little to refute these claims; in fact, their behavior only reinforces them.

As usual, a disclaimer needs to be whipped out. Not all Schreiber students reinforce the typical teenage stereotype. Without a doubt, there are students who are normal, functioning members of the student body who do not take advantage of their parents' generosity by smoking, drinking, or abusing drugs.

Unfortunately, the actions of the majority of the students undermine the reputations of that responsible minority. So even though there are those who don't regularly abuse substances and throw temper tantrums, the actions of the majority of the school represents the entire student body in some people's minds.

A popular television show on MTV right now is *Laguna Beach*, a reality show that shows the 'nitty-gritty' life of several California teenagers. They're all good-looking, wealthy, and pretty much act like students at Schreiber. Don't take that as an insult, since it's not intended to be. The characters are all relatively likeable, and as far as the producers allow the viewers to know, they don't engage in any illegal escapades. But there is fact muddled in all of these generalizations: the main character, Kristin, has no problem with "hooking up" with her male friends and later explaining that it was

meaningless. Now, you can see this as a negative or a positive statement, but the fact is that this is a stereotype that is often pinned on teenagers. First, I'll define a key term: "hooking up." To keep this kid-friendly, we'll define this as engaging in a little more than a kiss with another person. And while adults would reserve this action for someone you care about, this is not always the case for students. Many Schreiber students are guilty of embodying this stereotype.

Another MTV show, *My Super Sweet Sixteen*, stereotypes teenagers in a way particularly relevant to residents of the North Shore of Long Island. The program shows kids who are spoiled and ungrateful.

When a show champions girls whose whines include "If I don't get a car for my birthday, I'll never talk to my parents again" and "It just feels so good, because everyone is giving me the attention that I deserve," it's being unfair. Shows like this convince adults that this is normal teenage behavior.

Instead of complaining about these unfair judgments, we should ask ourselves whether we're doing anything to refute these outlandish claims. Unfortunately, the answer to this question would have to be "no." As children who have grown up and live on the North Shore, we are labeled as spoiled teenagers who don't appreciate the work our parents do in order to support our expensive lives. (That's right, I said it, we're expensive). But how far away are we from this? I've witnessed many cell phone conversations between a parent and their child in which the child was yelling at their parent because the latter wasn't able to chauffeur the child from point A to point B. If the parent finally gave in after all this whining and complaining, and gave the child a ride, two words were amazingly

absent from the conversation: "Thank you." So I guess the real question to ask would be: why do we treat our parents like this? Why do we allow ourselves to act in such a manner? As we raise our voices and yell for some unknown cause, the validity of the stereotype increases.

The website [www.parentstv.com](http://www.parentstv.com) is a forum for parents to voice their concerns about current television shows, including a teen favorite, *The OC*. To quote the website: "One episode...featured a party in which teenagers were shown smoking pot, snorting cocaine, and engaging in drunken threesomes."

This happens to be a lovely introduction into our next topic: drinking and abusing drugs. While snorting cocaine isn't the most pervasive problem in Schreiber, the other events that happened in this particular episode aren't too far off from Schreiber's truth. There is not one sane person who can convince me that alcohol and marijuana abuse are not problems in our school. So is this an unfair stereotype? How can we refute the claim that teenagers drink too much and smoke too much when our town's unofficial nickname is "Pot Washington?" While it's unfair that some students are pinned with a rebellious reputation, the general stereotype is completely deserved and unfortunately nothing is being done to refute it.

I know that I made a few enemies who disagree with the point I'm trying to make. But all evidence points to one truth: as teenagers, Schreiber students are being judged and stereotyped on a daily basis. While the stereotypes may be taken to an extreme, no one is doing anything to refute them. Every weekend, there are teenagers from our town who reinforce the stereotypes of the entire student population.



# The new gateway drugs: MySpace, Xanga, and Blogs

BY Melissa Heller  
Contributing Writer

"Hey Betty, before we go out tonight, I just want to check out my MySpace—it'll only be two minutes, I promise."

The word "blogging" has become so universal, in both teenage lingo and office dialogue, that newspapers and magazines have published articles based on it. In case you're not aware of what blogging is, a simple Google search will give you over 74,600,000 results for this popular pastime. Google defines "blog" as "a website that contains written material, links or photos being posted all the time, usually by one individual, on a personal basis."

The word is a shortened form of "weblog," although the latter term has since fallen into disuse. In addition, one can easily find the history and uses of blogging online, which range from the "Zen of blogging" (the art of writing these personal online journals) to information on baby products, and even business consulting.

Rather than using it for informational purposes, many students use these online journals as a way to meet friends and post their innermost feelings. Blogs are a forum for people to share pictures, get to know each other, play around with coding and layouts and leave comments for their friends. Junior Gabi Paolini agrees, describing online journals as "a way to meet friends and talk to people [in Schreiber] I normally wouldn't talk to." In reality, it is very easy to see how many students at Schreiber waste their time and energy, publishing online journals, particularly on MySpace (which boasts over 16 million users).

MySpace is only one of the many blog sites: other popular sites include LiveJournal (with over 4 million users), Xanga (over 40 million users), and

Facebook High School, an online profile which was adapted from its popular college predecessor. A simple search on MySpace for "Schreiber High School" will produce over 500 registered users between the ages of sixteen and nineteen. It's certainly interesting that roughly one quarter of Schreiber's student body participates in blogging, yet those very same people struggle to meet deadlines on school assignments.

In these online journals, members have the chance to share what they are feeling at any moment. Despite (or rather, because of) this sense of freedom, many dramatic issues can arise and cause rifts between friends. Once the vicious words of a person's innermost and darkest emotions are published, they can never be taken back, resulting in a long-lasting impression on others which outweighs the spoken word.

Online bloggers can vent their frustrations, or merely write about the highlights of their day.

"My blog entries lately are erratic and full of a lot of B.S., for that I apologize," wrote one anonymous blogger. "I am just trying to put down what is in my head, regardless... I wish I could be more honest about my feelings."

Because office workers do not share the rights that students have to express their feelings online, in many businesses, employees have been caught and fired after lashing out at their job through blogging. While there is a way to set profiles as private, so that only those who are added as friends or invited are able to view entries, many bosses have caught their employees and have used their blogs as evidence against them. One of the most controversial cases over which someone was fired was that of an American Airlines flight

attendant who posted raunchy pictures of herself while wearing her American Airlines uniform. As of late, she has updated her blog title to read "Diary of a FIRED Flight Attendant," a not-so-subtle advertisement of a book she has recently written.

In addition to these cases, multiple publications, such as *People Magazine*, *Time Magazine*, *Forbes*, and other respectable media outlets have joined in criticizing blogs. *Forbes* magazine, in its article called *Attack of the Blogs* said, "Web logs are the prized platform of an online lynch mob spouting liberty but spewing lies, libel and invective."

In addition, the article says that, "Blogs started a few years ago as a simple way for people to keep online diaries. Suddenly they are the ultimate vehicle for brand-bashing, personal attacks, political extremism and smear campaigns." In this case, the business world directly pertains to Schreiber: these acts of bashing and verbal abuse are prevalent in our high school blogging world and as a result, relationships are torn apart on the basis of misconstrued words and misinterpreted sentiments.

Even though blogs are taken rather lightly and meant for friends to converse and meet other people, they are unproductive, causing problems in time management for students.

"I have a MySpace, Xanga, Live Journal, Facebook... everything," said Paolini. "It's such a waste of time, [and I admit that] MySpace is so addicting." In fact, few students actually check blog updates, and blog entries are basically a cop-out for coping with real-life problems. Since there are numerous features which allow students to become lost in the fantasy world of blogging, bloggers lose their touch with reality and leave their priorities behind.

## How peaceful protests give students a political voice

BY Stephanie Seeman  
Contributing Writer

As young adults proceed into high school or college, they begin to develop their own ideas and beliefs about politics. As these people's ideologies evolve, many make it their duty to speak out to those ruling the country. They become anxious to persuade others of their views, especially regarding the dishonesty and injustice of politicians.

The Vietnam War was one of the first wars that was the focus of college students' voices. During the eighteen years of fighting and turmoil, young adults spoke out about their beliefs on the war in attempts to end the violence.

Whether they participated in protests or published their opinions in newspapers or traveled from city to city protesting, every adult shrugged off their ideas as trivial. No adults even considered that young people could be correct about such a complicated issue.

As the voices of these students grew more mainstream, many adults began to realize that America should never have become involved with the civil war between North and South Vietnam. These young leaders took a stand even though many protests resulted in terrible, historically significant riots.

A couple of weeks ago, in New York City, young adults partook in a protest

against President George W. Bush. These high school and college students of America desperately wanted to convince others that President Bush had no reason to send soldiers into another country. The risks to the troops are great and unknown to many Americans. They chose to project their voices around the country while they put their lives in danger, just as others had before them during the anti-war protests of the Vietnam era.

It is great that today's youths are concerned about America and are willing to share



Shimon Ishikawa

their opinions with the rest of the world. These youths' desire for a nation with no violence shows how well they will be leading the United States in coming decades.

When children become activists, they must decide which political party they truly agree with. Thus, they read about the various beliefs and values of each party, watch the news to learn about current events, or surf the Internet for real-time updates of information.

It is important for our youth to take a political stand in order for them to become more aware of the world and the events around them. Many high school students, and even some college graduates, do not understand the main reasons for our war with Iraq. Many have not even heard about Bush's \$7.1 billion strategy to prepare for a possible worldwide "super-flu" outbreak.

If more students decide to become activists, millions of adults across our country will begin to hear the students' cries. This might alter the opinions of adults, providing great benefits to America. The country has already seen these patterns during the Vietnam War.

In addition, students who research politics will become more politically aware and will develop a rich understanding of what our country stands for.

America's young adults should continue their fight for recognition, by walking the footsteps of the New York City and the Vietnam protesters. The rest of America should never disregard their political beliefs.

## Where did all the twisters come from?

BY Brian Cindrich  
Assistant Opinions Editor

Every day it seems that there is another natural disaster. The west has earthquakes and wildfires. Move to the midwest and you could find yourself in Tornado Alley. The northeast has blizzards, ice storms and heat waves. The world as a whole is experiencing catastrophic events, whether it be fast acting destruction like mud slides and hurricanes or slow acting destruction like global warming. At times like this I can't help but wonder if that crazy little man just off of Times Square waving the Bible in my face and yelling "Apocalypse" might be correct.

In response to a world where natural disasters are increasingly disrupting both rich and poor nations, scapegoats are needed. I mean, of course we can't blame ourselves, this must be the fault of the gods. Unfortunately, the recent tragedies are the result of catastrophic

*“Whether we like it or not, we have had a major impact on our environment which is in turn having a major impact on us.”*

chains of causes and effects, which have to be understood.

The available scientific evidence about Hurricane Katrina indicates that it is likely that global warming will make, and is possibly already making, hurricanes more destructive than they otherwise would have been. The key connection is between sea surface temperatures and the power of hurricanes. Without going into technical and boring details of the life cycle of tropical storms and hurricanes, the basic connection between the two is actually fairly simple: warm water, and the unstable lower atmosphere that is created by it, serves as the energy source for the storms. Now we have even warmer water and a more unstable lower atmosphere due to global warming. We have caused the formation of more hurricanes.

Some people think that science will find a way to save us from ourselves. Maybe we will find a way to control ocean temperature or keep the ice caps intact in Greenland and Antarctica. The simple fact is that this is impossible. Whether we like it or not, we have had a major impact on our environment which is in turn having a major impact on us. Long term thinking and cooperation may help us prevent this problem in the future. But humans as a species have so far shown that they are greedy and shortsighted. As the comic strip character Pogo once famously said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Some may decide to flock to street corners and scream judgment day at all passersby, desperately trying to convince all of us to become God-fearing citizens. Some may choose to see natural disasters as a simple fact of life, as perfectly natural events devoid of any overarching religious meaning. We only have one Earth, and it will follow only one of an infinite number of possible weather sequences. However, we must realize that what we do will always affect our Earth.



# So you want to be "gangsta?" You may want to think twice

## Sophomore examines the rapid growth of gang influences in Schreiber

BY Cale Rubenstein  
Staff Writer

Boys: have you recently tried to go to the bathroom in the new wing? You probably found it more than difficult. Most of the bathrooms have been vandalized beyond belief. The gang names of the "Bloods" and the "Crips" are etched all over the bathroom. Profanity is scribbled in every corner. In light of the recent assembly on gangs, we must ask, why is Schreiber plagued by this gang propaganda?

We know that other schools on Long Island don't have the problems we do. So why do we have these problems? Is it pop culture, where TV makes the mafia, gangs, and shootings look cool? Is it the lack of other activities in this town? No, there is no reason. No good reason, anyway.

There are so many more options in life than gang life. But there shouldn't even be gang life in Port Washington. We pay our police more than we pay those in New York City, yet when "[Expletive] the Bloods" is written on a public school's bathroom wall, it doesn't seem to register with them.

Don't get me wrong, I am very grateful for the protection of our police, but all I wish is that they pay a little less attention to speeding cars, and more attention to the emergence of gangs.

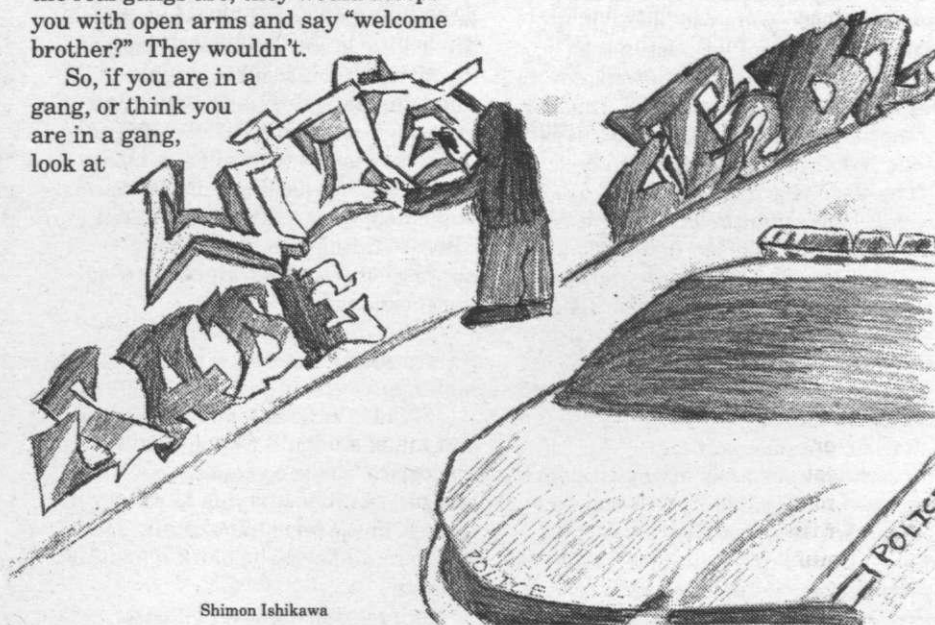
When you scrawl your gang name onto the bathroom wall, you are making a serious claim, especially if that name is "Bloods" or "Crips." These two gangs are among the most infamous and violent in America. You have to realize that when you make this claim, you become a part of everyone and everything else that is part of the claim you made. You associate yourself with the same activities as people who also make those claims do.

One day, you are going to realize you don't want to continue with these activities, and you will realize you want to go to college, and get a job, and get married, and live with your two kids in a nice, warm house. But it will be too late; you are too entrenched in gang life, and you can't get out. And this goes for everyone, poor or rich, white, black, or Hispanic, once you write those few words on the bathroom wall, you commit yourself to something you may never be able to leave.

But you have to remember, for all of you who think it is "cool" and "bad" to be in a gang, you have to remember where you live. You live in Port Washington. Let's be honest, you live in an upper class town. Do you think that if you went to Compton, where the real gangs are, they would accept you with open arms and say "welcome brother?" They wouldn't.

So, if you are in a gang, or think you are in a gang, look at

yourself, look at what you've done, look at what you are about to do. Do you really want to continue on that path? Are you sure that that is the smartest thing to do? Please, change your ways, before you end up doing something you may regret.



# not Quite newsworthy

## Inherit the whine...the freedom of disbelief

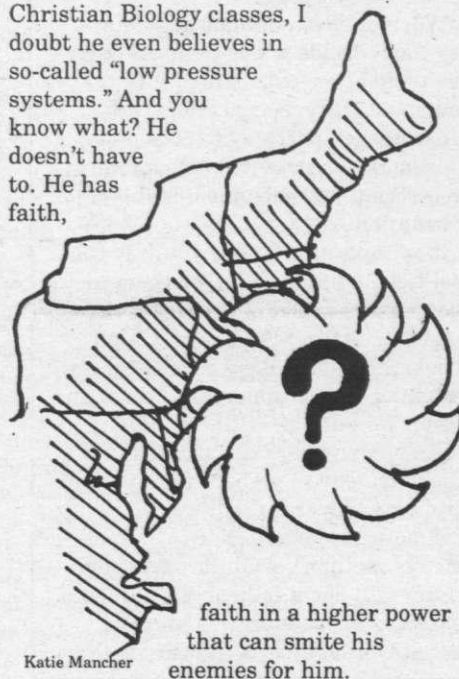
BY Jeremy Frank  
Assistant Opinions Editor

God is one busy deity. God has to "perform miracles" and "uplift the faithful" all week, until the weekend, when God just crashes on the couch. On Sunday, God is just so beat that God can't do squat. But God's life just took a turn for the worse. In between appearing on billboards and helping gullible people win the lottery, God is going to have to look for a new bachelor(ette) pad, because God just got evicted.

The votes are in and the Dover, Pennsylvania school board is out. All eight members who were up for reelection were booted out of office for their views on "Intelligent Design." Specifically, the voters overwhelmingly agreed; it was their desire not only to allow the theory into the schools, but to have it taught before evolution. Without "Intelligent Design," what chaos will befall our great nation?

Fear not, because someone has stood up to protect the omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent Creator from being bullied in school. Televangelist and all-around dunderhead Pat Robertson embarrassed himself again after the election by warning the people of Dover that "...if there is a disaster in your area, don't turn to God...you just voted God out of your city." An uplifting spiritual message as always, Mr. Robertson. Robertson hinted at God's wrath, but for some reason failed to give us any details. I'll do my best to fill in the blanks. Now, the religious right has already claimed that the hurricanes in the Gulf were

the result of a vengeful God, but with only a few days left in the hurricane season and Dover lying nowhere near a hurricane danger zone, I don't know how they're going to make it happen. But maybe that's why I'm not a millionaire televangelist. Pat Robertson doesn't need facts or information! If Christian Earth Science classes are anything like Christian Biology classes, I doubt he even believes in so-called "low pressure systems." And you know what? He doesn't have to. He has faith,



faith in a higher power that can smite his enemies for him.

But does God even need a loudmouth con-artist to defend Godself? If you listen to Pat Robertson, it's easy to forget that God doesn't need your sympathy. If we're worried about God getting voted out of one school, it doesn't make God homeless. Consider this: if every church is a "house of God," that would probably make God the largest landowner in North America. Not too shabby. Oh, and the ability to do absolutely anything probably helps too.

I single Pat Robertson out, but he isn't the only one I have a problem with. It's the entire evangelistic philosophy. I take offense to all the claims that just because I'm agnostic I am either a) a sinner and a heathen or b) unenlightened or uninformed. Evangelist groups assume that you are some sort of freak if you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your personal savior. I hold in my hand a document entitled "Developing Friendships of Integrity with Lost People" by an evangelist named John Estorge. My disdain for the very assumption proposed in the title (along with my ongoing battle with illiteracy) kept me from reading any further. I can assure you, I am not "lost." I'm right here, baby, and it's where I want to be. Another similar publication is called *Becoming a Contagious Christian* by Bill Hybels. All I can say on that if we can tackle avian flu, the Evangelism bug should be no problem.

Looking back on what I've written, I can't help but feel that I've made the wrong point. I don't think that religious people should give up their faith, but I think it should be exactly that, "their faith." Religions have become hostile to both the agnostic and other denominations, to the point where they have sacrificed their core beliefs in the name of expansion (i.e., the Crusades). Despite what you might think about me, I don't have a problem with God, it's just a couple of whiny members of the fan club I can't stand.

If you would like to respond to this or any other article in the newspaper, email your letter to [schreiber.times@gmail.com](mailto:schreiber.times@gmail.com)

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Those people fortunate enough to have these affiliations tend to be those born into affluent families.

From even before they can talk, children of wealth are thrust into a competitive environment. The competition only increases with age. As a young child the competition is for the position as prima ballerina. Later on as a student, it's a competition for the most prestigious college. Enrollment in private school only enhances the probability of admission into an Ivy League school. Children born without the advantages of money are forced to rely on their intelligence and hard work to simply have a chance of earning a scholarship: it is a greater struggle for children who grow up in less prosperous areas with a school district lacking necessary resources.

Studies presented by *The Economist* reveal that three-quarters of the students attending the 146 best colleges in America are from the richest socio-economic quarter of the population. Only a sparse 3% attending these distinguished colleges are those who come from the poorest quarter of the population. This means that you will encounter twenty-five rich students to one poor at an elite school.

Although our forefathers intended to create a society in which all men were given equal opportunities to prosper despite the hindering factors of social status, in today's world, this is becoming more and more of an ideal situation rather than reality. It seems as though meritocracy is affecting not only the Presidency and the economy, but our chances of getting into college as well.





# EDITORIALS

## Save block scheduling

The Port Washington School Board meetings have always been the scene of surprisingly bitter confrontation. Local school politics have come a long way from the not-too-distant days when physical skirmishes at Board meetings were not uncommon. The last few years have seen relative bliss as the Board has voted unanimously, or nearly so, on almost every issue put to vote.

The last year has seen a significant change in the local political order. In the midst of economic stagnation and the leveling off of home prices, the perennial anti-budget, anti-tax leaders have been given more credence. Although several candidates who supported cutting school spending to lower property taxes were resoundingly rejected in the last Board elections, community anger over the school district's budget has reached a new fervor.

The latest front established by the anti-tax forces in this war over costs is a fight over the schedule at Schreiber. Some community members, particularly those associated with the newly-formed Port Washington Education Assembly, are lobbying the school to annihilate the block scheduling system that has been in place for about ten years now. They contend that switching the school to the traditional eight or nine period day would save costs by making it possible for each teacher to take on six courses. With the current block schedule, it is nearly impossible for a teacher to have more than five classes.

The PWEA is arguing for this change as a way to cut staff positions. However, it isn't even clear that traditional scheduling would allow staff cuts. School officials contend that the change would not decrease the number of teachers needed.

However, it is ridiculous to argue only about costs. The block schedule has substantial benefits that far outweigh any potential cost savings. First, this six-period schedule allows each period to be an entire hour long instead of the traditional forty minutes. A conservative estimate would be that ten minutes of each class period is spent starting and ending class, leaving less than thirty-

five minutes of solid instructional time. This is not enough.

Second, most classes do not meet every day in the block system. This allows teachers and students to have days off from each other. Block scheduling allows students to manage their time better because classes don't meet as often. Teachers can also give multi-day homework assignments like short papers, which are more educational than shorter, one-day assignments like worksheets. These longer assignments foster critical thinking skills and force students to synthesize original arguments instead of copying over textbook material.

Third, this schedule allows more flexibility in choosing classes. One of the main reasons that the change was made in the first place was that too many students were locked out of classes because of conflicts. In the traditional schedule it is much more likely that there will be conflicts between classes. The block scheduling system has drastically increased student enrollment in electives like computer, photography, and technology.

Fourth, it is impossible in Schreiber's current system for a student to have no lunch period. The 4-1/4-2 division ensures that even the students taking the most strenuous classes do not completely massacre themselves. This saves many of Schreiber's highest-achieving students from their own zeal.

Finally, the block system ensures that classes meet at different times and on different days so that the same classes are not always first period on Monday or last period on Friday. Classes that meet during these unproductive periods are unpleasant for the teachers and the students. The block schedule forces teachers to share that load.

The benefits of the system are even more numerous. If they continue their assault on Schreiber's schedule, the ideological leaders of the anti-tax movement can only be categorized as anti-education.

## Where have all the recycling bins gone?

Whereas last year, almost every classroom in the school had a recycling bin, they are now few and far between. *The Schreiber Times* would like to know exactly where these recycling bins have gone. Schreiber students produce huge amounts of trash every day, but along with their ability to waste is an ability to conserve. There is no reason that students shouldn't have the resources with which they can help protect the environment from unnecessary waste.

*The Schreiber Times* contends that there should be more recycling bins placed throughout the school, especially in high frequency areas, such as the cafeteria. Students should be able

to throw their trash into recycling receptacles for papers, cans, and bottles, rather than straight into the trash.

We condone the actions of clubs such as Tree Huggers, which is working toward making a program to send students into science classrooms to educate others about the great difference that recycling can make, and the necessity of protecting our environment. We hope that students and faculty alike learn from these presentations, and take it into their own hands to make recycling part of their daily routine.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As the Co-Presidents of the Key Club, we would like to respond to an article in last month's *Schreiber Times*, "Key Club: not just for community service anymore" written by Stephanie Seeman. We believe that this article did not provide fair evaluation of the community service organizations of Schreiber, especially the Key Club. This article implies that the only reason students join community service clubs is to impress colleges. The author says, "It is baffling to me how students who find no joy in helping others join clubs that are based on charity." This statement is completely false. There are definitely people who don't go out of their way to help others; however, when given the opportunity they are happy to pitch in. Yes, it is true that people do join clubs for the wrong reasons, but why does it matter if their actions benefit and aid others? It is a positive outcome for everyone, the community is made better and the person gets something to put on their transcript. Many people do join charity clubs for the wrong reasons, however they stay in them for the right reasons. People realize after performing community service that it helps others and makes them feel good about themselves.

Another issue that we would like to address is the article's opinion on the presidents of these clubs. The article stated "I would feel horrible if I became president of a club I hated, over someone who absolutely loved it. But to the Schreiber students, it's worth doing if it helps them get into Harvard or Yale." We interpreted this as a direct attack against our intentions regarding our involvement with Key Club. We work very hard behind the scenes to plan events and meetings. It is not an easy job that can be done by anyone. We are motivated and we work for the right reason. Our involvement with the Key Club is not meant to be used as a device for being accepted into an Ivy League school.

We do not understand the motivation for writing an article that would discredit the Key Club and its members. The Key Club does great work within the community and has an amazing group of members who are always willing to help out. So far this year we have participated in several events, including our own car wash

where over 100 members participated and worked hard to raise money for a great cause.

-Jason Lifton  
Amanda Sall

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Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the article "Key Club: not just for community service anymore" in last issue. I joined all the clubs I belong to just because they interest me. However, as Stephanie Seeman pointed out, this is not true for most kids in Schreiber. Nowadays, the primary concern of the student is getting into a prestigious college.

Key Club—which is an example of a community service club—has a large membership. Key Club requires that students go to meetings at least twice a month and participate in some of the charity events on the weekends. On the other hand, if you look at the Debate Team, there are nowhere near the number of kids and you have to put in much more time. On the debate team, there are practices almost every day of the week and tournaments on the weekends. This shows that kids are obviously joining the clubs in which they do not have to commit to too much. These kids are joining clubs so they can say they were a member of Key Club for four years and so on. As Seeman's article points out, they join without a generous bone in their body.

The article uses Key Club as an example, but it is not alone. I have heard from many people that the article is a "complete attack on Key Club," but as I already mentioned, Seeman is trying to say that this practice of meaningless membership is wrong. I am also not saying that everyone in these certain clubs has these selfish motivations but simply that they are too common.

I believe that this will really never be changed as long as people are competing for college admissions. The article brings attention to an issue that people usually ignore because they are part of the problem. The bottom line is that kids should be joining clubs because they want to, not because they think it will improve their chances for college.

-Stephen Nash

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# the



by Kyra Siegel  
A&E Editor

No one can accuse Schreiber's Drama Club of lacking a sense of adventure. In its most recent production, from Nov. 17 to 20, the Drama Club took a creative risk, performing *The Wiz* by William Brown and Charlie Smalls. Considering that the play was originally performed on Broadway as an African-American remake of *The Wizard of Oz*, it was not an easy play for the club to put on.

*The Wiz* originally opened in 1975. The Broadway musical featured an all-black cast and an original soundtrack. *The Wiz* ran for 1,672 performances and inspired a movie adaptation, just as the *Phantom of the Opera* and *Rent* have.

The movie version of *The Wiz* featured Michael Jackson, pre-mutilative surgery, playing the Scarecrow and Diana Ross controversially playing Dorothy. Reviewers criticized the casting of thirty-four year old Diana Ross to play the young female lead.

It was somewhat surprising that Schreiber would attempt to produce a play with such a history. Especially ironic – and a major weakness – was the fact that the production, Schreiber's prized diversity notwithstanding, didn't feature any minority performers. As one sophomore noted, "even Toto was white."

Even so, some students felt that just by picking *The Wiz*, Schreiber was showing an enlightened attitude. "Performing *The Wiz* was a great way to demonstrate Schreiber's open mindedness," said junior Alyssa Epstein.

However, stripped of the authentic ethnicity that gave the Broadway version of *The Wiz* its special electricity, the Schreiber production was a shade on the bland side. But it still was, in effect, a funnier, creative remake of *The Wizard of Oz*, fitted with some urban dialogue, a catchy soundtrack, and topical ad-libs about Port Washington.

Schreiber's version of *The Wiz*

followed the same basic plotline of *The Wizard of Oz*. "The plot was the same but I enjoyed the splurges of modernisms," said Epstein. "That's what made it funny."

The play began in Kansas with a mother-daughter scene. Aunt Em (senior Claire Talcott), Dorothy's guardian, is a sarcastic but affectionate parent. Instead of starting off the play with the famous "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," Talcott sang "The Feeling We Once Had," with clear, full-bodied vocals.

Shortly after, Dorothy was whisked away to the Land of Oz, spinning around on a wheeling chair. The tornado effect of the movie would obviously be hard to pull off, even without the contingency budget.

Senior Selli Blum and the Storm Dancers, sophomores Jessica Hurwitz, Jade Maniscalco and Katie McCulloh, who as an ensemble created the tornado, added to the whirlwind effect with an intricately choreographed dance.

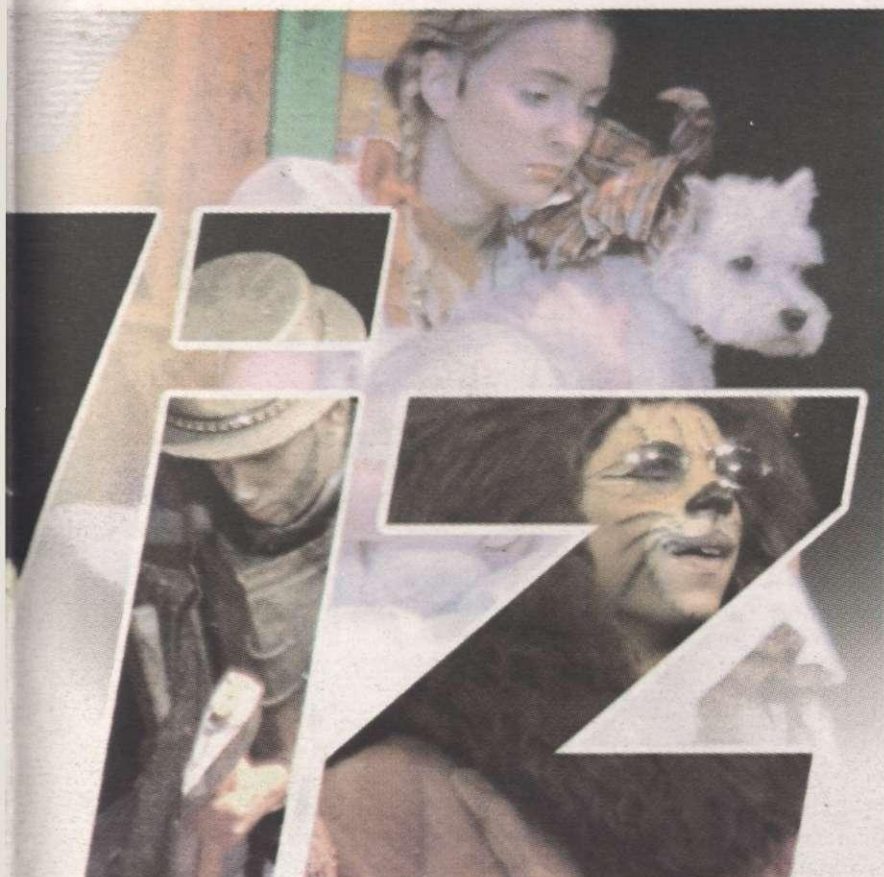
Dorothy (senior Sarah Mellen) landed on top of the Wicked Witch of the East, freeing the Munchkins and the sprightly mini-Munchkins, who were played by middle school students.

Mellen was an impressive choice for the lead role. She easily mastered her character: a juvenile, cutely innocent Dorothy. Recalling Judy Garland, Mellen added another dimension to Dorothy's character with her incredibly powerful voice.

Next, the Good Fairy, Addaperle (senior Meaghan Elicks), arrived on the scene, and congratulated Dorothy for conquering the evil witch. Elicks was quite entertaining with her comical character. Addaperle then told Dorothy to find the Wiz, and this led to one of the best songs of the show, "He's the Wizard." This number displayed impressive harmony.

With Toto (sophomore Aaron Schweitzer) at her side, Dorothy embarked down the Yellow Brick Road, visually composed of junior Andrew





Cuthill and sophomores Meghan Doyle, Kate Hughes and Leann Li, who were all dressed in bright shirts and yellow construction hats.

Together with ensemble dancers, the cast sung "Ease on down the Road," the play's most popular song. The song was catchy and made the influence of African American music shine through.

Following the Yellow Brick Road, Dorothy met the Scarecrow (sophomore Nick Otte), the Tin Man (senior David Gelb), and the Lion (senior Greg Ormont). Otte amusingly pulled off difficult lines such as "honey you know it." Gelb hilariously explained how he had lost his limbs one by one and had had them replaced with metal, conjuring up the image of the pugnacious man who slowly becomes only a torso in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Ormont was even more entertaining, strutting around the stage while casually striking macho poses. He also successfully infused stereotypical black dialogue into his character.

As the crew made its way to the Emerald City, the Lion was stopped by the poppy field – but in this version, this there was a twist. Under the flowers' influence, the Lion started to hallucinate. The sensuous poppy dancers, in a slightly raunchy but not actually inappropriate scene, tried to seduce him. However, the Field Mice put a stop to it by coming to take the Lion away, rather reluctantly.

At last, they met the Wiz (senior Jake Handelman). The Wiz told them that the Wicked Witch of the West, Evillene (junior Fredi Bernstein), must be killed before he will grant any of their wishes. Handelman, dressed in a glitzy gold suit, was able to skillfully pull off some challenging lines including urban expressions with double negatives such as "I don't gotta do nothing."

At the castle, Dorothy angrily threw a bucket of water on Evillene, who disappeared in a puff of smoke. Bernstein did an excellent job of

portraying a more modern, edgy witch. This wicked witch was an intimidating diva; she needed to get her way, or else.

In the end, Dorothy and crew returned to the Wiz, who granted them all their desires. Then, the good fairy Glinda (junior Jamie Pellet) guided Dorothy home. Pellet sang, "Believe in Yourself," with powerful, mature vocals.

Overall, *The Wiz* showcased Schreiber's many talented actors. Indeed, one could certainly tell that the cast was having fun on stage.

"It was definitely the most fun I've had performing a show," said Bernstein. "Everyone was so supportive."

However, measured against previous plays and the recent Schreiber One Acts in particular, it seems as though the limitations of this production might have kept some actors from reaching their full potential. *The Wiz* was very funny at times but could have been even more entertaining. Despite this, the auditorium was full of audience members each night, especially on Sunday when people had to be turned away due to a lack of seating. At the Thursday night performance the audience could bring in a children's book in lieu of a ticket, continuing with Schreiber's ongoing effort to helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Congratulations are in order for the musicians and vocalists in the pit, which was directed by Orchestra teacher Mr. Anthony Pinelli. The stage crew also constructed a vivid set.

Cam Gelb provided her usual professional-caliber direction and choreography. Philip Glover's musical direction was also highly commendable.

All Photos by Liz Corkett



1. Addaperle, the Good Witch of the North (senior Meaghan Elicks), joins her sister Glinda, the Good Witch of the South (junior Jamie Pellet), in singing a song.
2. The Cowardly Lion (senior Greg Ormont) begs The Wiz (senior Jacob Handelman) for some courage.
3. (l-r) Toto (sophomore Aaron Schweitzer), Scarecrow (sophomore Nick Otte) and Dorothy (senior Sarah Mellen) listen to the Tinman (senior David Gelb) recount the story of how he came to be made of tin.
4. The Evil Witch of the West, Evillene (junior Fredi Bernstein), tells the head of the Winged Monkeys (junior Allie Schenkler) to find Dorothy and bring the famous silver slippers to her.
5. After catching the famous Wiz wearing his pajamas, sucking his thumb and holding his teddy bear, Dorothy and her friends convince him to give them what they want.



# MySpace popularity attracts media CEO Murdoch

## New ownership may infuse conservatism into the MySpace culture

By **Erin Szulman**  
Features Editor

Teens may be a little more social than knowledgeable nowadays, recent online sources suggest. MySpace.com, the online community, has topped Google.com in internet hits. In August, there were 9.4 billion views on MySpace, making it the fifth most visited site on the web. The site has shown a 400% popularity increase since its creation with 3.5 million new users a month.

The website was founded in 2003 by Tom Anderson, who may just be the most popular person on Earth. The site hosts approximately 27 million members. After Myspace surpassed Google in April, it became a new target for business opportunities.

The website was previously owned by InterMix, its parent company. News Corporation, a huge media conglomerate that owns newspapers and television stations worldwide, including FOX, bought MySpace for an estimated \$580 million. The company is owned by Rupert Murdoch, who has assumed the role of owner of MySpace.

The agreement went forth in July, with the purpose of creating new advertising opportunities for News Corporation. Murdoch rightly recognized the website's power to communicate with millions of internet surfers, especially teens.

Australian-born Murdoch, a staunch

conservative and long-time supporter of the Republican party, is possibly the most influential media proprietor on Earth. In the 1970s, Murdoch was a part of the Australian Labor Party and still maintains support of Tony Blair's Labor Party. In the United States, he has been a long-time Republican who has most recently offered strong support

to Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush.

Murdoch is often accused of running partisan media coverage that supports policies and decisions with which he agrees. Liberals tend to kick and scream at FOX News, especially with its seemingly conservative bias emerging from under the catchphrase

"fair and balanced."

Murdoch is now wading into uncharted territories with his new plans for MySpace. Murdoch has effectively bought a means to shape and influence the new generation through strategic advertising.

Given the popularity of the site, MySpace is a perfect venue to attract teens to new products and ideas. The website is home to twelve percent of all ads on the internet. News Corporation now has direct control of twelve percent of the internet's advertisements, which target at least 27 million members.

Myspace has a projected gross of between thirty and forty million dollars for the remainder of 2005 alone. In 2006, profits are expected to double.

Figure this. You come home, sit down at your computer and log on to Myspace. Ads are on the sidebars and above the site's content, and based upon Murdoch's new purchase, you can only imagine the bombardment of ads flying about on your computer screen. Though the people who are members of the site are primarily interested in information such as "body type," "ethnicity," and the famed self-promotional profile picture, they are now connected to the most influential media corporation in the world. Who knows what kind of an influence on the public opinion exposure to this site and its advertisements could have.



Tom Anderson (left) is literally the face of MySpace. The now-famous founder has a spot on millions of MySpace users' coveted friends pages. The "new" face of MySpace, founder of News Corporation and the owner of FOX broadcasting, Rupert Murdoch (right), now owns MySpace although the average user wouldn't know that from his or her friends page.

## Popular Science

By **Max Lewin**  
Contributing Writer

Have you ever dreamt of towering waves crashing down on you, waves so impossibly tall that you can't help but laugh at the ridiculous nature of your imagination?

Well, in light of the tragic Indian Ocean earthquake and the ensuing tsunamis of late 2004, your fears about monster waves may have been renewed. And while your rational side might try to quell these fears, there is the possibility of a killer wave coming to a shore near you.

But before you drop this copy of *The Schreiber Times* and run for the hills, try to remain calm and keep reading. The apparent "threat" lies on the island of La Palma, in the Canary Isles off the north coast of Africa. There is an active volcano on the island, and about half of the island is currently on very precarious ground.

Some scientists believe that the next eruption will cause half of the island to break off and fall into the Atlantic. This would be the equivalent of a 500 billion ton rock falling into the ocean, an event that would cause quite a splash. The splash would be a megatsunami, a wave whose destructive powers are very

difficult to predict but not impossible for scientists to model.

Imagine a wall of water, several hundred meters tall, traveling 700 miles per hour towards the eastern seaboard of the United States. To put this in perspective, the waves that wreaked havoc on the Indian Ocean were around twenty or thirty meters tall.

If an earthquake at La Palma were to occur, and all of the island broke off at once, all of the cities on the coasts of North and South America might be destroyed, along with civilization up to thirty miles inland.

Do not panic! An eruption could occur anytime in the next few thousand years, but chances are scientists would be able to predict it three weeks in advance, assuming the government listens to the warning. Hopefully they can take a hint from *The Day After Tomorrow*.

Many scientists believe that the entire issue is being sensationalized, and an eruption would cause the island to drop off in smaller pieces, causing smaller waves or no waves at all.

Just keep in mind that at any moment your entire way of life could be washed away by a wave of biblical proportions.

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# Features Fashion File

## It's fashion's most wonderful time of the year

By Amanda Schiff

Assistant Features Editor

Believe it or not the holiday season is almost here. The holidays are always a time for rich color and added sparkle, dazzling accessories, and beautiful outfits that add warmth during the coldest months of the year.

This winter, designers are using silk, lace, beads, and sequins to add elements of femininity and cheer to their collections. All you need to look your best this holiday season are three easy tips, and you'll be on your way to stardom.

### Always Accessorize

Accessories such as bangles, belts, and shoes can make a new and fun outfit out of something you already have in your closet. Metallic shoes that have been shown on the runways lately can be used to give an extra splash of color to the ever popular "little black dress". Jewelry, belts, and even jeweled hair clips have been used to add some subtle shimmer. Bangles can be purchased for seven dollars at Target, which is the perfect price for a trend that may only last one season. Popular clutch bags can be found in any color to complement any outfit for only ten dollars at Charlotte Russe. Other accessories sure to turn an ordinary outfit into a dazzling creation are handbags, ribbons, sashes, and wraps. Whether your style is elegant, exotic, metallic, glam, or natural, accessories can be found to work with your own personal style.

### Sport Some Sparkle

With the twinkling Christmas lights

and the New Year's crystal ball come added sparkle and shine on clothes, which dress up outfits for a more festive look. Beaded tanks and camis are perfect under a velvet or cord blazer. H&M,

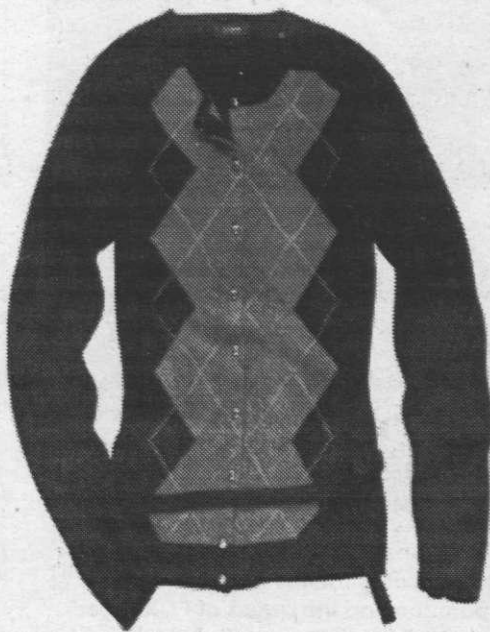
and cardigans are other options to add a hint of brilliance to your outfits. Most stores tend to price these items higher than others due to their intricate beading. However, if you

outfits such as a beaded sweater with a plain cami, or a beaded skirt with a solid blazer.

### Flaunt Fancy Fabrics

The holidays are always a time to feel special. To do so, you might want to consider trying something new. This season, designers are showcasing satin, lace, velvet, and denim. Velvet blazers are the hit of the winter, and they are great because they can be worn both casually and formally. Although these blazers are often displayed in a wild and crazy fashion at runway shows, J.Crew, the Gap, and other local stores sell them in more wearable designs and cuts. Wrap sweaters also seem to be dominating stores this fall. H&M carries a variation on these sweaters for about thirty dollars, so when you are walking at the Americana this holiday season, be sure to stop in and pick one up. These sweaters are growing in length and are being paired mostly with jeans because these chunky sweaters are balanced with more fitted bottoms. Another holiday trend is satin, which seems to have established itself as a classic holiday fabric. Mostly in the form of camisoles, satin helps to dress up an outfit and make it a little more special. As always, red, gold, and other royal and rich colors are tremendously fashionable this season.

These three tips are all you need for a gorgeous holiday ensemble. So make your list and check it twice before you go out in search of the perfect holiday clothing. Remember, though, the most important part of holiday shopping is to make sure you are comfortable and happy with whatever you buy.



(Left) J.Crew is showing the infamous belted sweater with a preppy twist for the holiday season. It comes in a variety of colors to match your wardrobe. The new Laundry line carries the perfect little black dress for any occasion.



Hollister, Abercrombie and Fitch, and many other stores are now showcasing the beaded tank, which explains why they haven't been hard to find in the halls of Schreiber. You can also try a rhinestone top with jeans for a chic look, or with a basic, solid-colored skirt for simple sophistication. Beaded shrugs

search for sales, you can have the look without breaking the bank. Dillard's carries shrugs now on sale for fifteen dollars. Don't go too crazy on the beadwork because you know what they say about too much of a good thing. Choose one article of clothing with beading, and use it to create

## Dedication to fashion inspires the Design Club *Hannah Kim's love for fashion piques student interest in design*

By Willa Jones

Contributing Writer

Schreiber's extracurricular scene is already host to many clubs, but students constantly adapt their interests and form new ones. The Design Club has been added to the list of activities that caters to the interests of fashion-minded students.

Senior Hannah Kim, who has been creating impressive design sketches since seventh grade, founded the club with the idea that it could help aspiring designers practice fashion design.

The Design Club meets every other Tuesday in the Home and Careers room. The club advisor, Home and Careers teacher Ms. Sally Reinhardt, thinks that Kim posed a great idea.

"Many of the members are interested in studying fashion in college," said Ms. Reinhardt. "This gives them an opportunity to learn to sew and make clothes."

Members use their own designs during meetings to create outfits and accessories from self-purchased materials.

Currently the club's members are working toward displaying their original designs in a fashion show, which will be held at Schreiber in April. Each member will choose models to display his or her outfits and accessories on the runway. Outfits will be auctioned during the event, and the money raised will be used to compensate the respective designers for money spent during the production of the design. Members have yet to produce outfits and materials for the April show, but many already have design ideas.

Club members are very serious about their passion for fashion. Some attend design classes at the Fashion Institute of Technology (F.I.T) in Manhattan, where they are taught about the creation of different styles and the uses of different fabrics.

"I take classes at F.I.T. to learn about designing, and I thought it'd be great

to design in school too," said junior Ashley Diamond.

The Design Club gives students an environment to practice sewing

and sketching ideas. Kim also said that she, like others, pursues different kinds of activities to help improve her designing.

"Taking figure drawing classes after school as a junior really helped me with my designs," said Kim. "I got a better knowledge of the human body, which is important in designing."

Members of the club are also inspired by magazines, newspapers, and fashion shows that give them a taste of the styles of other designers. Favorite designers of the members of the fashion club include Calvin Klein, Vera Wang, Chanel, Roberto Cavalli, and many others. These fashion icons inspire the members to channel their personal style into clothing and accessories.

The Design Club is a welcome addition to Schreiber's many extracurricular activities. With its free expression and encouragement of individual style, the club will have a new, dynamic influence on the Schreiber student body.





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## COMMUNITY SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

# North Shore Animal League not just for petting puppies

By Heather Larkin  
Assistant Features Editor

When people hear the words "community service," the first two thoughts that come to mind are usually "college" and "juvenile delinquency." Indeed, many young delinquents prefer to sweep public streets or mow lawns than serve time in jail. Other kids, though, genuinely enjoy the sense of altruism that comes with volunteer work. Although many students prefer to obtain paying jobs, teenagers can achieve a true sense of self-satisfaction through volunteering.

The darker side of this altruism are the hordes of students who wish to enhance their college applications with volunteer jobs at local hospitals, libraries, and shelters. Many of the teenagers walk into the institutions with a preconceived notion that volunteer work isn't really work; it's just an optional extracurricular activity that adds a power to the resumé. However, rumors that volunteering in the library, animal shelter, and hospital require little, if no dedication, are entirely incorrect.

The North Shore Animal League is one of many institutions throughout the country that eagerly accept volunteers. However, the list of students interested in volunteering is fairly lengthy. It can take several months to schedule a student interview. If the interview runs smoothly, and the shelter associates approve of the potential volunteer, the student is scheduled for several weeks of mandatory training courses that run for up to four hours a night. This rigorous

application process is the first sign of the tremendous amount of dedication required from volunteers.

Work at the shelter is anything but relaxing. In an institution dedicated solely to helping save animals throughout the nation, there is no room for lethargy. Volunteers work in shifts up to four hours long. Students who pack their weeks full of sports and clubs often lack the free time necessary for working at a shelter. The alternative to working during the school week is to allocate several hours during the weekend for volunteering.

The shelter duties aren't pretty. On a regular night, one must clean (meaning wash, dry, and re-paper) approximately fifty filthy dog cages. Cleaning takes place around the untrained, frightened, growling dogs. Patience is a key characteristic of good shelter volunteers. Between these howling dogs, hissing cats, and hurried customers it is crucial that volunteers remain focused on their jobs and work efficiently.

It is also important for volunteers to arrive on time. In paying jobs, lateness is rarely tolerated and unexcused absences are never acceptable. Likewise, one cannot expect to maintain the privilege of volunteering if he fails to adhere to the organization's fixed schedule.

Volunteering is a privilege. The shelter is first and foremost a place to lend time and work hard. Those interested in volunteer work ought to think twice about whether or not they are ready to handle the responsibility. Working in a shelter, hospital, library, or other public institution requires tremendous dedication and hard work.



Sarah Silvergleid

The North Shore Animal League runs with the help of volunteers, many of whom are teenagers. The League's volunteers help care for the animals, such as the dog pictured above, one of those rescued from the region around New Orleans. Volunteers help visitors find pets and care for the dogs.

## Stop & Shop introduces Nature's Promise health food brand

By David Becker  
Contributing Writer

Family meals once consisted of fibrous vegetables and meats. Then along came synthetic foods. Knock-off yogurts and pizzas trumpet "Calcium" and "Vitamin C," while busy parents and students are too lazy to get nutrients any other way. The potato chip is the favorite vegetable of the nation. Yet, one last bastion of pure deliciousness remains—Nature's Promise, which is available exclusively at Stop and Shop.

Nature's Promise is a small brand with fifty-one products. They fall into two categories: naturals and organics. Naturals contain no artificial colors or flavors, hydrogenated oils or bleached flours. In organic foods, crops are grown without fertilizers, fumigants, herbicides, or pesticides and are never grown from genetically modified seeds. Organic meats are from free-range cattle that eat organic feed, sans antibiotics and hormones.

These foods are just varieties of the classics—soy and regular milk, eggs, salsa, chips, pizza, cookies, peanut butter, jams, and macaroni and cheese to name a few. Many of these are vegan or vegetarian friendly, lactose and nut free, and low in cholesterol, fat, sodium, and sugar.

But what is so terrific about Nature's Promise? It's still junk food, but it's healthy. And since it's a Stop & Shop brand, it's cheaper than similar products. Some of these products are definitely worth mentioning.

With a low one hundred calories and seven grams of sugar per serving, the Organic Vanilla Soy Milk offers a multitude of essential nutrients including calcium, iron and protein. And the taste is truly inspiring. (Note: Don't drink alongside cousin Chocolate Soy Milk, as the effect could be ruined by the contrasting taste.) For \$3.29, you can pick up a half gallon that serves eight.

The Organic Macaroni and Cheese offers a nice alternative to the radioactive orange Kraft of the neighboring aisles. While it does have twelve grams

of protein and ten percent of the estimated daily value of calcium, it's the packaging that gets me. This tiny box of vegetarian delight could

right now.

The Natural White Cheddar Puffs are similar to the famous Roberts American's Pirate's Booty puffs, and distantly similar to Cheetos or Cheese Doodles. While they are delicious and magnificently light, they do not have as many nutrients as the other products on this list. Still, it's a healthy nosh if you must revert to eating on the go.

With only five grams of sugar and sixty calories per cookie, the Natural Key Lime White Chocolate Chip Cookies are not your average Chips Ahoy. With the brilliant combination of lime and white chocolate, these are a perfectly guilt-free vittle. Dunk it in the vanilla soy milk and you have a brace-friendly snack.

I'm all about chicken soup for the teenage soul, but not for high blood pressure. The Low Sodium Organic Chicken Broth contains no fat, carbs or sugars and is only five calories per bowl. It tastes delicious and leaves no residue because it isn't loaded with salt like Campbell's tends to be.

The proof is in the pudding! Nature's Promise is the new Whole Foods line without the yuppie aftertaste. So next time you're on the prowl at Stop & Shop, check out these foxy products at no cost to your heart.



fit into a pocket or glove compartment. Also, it's organically delicious, which, you'll remember, is the way to think



# arts & entertainment

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THE SCHREIBER TIMES TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2005

## Campus Action opens the mic to Schreiber students

BY Max Lewin  
Contributing Writer

Campus Action continued Schreiber's recent streak of benefit events, with the production of the Open Mic Night. The Oct. 24 show featured several of Schreiber's most talented musicians, comedians, and poets who came together for a night of excellent entertainment and food. The proceeds were donated to Doctors Without Borders, an international charity.

The evening saw the debut performances of several groups and artists. One premiere was from the self-labeled light-rock band Certain Instinct, consisting of junior Andrew Seiden on the guitar and vocals, junior Phil Tuch on keyboards, junior Justin Samson on the bass, and junior Peter Gabrielli on the drums. They played two original songs titled "Pigs with Wings" and "Samantha" in addition to a cover of "Fine Again" by Seether.

"We were really nervous, but after we did it we felt it went well," said Tuch.

Junior Jackie Zdrojeski also made her debut performance in front of the local audience. She played guitar and sang her original song, "Lifted." She was then joined by senior Kelly Moran on bass and vocals for their original song, "Version

1.21747," and a cover of "Volcano" by Damien Rice. Zdrojeski cites Ani Defranco, Dredg, and Radiohead as her main influences.

Another group that played its first gig was Jets with Robot Feet, consisting of senior John Krauss and sophomore Timothy Sherman, along with guest artist junior Ken Watanabe, all on electric keyboard. They played the first song off their album, "They Watch You While You Sleep," a rather dark, brooding techno song complimented by strobe lights. This was followed by "Flat or Friction is Falling Apart and Nobody Cares," a song about the breakup of a completely fictional band, written by Timothy on the spot.

Other solo acts included an a cappella tune by sophomore Kerry Dachowitz, an impressive performance by senior Melissa DeSiervo on clarinet, and an improvised performance of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" by junior Jason Schaefer.

Poetic performances included readings by

seniors Sarah Pickering and Elyssa Jakim, and another surprise appearance by Dachowitz. The comedic highlight of the night was a standup act by senior Lisa Qiu, in which she joked about race, cultural identity, and death.

The event raised over \$350, which was donated to Doctors Without Borders. The organization is constantly providing emergency medical care around the globe, including aid to post-earthquake Pakistan.



Alyssa Epstein

The above band, Certain Instinct, consists of juniors Peter Gabrielli, Justin Samson, Andrew Seiden and Phil Tuch, who performed at Open Mic Night.

## Thumbsucker breaks the mold for teen comedies

BY Kerry Dachowitz  
Contributing Writer

Before passing any judgment on this masterpiece, please note that its title does not refer to the heart-warming tale of a child being reunited with a comforting toy. Instead, *Thumbsucker* chronicles the coming-of-age story of Justin Cobb (Lou Taylor Pucci), a seventeen year-old who is on the debate team, frustrated with his parents, and occasionally pops a digit in his mouth. This film is a collision of complex scenes and imaginative imagery that illustrate the whirlwind of controversy Justin sparks by loosening his grip on his thumb.

Teenyboppers, please stop swooning over the protagonist and listen to what he is trying to say! Justin is a sensitive soul dying for affection from the debate team champ Rebecca (Kelli Garner). It is nearly impossible for Justin to find the comfort he craves at home; his father (Vincent D'Onofrio) is too busy trying to

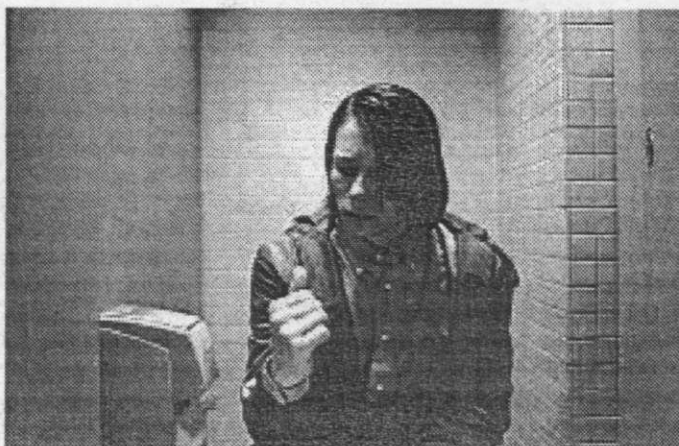
curb his son's erratic behavior, while his mother (Tilda Swinton) is becoming disillusioned herself. Sometimes

Justin attempts to confide in his orthodontist (Keanu Reeves in his most spiritual role since *Little Buddha*), but finds that he, too, is unreliable.

The actions of each character are perfectly calculated to be just right for each situation in which he or she is placed. The soundtrack is deliciously appropriate for every move.

Unlike the usual whiny teen

movie, *Thumbsucker* is an incredible dive into the world of off-beat, tragic comedies.



www.deseretnews.com

Justin Cobb (Lou Taylor Pucci) wonders why he cannot lose his addiction to sucking his thumb. He tries many methods in his quest for freedom from his affliction.

## The much-anticipated Xbox 360 debuts

BY Steven Alpert  
Contributing Writer

Xbox fans, your wait is over. On Nov. 22, the Xbox 360 hits stores. Since the release of Xbox in Nov. 2001, there have been no new consoles from Microsoft. The Xbox 360 core version, starting at \$299, includes the system itself, plus a wired controller, A/V cable, Xbox Live Silver (online game play), and Xbox Live Gold thirty-day trial. The \$399 premium set additionally includes a wireless controller, a high-definition component, a 20 gigabyte hard drive, an Ethernet cable, a headset for online game play, and an extra remote for the DVD function.

Unlike the old Xbox, all gamers are entitled to play online for free, but can upgrade to Xbox Live Gold for a price. Another new feature is the Xbox Live Marketplace where gamers can shop for game demos, trailers, Xbox Live arcade games and more. Rumor has it that Domino's Pizza will also be available for order right on Xbox Live.

Also, this new Xbox will be much smaller than its forerunner.

Xbox 360 will be competing with Play Station 3 and Nintendo Revolution, other new systems slated for release soon. Microsoft is counting on the early release to put them ahead of the competition and boost its sales. This could be a risky move considering the early release of the Sega Dreamcast in 2002, which was the latest system at the time, but did terribly in sales.

"I think it's going to sell well, but it's not a good release date," said freshmen Joey Whitely.

These two competing systems are not scheduled to come out until late 2006. Some of the release titles for Xbox 360 include *Madden 2006*, *Kameo: Elements of Power*, *Perfect Dark Zero*, *Call of Duty 2*, *Gun*, and *Need for Speed: Most Wanted*. *Halo 3* will be released later, possibly the most anticipated game coming out next year.

"I heard that the graphics are all high definition compatible and that Microsoft is re-releasing games from Xbox with better graphics," said sophomore Kevin Stross. "I'm really looking forward to *Halo 3* and Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2006."



# Jarhead shows the emotional strife of war

BY Damian Bidikov  
Contributing Writer

As a member of a generation that knows war, I am no stranger to art that tries to convey a powerful message about armed conflict. If there is one facet of worldly society that deserves analysis and encourages expression, it is war. However, position and perspective have so much to do with understanding war, it can be a topic difficult to depict accurately.

Unlike most war movies, *Jarhead*, directed by Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*, *Road to Perdition*), strives to capture the emotional turmoil and psychological journey of one man caught in the maelstrom of the Gulf War, rather than making a statement about the politics or reasons behind war. *Jarhead* is a departure from typical war movies in several ways. Ultimately, the movie is a bold, funny, and entertaining, if long and seemingly unfocused production that tries to appeal to viewers through powerful emotions and a talented cast.

The movie is based on Anthony Swofford's book of the same name, which is an account of the author's personal experiences as a scout sniper in Desert Storm.

In a question and answer session released during promotional screenings of the movie, Swofford could not say whether he was a supporter of the military or a supporter of the current war in Iraq.

The movie reflects Swofford's position. It does not have any political overtones, nor does it make a concerted attempt to criticize the military or the concept of war. *Jarhead* is not an anti-war film, and some viewers might criticize it for the simplicity of such an apolitical stance.

Allen Troy (Peter Sarsgaard), one of the men in Swoff's (Jake Gyllenhaal) unit, encompasses the movie's message: "To hell with politics," he said. "We're here now."

Through both the acting and cinematography, *Jarhead* aims to capture the intense emotional experience of war. Structure and plot are not the movie's strong points, but I don't believe it's due to a lack of competence or effort on the part of screenwriter William Broyles.

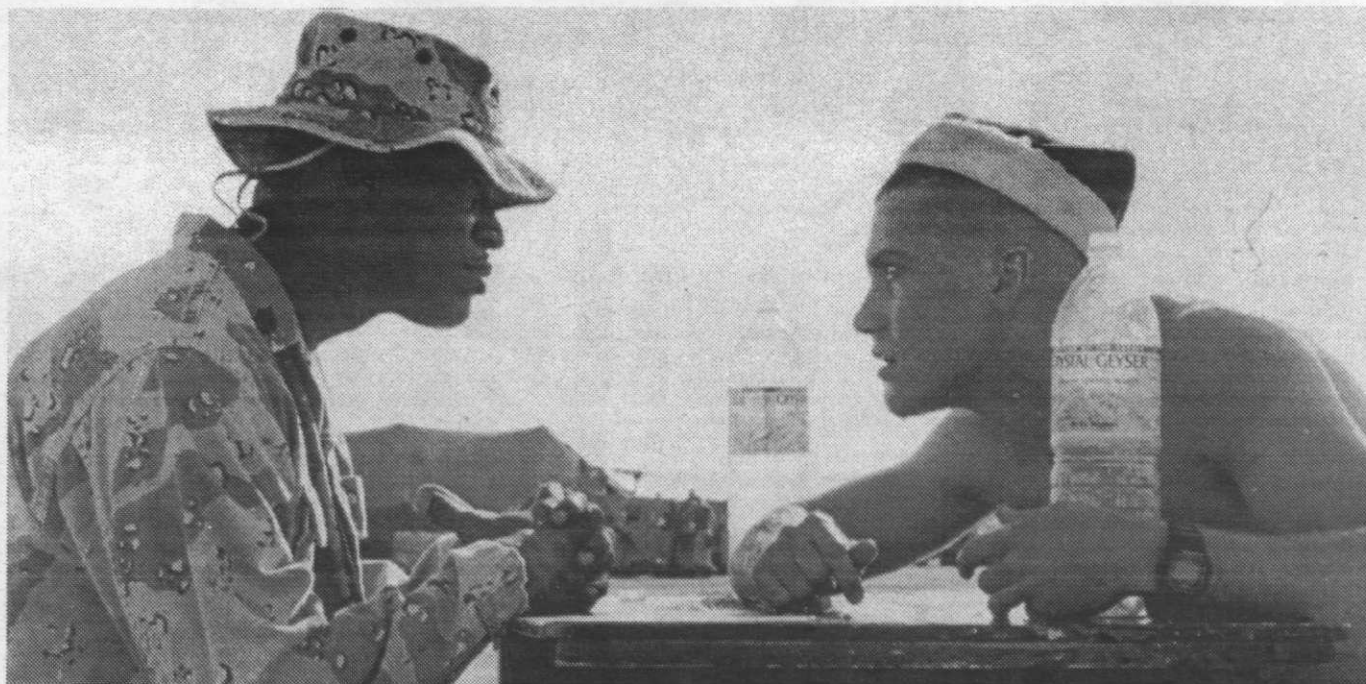
*Jarhead* tries to capture the emotional scars of the main character, "Swoff," caused by his departure from his family, his isolation from American society, and the emotional trials of war. The film becomes a broad but bold canvas that depicts the horrors of warfare, and its effects on soldiers.

Although the movie is heavy, Broyles' script includes some humor and satire a la Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket*. But perhaps most of all, *Jarhead* feels "real." The entire movie gives off a sense of fluffless, unbridled authenticity.

Interestingly, the movie does not involve much combat at all. Though some might criticize the film for being too long or too dull, some of the soldiers' tensions in the movie are due to this lack of conflict. *Jarhead* focuses on the impatience, frustration, and virtual insanity of the soldiers as they wait for an enemy that can't be fought.

Troy, in particular, has a catastrophic reaction to the lack of violence. Sarsgaard's powerful performance is one of the movie's highlights.

Indeed, *Jarhead* draws much of its power from the promising cast. As the star, Gyllenhaal delivers an awesome



Jamie Foxx and Jake Gyllenhaal star in *Jarhead*, a war movie that focuses less on physical combat and political messages and more on the emotional trials of soldiers during war. The movie is based on Anthony Swofford's book about the author's experiences in Desert Storm.

performance as he morphs from a naïve young soldier to the hardened, partially psychotic warrior who threatens the lives of everyone around him.

Anyone who thought Gyllenhaal too unrealistically brave and heroic in *The Day After Tomorrow* or simply too unbelievable and weird in *Donnie Darko* will be more satisfied with his performance in *Jarhead*. Gyllenhaal's character at times feels like he is something to be observed like an experiment behind a glass screen. He seamlessly pulls off intense, explosive reactions and convincing responses to the movie's quieter, more tragic scenes while contributing to the sense of authenticity at the heart of the film.

Jamie Foxx's performance is also a highlight and is reminiscent of R. Lee Ermey's performance as a drill sergeant in *Full Metal Jacket*. Foxx's character is a powerful, unforgiving sergeant, who is eager to torture and train the men and proud to serve his country. Foxx simultaneously offers viewers a horrible look at the strict training of the military and some needed comic relief.

Mendes' reputation as a great American director does not waver with *Jarhead*. Though the movie is set in a monotonous, mountain-less, nearly uniform desert, Mendes uses color and daring angles to help capture the essence of the soldiers' experience and highlight the movie's messages. Despite the lack of warfare in the script, Mendes' cinematography gives *Jarhead* its intense edge and compels an emotional response.

Standout scenes include those in which the action finally begins, and Swoff and his men are thrust into a perfectly reproduced hell on earth. Beautifully burning oil wells minimize the fears of enemy fire, vehicles explode spontaneously, and soldiers are separated, shot, blown up, and incinerated. Another highlight is a scene of a boot camp drill in which the audience hears and feels the groans or screams of soldiers crawling under barbed wire and gunshots. These are interrupted by an incredibly moving silence—only to erupt into chaos as a soldier accidentally fires off a shot, plunging both the soldiers and audience into utter shock.

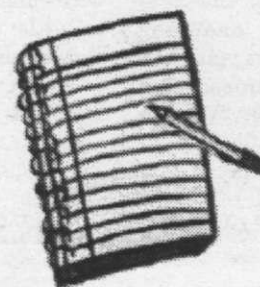
While *Jarhead* is not as gory or action-packed as *Saving Private Ryan*, Mendes' direction helps to make it just as intense, vivid, and lifelike.

Despite its highlights, the movie is not perfect. It is quite long and could do without several scenes. In particular, the movie takes the sexual obsession of lonely, detached soldiers a bit far. The script isn't perfect; in one of the more awkward scenes, Gyllenhaal remarks to a stray horse drenched in oil, "You're covered in this war."

Although perhaps intentional, *Jarhead* doesn't quite reach a satisfying

climax. However, those who don't mind being force-fed obvious criticisms of war, who can appreciate a moving depiction of a wartime experience, and who want to enjoy an entertaining, well-produced film with a solid cast should invest in *Jarhead*. Particularly if you find yourself ignorant of war-related art, *Jarhead* could break you in like Foxx crushes new recruits. Like the First Gulf War's effect on soldiers, it is unlikely that the memory of this movie will leave you for some time.

## Got Poetry?



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# DVD release solidifies Green Day juggernaut

by Andy Werle  
A&E Editor

As one of the most famous and successful bands of the past decade, Green Day has many new things planned on its already packed horizon. The band, made up of guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong, bassist Mike Dirnt, and drummer Tré Cool, has already completed what many thought impossible — they released a punk rock opera. After the release of *American Idiot* on Sept. 21, 2004, the band rightfully regained its throne on top of the modern rock world.

Green Day toured for one year to promote its new album, and after taking a six-month break, resumed touring at breakneck speed. Although many bands would just rest on their laurels until the time called for a new album, Green Day refused to leave its fans hanging for long.

After emerging from the punk scene in and around Berkeley, California, Green Day soared to punk superstardom in 1994 after its third band release and major record label debut, *Dookie*. Building from *Dookie*'s success and an infamous performance at Woodstock 1994, Green Day released two more albums, *Insomniac* and *Nimrod*, that solidified their position at the top of the punk-pop world. Green Day's final studio release before *American Idiot* was *Warning*, which nearly abandoned their punk roots and showed a more "pop" side. After the release of *Shenigans*, an album of B-sides and covers, the band took some time off to be with their families. After two years of internal struggle, the band regrouped to record one of the most anticipated albums of 2004.

*American Idiot* defines Green Day. An ambitious and unpretentious album, *American Idiot* revolves around the story of the Jesus of Suburbia. He is a character who at first does not know

the real definition of a "punk," and encounters many characters like St. Jimmy and Whatsername, who help him become a true rebel. The album received acclaim from fans and critics alike, and spawned five chart-topping hits. It also gave Green Day a number one record, which, despite the success of *Dookie* and their other albums, they had never been awarded previously. After the Grammy awards and the MTV Video and European MTV Video awards, the band has even more projects on its mind.

On Nov. 15, 2005, Green Day released the *Bullet in a Bible* live concert DVD. As the first live DVD released by Green Day, *Bullet* includes footage from two concerts recorded in June 2005 at The National Bowl in Milton Keynes, England. Featuring a set list comprised of new chart toppers, ("Wake Me Up When September Ends" and "Boulevard of Broken Dreams") and old favorites ("Longview" and "Basket Case"), makes the DVD enjoyable for both new and old fans. Armstrong, known for his showmanship, puts on a great show in this DVD. Critics say that Green Day is at the top of their game in the DVD, which includes a photo gallery of shots from the show. There are interviews following every song, which some complain ruin the flow of the concert, but are easy to skip over on the DVD.

The DVD includes a CD of the concerts. Although both of them leave out some songs, including the encore "We Are the Champions" Queen cover, and the tune "Knowledge," in which the band brings fans up on the stage, the package deal is worth buying.

The interviews after each song are informative, humorous, and sometimes touching. The whole band reflects on the process of making *American Idiot*

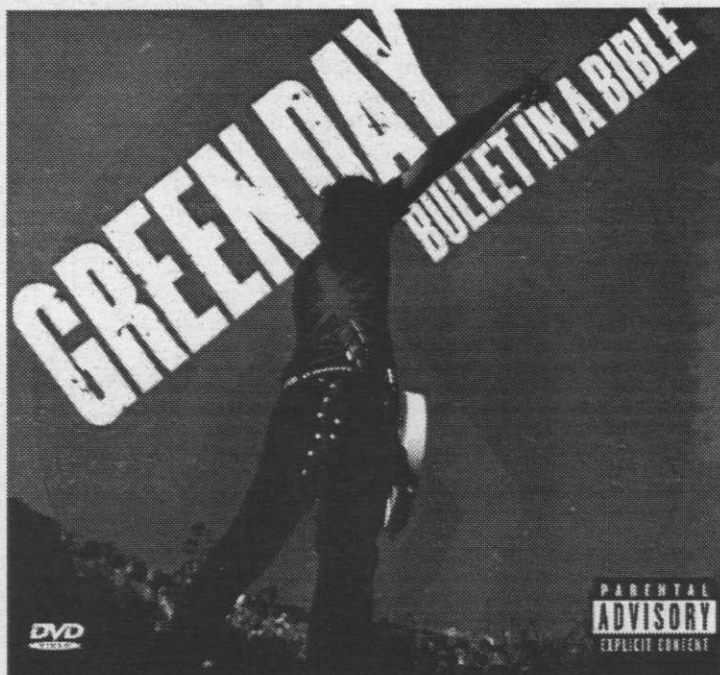
and what it's like to play live. The show at Milton Keynes was in front of 65,000 people for two nights. The band members share secrets from how they deal with nerves to what it's like to write a song. Tre Coole provides comic relief with his often-goofy antics, but still talks seriously about Green Day's largest show up to that point. As of now,

who abandon punk bands who become nationally popular. *American Idiot* was the cause of perhaps an even larger fan backlash, as many conservative critics and fans accuse the band of being "anti-American" and many hardcore punk bands reacted to the rock opera with disdain, as they feel it betrayed the ideal punk song structure. Loyal fans say that the band is merely expressing its beliefs in the form of music, and have changed as the members have grown older. How long can fans expect thirty-year-old men to keep being obnoxious and apathetic?

Rumors have been circulating about an even more ambitious venture, a Green Day movie. The plot would center around Jesus of Suburbia and his exploits, and it would branch off from the Jesus of Suburbia video, released on Oct. 24. Armstrong has spoken briefly about it, comparing it to *Tommy* based on the album of the same name by The Who. Armstrong, although committed to writing

and producing the *American Idiot* film, assured reporters and fans that the band would not be taking part in the movie, and would "leaving it to the professionals."

Many interviews with Green Day consistently hint at a follow-up album to *American Idiot*. Although the album is in the works, the band said that they will wait until the beginning of 2006 to get together and start recording.



The cover of Green Day's first live concert DVD, "Bullet in a Bible," features the lead singer/guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong in front of a roaring crowd. Green Day's DVD is the next element of the band's successful run in the music world.

the largest show they have played was at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey on Sept. 1. With a normal Green Day CD costing around \$14, the \$20 deal for the DVD and CD duo is worth the money.

Green Day has been the topic of much debate between their fans and people who accuse the band of "selling-out." While the release of *Dookie* put Green Day on the national map, it spawned argument among punk fans

## The newest *Harry Potter* film exhilarates all forms of fans

by Michael Freifeld  
Contributing Writer

For the first two days *Harry Potter: The Goblet of Fire* was shown, it was sold out as eager fans filled the theaters to their capacities. The movie was truly awe-inspiring from beginning to end and focused on all the parts of the book that many avid Potterheads could not wait to see on the big screen.

This film, the newest installment in the series of adaptations of the *Potter* novels, features a new director, Mike Newell. He is the first British director of a *Harry Potter* film.

The movie starts off at the Quidditch World Cup where the spectators see "the Dark Mark," the symbol of Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), the most powerful dark wizard of all time. The sighting incites fear in spectators, and chaos and turmoil ensue.

In the next few scenes, audience members are reintroduced to old characters and meet plenty of new ones, including the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher Alastor Moody (Brendan Gleeson) and government official Barty Crouch (Roger Lloyd Pack).

When Harry and his classmates return to Hogwarts for their fourth year, Hogwarts' headmaster Albus

Dumbledore (Michael Gambon) announces that the Triwizard tournament will be held at the school that year. This international competition features three wizards or witches who serve as champions from their school. Hogwarts will be host to students from foreign schools, Beauxbatons and Durmstrang. Although Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) is not allowed to enter due to his age, he and his best friend Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) dream about the "eternal glory" that awaits the Triwizard Champion.

Despite the age barrier, Harry's name flies out of the Goblet of Fire, leaving everyone in the Great Hall confused, especially Harry. He then has to go on with completing the three life-threatening challenges that the older and more experienced wizards have to face as well.

A big shock occurs when everyone finds out that the Triwizard Tournament

cup has been transformed into a portkey, a device that teleports the holder to a pre-disclosed location. It brings the bewildered Harry right into the waiting



Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) leaps out of the way of a dragon's fire as one of the Triwizard champions. The dragon is the enemy in the first task of the tournament.

hands of a revived Lord Voldemort.

Throughout the movie, it felt great to see how characters and scenes in the book were visualized. The hideous and frightful Lord Voldemort was especially

exciting. The fight against the dragons, the first Triwizard task, was awesome because of the impressive interpretations of the dragons. The second task, an underwater challenge, really kept me on edge and stayed as true as possible to the book.

Even with all of its strong points and beautiful adaptation of the book, there was one major flaw: the film left many important scenes and characters out of the film. Although these missing parts were omitted because the movie is already long and most viewers would neither notice nor care anyway, many avid Harry Potter fans may have found this annoying. Possibly the most glaring omissions was how Harry gained the gillyweed that enabled him to breathe underwater for the second task. In the book, Dobby the house elf stole it from Professor Snape's stores, yet in the movie, Neville Longbottom (Matthew Lewis) is responsible. In fact, in the book, Dobby had many appearances, but in the movie he didn't even have one.

Even with these missing parts, the movie was nothing short of amazing. I give the movie a 9.5 out of 10, and I think that everyone see it. To enjoy this movie, it's only necessary to have an idea of the plot of the novel.



# Athletes of the Month

## Richard Schmitz Nathalie Brilliant

by Lane Mergler  
Staff Writer

Junior Richard Schmitz, a runner on the division champion cross country team, is the MVP of one of the best cross country teams on Long Island, and was named County Champion with a time of 16:37 in the hardest county class, Class AA. He broke Ted Forrest's school record, which has stood since 1982, for running the standard five-kilometer cross country race. He shattered the record by four seconds, running the New York State Public High School Athletic Association race (NYSPHSAA, or more popularly called "states") in 16:07. This was Schmitz's second consecutive year at States after becoming the first Schreiber runner at the event since Peter Clusner in 1994.

"The [school] record doesn't mean much to me," said Schmitz. "I just want to get good times and compete at new and higher levels. Records are made to be broken, and mine will most surely be broken one day."

Generally, people who run as well as Schmitz have been running for years. Schmitz, however, only started running cross country as a sophomore to "get in shape for basketball season. Freshman year, I could not see anything

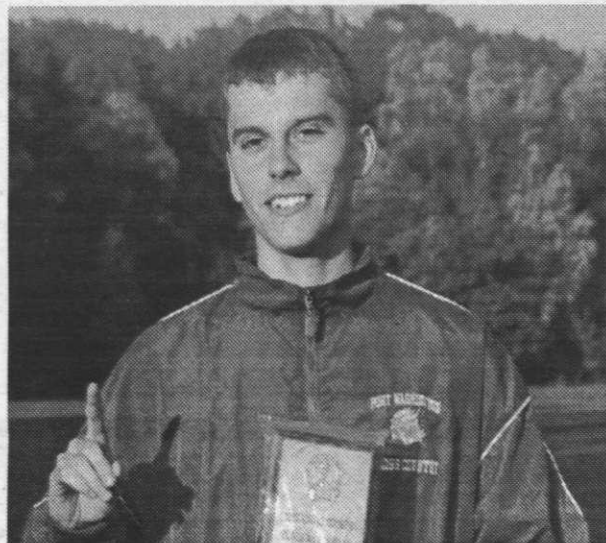
but basketball being my number one sport. I was really into it."

Schmitz was a regular in *Newsday* this fall season for many reasons. Most recently, he came in twenty-third at States. He raced against 108 Class AA outstanding runners. However, only the top twenty runners become All State.

"[It would] feel no different than if I were three places better. The only thing that matters for college is time, and I am pleased with the time I ran," said Schmitz.

"I like to set high goals, because it gives me something to shoot for, and even if I don't make that goal, I won't be disappointed by what I do."

"A county champion is not just created; it takes a lot of hard work," said Schmitz.



www.sectionviiiicf.com

by Nikki Pond  
Assistant Sports Editor

Schreiber's varsity field hockey team owes a lot of its success to senior captain Nathalie Brilliant. As a three-year varsity athlete, she has exhibited excellent leadership and exceptional stick skills. Brilliant was a key player this year on the team's forward line as a left inner, finishing the season with a total of eight goals, more than a quarter of the team's cumulative goals.

As a sophomore, Brilliant was awarded "Rookie of the Year" by her teammates and given an All Conference Honorable Mention by the Nassau County Field Hockey Coaches Association.

In her junior year, she garnered two awards yet again. She won All Conference Honorable Mention and the Coach's Award, which was presented by Coach Joe Lederer. This award goes to the two players who exemplify the most determination and commitment to the team during the season.

At the conclusion of her senior year, Coach Lederer honored Brilliant's sportsmanship, dedication, and enthusiasm by presenting her with the Ellen Herman MVP Field Hockey Award given annually to a field hockey player who consistently works hard and shows extraordinary athleticism. Brilliant was also awarded Most Valuable Player by

her teammates and was the team's only All County athlete. Brilliant has high hopes of continuing her field hockey career in college.

"Nathalie was a great leader on and off the field this year, and I think that part of her game has rubbed off on all of us," said junior Amanda Buss. "It was great having her as a captain and teammate, and I think that the team will benefit in the future from her amazing knowledge and leadership."



Nikki Pond

## Tennis finishes strong

by Jus Chadha  
Sports Editor

Girls varsity tennis finished off the season with a winning record and a playoff berth. The team, coached by Stan Makover, has remained a consistent threat in Conference I. This year, the team finished with a 7-4 record, which landed it in the top half of its division.

"Even though we lost in the first round of the playoffs, we had a lot of fun on the courts and we improved as the season went along," said senior Gaby Monsanto. "Every practice was used efficiently. Through hard work and steady effort we were able to compete well and finish fourth in the conference."

Despite losing to Jericho in the playoffs, the girls earned themselves All-Division honors. In addition, first singles freshman Kristen Norton won MVP, All-State, and All-Conference awards. Sophomore Laura Chen, who plays second singles, won All-State and All-Conference. Eighth grader Emily Schulman won Most Improved Player. First doubles players Monsanto and fellow senior Laila Selim were awarded All-Division recognition.

Norton and Chen were also champions of the Conference I Nassau County Doubles Tournament, received All New York State Honors, earned All County Honors, and placed third in New York State.

"The great thing about this team is that we have tremendous talent but we are still young and look to improve a lot," said Coach Makover. "I am extremely proud of the team and I hope for even better results next year."

During this season, Port's first big win came against Hewlett. Port beat Hewlett 5-2. In this match, Chen came through with the biggest win, defeating her opponent 6-0, 6-1.

The girls also beat Cold Spring Harbor 6-1 on Sept. 27. In this match, first doubles Monsanto and Selim won decisively, beating their opponents 6-1, 6-2.

This season, Port won many close matches. The team defeated Plainview JFK on Oct. 19, winning 4-3 thanks to the fourth doubles team of junior Amanda Sall and sophomore Sarah Schienman. This pair defeated its opponents 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. They were also successful on Oct. 20 against Cold Spring Harbor, winning 4-3. In this match, the clincher came with Szulman's dramatic win in three sets against her opponent, 6-3, 1-6, 7-5.

The team's toughest competition came against the top two teams in the division, Jericho and Syosset.

"During our games this year, everyone pulled her own weight," said co-captain Selim. "This type of consistency is what I believe has led us to victory and a successful season."

## out of bounds

by David Becker  
Contributing Writer

Since they were young, these boys have been tossing Wilsons at each other with the hope that they might see this day. Mommies and Daddies are yelling at each other lest they forget the lens cap is still on.

The Nov. 5 varsity football game against JFK Bellmore is better attended than a Board of Education meeting.

The day's events begin with a ceremony to honor the seniors, since it is the last home game of the season.

They're off! There are a handful of incomplete passes. Finally senior co-captain Greg Berry completes a pass to junior Greg Novick. Senior co-captain Dan Koh spins and scores a touchdown on the first drive of the game!

Bellmore is on its fourth down! A punt is blocked by junior Peter Miller, giving Port terrific field position.

Two minutes left in the quarter, freshman Eric Parchment has a ten-yard run, almost a touchdown.

Thus far, Port has a record of 2-5. JFK has the same. A group of sophomores in the stands screams "LET'S GO D!" and so begins the third quarter.

JFK chews up the clock with a long drive. They complete a ten-yard touchdown pass but Port stuffs them on the two-point conversion attempt.

"I'm not going to lie to you," remarks

a spectator, sophomore Sam Pyo. "It's really boring."

Novick has a thirty-yard kick return. Sophomore Ryan Castro, has a twenty-yard reception. His drive is stopped by JFK's strong defense as the quarter comes to a close.

It's the last quarter. "The team's major problem is its lack of intensity," comments junior Jonah Lovens.

Junior Arnold Donado recovers a fumble, giving Port a chance to take the lead late in the game. A man with a cow bell rings it ardently! On fourth and inches, Berry scores on a quarterback sneak, followed by a two-point conversion from Koh. This gives Port a three-point lead.

There is an interception by Castro for a game-clinching, thirty-five-yard touchdown. The crowd cheers, "WARM UP THE BUS!" The game is over with a score of 21-12! The team gathers for the ritual meeting of helmets.

"Before we played this game, we promised we'd have no regrets on the field," says senior co-captain Harry Jung.

Castro agrees: "I think this will set the tone for the future of playoff Port football. Yeyah."

Senior Francisco Silva turns back to look at the field. "I feel like we're all family," he says.

As the sun sets on this side of the 'burbs, it marks the end of one wonderful day.



# Boys soccer loses in a heartbreaker

## Vikings let up goal in last ten minutes, ending their season

BY Steven Geisenheimer & Ben Greene

Contributing Writers

After their first season in Division I, the varsity soccer team finished 1-9-2, landing them a spot in the basement of their division.

Even with their dismal record, some players still have pride in the results.

"Our record is deceiving," said junior Ben Jaffe. "We are not a bad team, as we showed when we blew out the number one team in Division II."

Before the season started, the coach of the varsity soccer team, Mr. Brian McGrade resigned, and Mr. Don Zuvich took over.

In their first game of the season against Carey, the team looked very sharp, despite losing 1-0 in a nail-biter. These close losses were common this season. Port lost seven games by one goal, including five 1-0 losses. The boys also tied twice.

The team's defense was able to keep them in the game but the offense struggled.

Collectively, the team scored only eight goals this whole regular season. Junior Alex Lee led the team with three goals during the regular season, senior Billy Brown had two goals, and sophomore David Lee had one.

The team's only assist of the season came from sophomore Nick Balterman when he fed Lee a pass during the team's only victory, which was against Syosset. That goal was the only score in that 1-0 game.

Junior goalie Jonah Lovens posted his first ever shutout with eleven saves in the home win against Syosset. His saves included a blocked Syosset penalty shot taken with thirty minutes left in the second half.

The team's starting goalie was senior Bryant Rich, who allowed only ten goals, made forty-two saves, and recorded one shutout.

Lovens allowed nine goals, and made twenty-five saves.

The team had a strong defense led by seniors Brandon "Bobo" Schneider, juniors Dan Goldin and Ben Jaffe, and freshman Stephan Brossard. In the twelve regular season games, the team surrendered only twenty-three goals.

Since every Division I team receives a spot in the playoffs, they got an automatic bid, playing as the seventh seed.

Their first playoff game came against Baldwin, the third place team in Conference II.

Brown scored the first of Port's two goals. Junior Ricky Song scored the second. Senior Jacob Paisner had the

only assist.

The Vikings won their second game of the season by a score of 2-0, advancing deeper into the playoffs. Their second playoff game came against the third place team in Conference I, Hicksville.

The game remained tied at zero, thanks in part to Rich's eight saves, but with eight minutes left in the second half, Hicksville scored on a pass to give them a 1-0 lead.

The Vikings were never able to overcome this deficit and lost the game.

One of the positive aspects of the team was its youth. Much of the team consisted of juniors and sophomores. Lee, captain and MVP, only a junior, will be able to step into his role as leader next year.

One of the highlights of the season came from freshman Brossard. The only freshman to make the team in recent years, he was an integral player as stopper.

Additionally, the JV1 team was very successful this year, beating every



Beth Spengel

Junior Alex Lee looks to create a turnover and generate a scoring chance against Hicksville. However, Port was not able to score and eventually lost 1-0.

team in their division, and will provide the varsity team next year will many skillfull and determined players.

"We grew every game and had a very productive season," said Jaffe. "We're not losing many starters. Hopefully we will be competitive in Divison I next season."

### SPORTS ANALYSIS

## Do fans and athletes give referees enough credit?

BY David Baer

Sports Editor

Officiating at all levels is always criticized by athletes, fans, coaches, and all the other sports maniacs around the globe, but how much of the blame can we actually place on the referees? The National Football League opted to turn to instant replay to ensure that calls are correct, the National Hockey League has been using replay to justify goals for years, and the National Basketball Association has added red lights behind the backboards to signal the end of a quarter, and have used replay to clarify if a shot is good or not. Even in some circumstances, the National Collegiate Athletic Association is using replay.

However, fanatics still find themselves on the couch on Sunday afternoon yelling at the television, because the ref made a horrible call. How much of this blame can we, as fans or athletes, place on the fallibility of officials?

It's crunch time; your favorite NFL team is down six, and driving down the field. With no time on the clock, you score what looks like a touchdown to at least tie the game, only to have the ref call it back because of a petty holding call at the line of scrimmage, which, to the fan, looks like it could have gone either way. Do fans have the right to feel that the official's call lost them the game? How about this: did your team ever, throughout the entire game, run a bad play, maybe miss a third-and-short that might have set up a touchdown, turn the ball over in the red-zone? There

has to be at least one time during the game that you can say that the team did something that cost them a chance at a score, and possibly a win.

The same goes for high school sports, where there are no big-time, drama-queen crybabies like Terrell Owens. There is no room for the embarrassments of Ron Artest or Tom Bertuzzi. Certainly, high school athletes should not be arguing with the officials over a call, just because in their opinion they were right, even if they might not have been.

High school athletes, and athletes in general (along with the fans, the parents, the fanatics, and the people that fall under the category all of the above) should not be the ones questioning umpires and referees.

Instant replay, which is widely used now, should not be a substitute for the trained professionals with the black and white stripes. Starting at least at the high school level, players should learn that the officials' calls are final.

Despite the examples of today's money-making "professionals," the principles of the game should not be overlooked. It's no walk in the park being the homeplate umpire for an MLB playoff game; just ask Doug Eddings, whose extremely controversial call in the 2005 ALCS between the Anaheim Angels and would-be World Series Champions Chicago White Sox will leave fans with questions for years to come.

Officials are no excuse to lose a game; it's your own mistakes that do lose it for you.

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# CALLING THE SHOTS

Sports Editorial

## Is Terrell Owens the NFL's biggest nemesis?

BY Brett Friedman  
Managing Editor

By now, everybody knows that Terrell "T.O." Owens, the Philadelphia Eagles' epic wide receiver, has established himself as a poor role model for aspiring athletes. But, the really interesting character who's emerged from the T.O. situation is his agent, Drew Rosenhaus. Rosenhaus organized a series of press conferences after the Eagles organization decided to sideline T.O. for the remainder of the season. In these press conferences Rosenhaus took center stage. He ignored the media's questions, and insisted on imposing his own view of reality while T.O. stood idly by.

Where do you think Mr. Rosenhaus perfected this approach? Much to our surprise it was right here under our noses at Schreiber High School, where he represented star athlete Jimmy Jocular in a conference with Assistant Principal Brad Fitzgerald. Here's how it went...

"Mr. Rosenhaus, I presume?"

"Yeah. Hey. Nice to meet you, Mr. Fitzgerald."

"Same here, Mr. Rosenhaus. I see from my Powerschool report that Jimmy's been accused of cutting a couple classes."

"Hey, who hasn't been?"

"Actually, Jimmy cut all of his classes for about half of the first semester. What grades did he receive in these classes?"

"Next question."

"I'm just trying to help, Mr. Rosenhaus..."

"Ugh, he failed, okay? He failed every single one of his classes. Can you possibly explain to me why it's imperative for Jimmy to attend so many classes? He's a fighter. He works hard and he always will. Why should he have to show up at class if he's already better than every other student in his grade?"

"Because, regardless of his talent, he must abide by the same rules and regulations as his classmates."

"Mr. Fitzgerald, Jimmy is very pained at this point because he feels like his extraordinary talent in the classroom could have resulted in an even more positive learning atmosphere."

"Is that so?"

"Yes, and let me tell you something..."

Jimmy Jocular is a great, honest, sincere, hard-working kid who didn't really do anything wrong. I just believe that the faculty has been unfair to him."

"Mr. Rosenhaus, do you even know the student we're discussing?"

"Next question."

"Would you like to bring Jimmy in right now so he can discuss the situation along with us?"

"Next question."

"Mr. Rosenhaus, I have no choice but to suspend Jimmy for the remainder of the school year as a result of his negative impact on our educational community. Jimmy has been warned repeatedly about the consequences of his actions, but he has refused to step down from his high horse."

"Mr. Fitzgerald, I know you have to

do that because 'The Man' will question you if you don't. But how can you live with yourself after denying Jimmy an after-school ceremony to celebrate his hundredth hand raise?"

"I beg your pardon?"

"Last Wednesday, Jimmy raised his hand for the hundredth time to answer a question in class. Don't you think that deserves some recognition?"

"I think you're a little out of line, sir."

"Agree to disagree, Mr. Fitzgerald. The bottom line is that we will fight for Jimmy's right to return to school. Hey, we hope that he's back in classes starting next week so he doesn't miss that big test on Monday."

"Now that I think about it, Mr. Rosenhaus, Jimmy was also recently involved in an altercation with one of his teachers. He pointed out publicly, using vulgarities that even I had never heard before, that she was 'a washed up, has-been English teacher' and that 'every single one of her peers was superior to her.' Jimmy later left me a voicemail that said, 'Yo, Mr. Fitz what's good? I just wanted to reiterate my respect for my English teacher,' but it didn't sound like something he would say. Do you have any suggestions as to a punishment for that unfortunate scenario?"

"Next question."

"You seem to not feel the need to answer a lot of my questions, Mr. Rosenhaus."

"Next question."

"That wasn't a question, Mr. Rosenhaus."

"Whatever. It should have been."

"Fair enough. Now can we clear up the last complaint about Jimmy?"

"Yes sir, we can and we shall."

"There is evidence that Jimmy maliciously attacked one of his classmates while in Physical Education class. He proceeded to 'get all up in this person's grille' for disagreeing with an opinion the other student shared earlier in the period. Jimmy ended up knocking out the student with one right hook. After the dispute, I asked the little girl if she was all right. The nurse told her that the black eye would probably go away within a week. How do you suppose I should handle this one, Mr. Rosenhaus?"

"Mr. Fitzgerald, as I have been attempting to bring to light throughout this entire conference, Jimmy Jocular made an apologetic statement in his driveway this morning. He didn't refute the allegations, but instead expressed remorse for his ill-advised actions. He apologized to his fellow students and teachers. In his heart, he gave everything he had. He was genuine and sincere, and it just doesn't seem to be enough for you. Have you no soul?"

And that's how it would have gone down. Now you'll have to draw your own conclusions. Is Drew Rosenhaus a money-craving, insincere yuppie? Is Drew Rosenhaus a self-absorbed liar? Is he a representative of all the corruption in the realm of sports today?

Next question.

## Badminton tournament exceeds expectations

BY Rob Bellon  
Staff Writer

Weber gym teacher Kevin Baudo and freshman Greg Lumpkin defeated Schreiber gym teacher Ms. Maria Giamanco and senior Laila Selim on Nov. 9, winning the second annual Schreiber Badminton Tournament, which was sponsored by the Student Athletic Association. The event was successful in raising over a thousand dollars for Adopt-a-Family, an organization that benefits less fortunate families.

The Student Athletic Association, better known as the Letter Club, fashioned the idea for a badminton tournament a year ago. Their treasury was running desperately low on funds, and they needed some source of money. They held the tournament and they raised a substantial amount of money. Since the tournament was such a success, the Letter Club decided to run another again this year.

After a number of well-played games, the tournament came down to the final four teams. One match pitted of Ms. Giamanco and 2005 Nassau County

Champion senior Laila Selim against Mr. Kevin Braddish and senior Greg Berry. The other match was between the of Mr. Kevin Baudo and freshman Greg Lumpkin versus the sibling team of freshman Max and senior Trace Cohen.

With Braddish and Berry and the Cohen brothers eliminated, the hands of the tournament title lay within reach for the teams of Giamanco and Selim and Baudo and Lumpkin. At the peak of excitement, Baudo and Lumpkin came away with a victory over their formidable opponents.

Giamanco, the faculty advisor of the Letter Club, was pleased with the



Senior Greg Berry and Mr. Kevin Braddish face off against their first-round opponents. They ended up losing in the semifinals.

tournament's turnout, both in terms of the number of teams who signed up and the monetary success. Many students and a surprising number of teachers participated. Ms. Fran Clark from Weber, Ms. Nancy Klotz, Ms. Sally Reinhardt, Mr. Joseph Corbo, Mr. Corey Block, Ms. Anne Pellet, and Ms. Evelina Zarkh also appeared at the tournament.

"I was really impressed that some of the kids' parents were there. My wife even came," said Mr. Fish.

"Some of us are old and slow, so having a small court allows us to compete." He said that unlike basketball or soccer, badminton is easy enough for everyone to play. Ms. Giamanco concurred, "with a sport like badminton, it puts everyone on even playing ground."

The tournament, however, was far more than a community sporting event. The Letter Club held the tournament near the holidays with the intention of raising money for Adopt-a-Family, which is run through Our Lady of Fatima in Manorhaven. Since the tournament was so successful, the Letter Club was able to adopt two families this holiday season.

"As a co-president of the Letter Club, I have the privilege of shopping for the families we adopted along with my fellow officers," said junior Michelle Doscas. "We will be able to be much more generous this year due to the enormous amount of money we raised."

Looking forward to next year's tournament, Mr. Fish commented, "I hope it's something they continue."



# 2005 Fall Sports Awards

## Cross Country

**MVP – Boys**  
Richard Schmitz

**MVP – Girls**  
Lauren Hanat

**MIP**  
Wilmer Chamul

**Coach's Award**  
Astrid Firland-Schill  
Peter Gabrielli  
Jacob Litke

**All County**  
Richard Schmitz (Champion)

**All Conference**  
Lauren Hanat  
Maurice Alfaya  
Richard Schmitz

**All Division**  
Christopher Catalano  
Astrid Firland-Schill  
Tarryn Fisher  
Peter Gabrielli  
Lauren Hanat  
Jacob Litke  
Richard Schmitz

## Varsity Field Hockey

**MVP**  
Nathalie Brilliant

**MIP**  
Liana Clemente

**Coach's Award**  
Jordana Cohen  
Ariel Fuchs

**All County**  
Nathalie Brilliant

**All Conference**  
Liana Clemente

**All Conference Honorable Mention**  
Amanda Buss  
Jacqueline Mezzetta

**Exceptional Senior**  
Ariel Fuchs  
Danielle Powers

**Unsung Hero**  
Nicole Pond

## JV Field Hockey

**Coach's Award**  
Katherine Corteselli  
Samantha Eilenberg

## Varsity Football

**MVP**  
Harry Jung

**MIP**  
Gregory Berry

**Coach's Award**  
Dan Koh

**Unsung Hero**  
Peter Miller

## JV Football

**Coach's Award**  
Jeremy Gurewitz  
Steven Kaufman  
Daniel Sirotkin

## Boys Varsity Soccer

**MVP**  
Alex Lee

**MIP**  
Jonah Lovens

**Coach's Award**  
Benjamin Beecher  
Robert Moe  
Jacob Paisner

**Captain's Award**  
Stephen Brossard

**All County Honorable Mention**  
Alex Lee

**All Conference I AA**  
William Brown  
Daniel Goldin  
Bryant Rich  
Brandon Schneider

## Boys JV Soccer

**Coach's Award**  
Oluebube Abara  
Jonathan Certuche  
Matthew Weintraub

## Boys JV2 Soccer

**Coach's Award**  
Joseph Gil  
Kyu Min Park

## Girls Varsity Swimming

**MVP**  
Gabrielle Borutecene

**MIP**  
Kaarina Santala

**Coach's Award**  
Arielle Buss  
Julia Link  
Sarah Nash

**All Conference – 200 IM & 100 Breaststroke**  
Gabrielle Borutecene

**All Conference – 100 Breaststroke**  
Mary Forman

**All Conference – 100 Backstroke & 500 Freestyle**  
Andrea Ortega

**All Conference – 500 Freestyle**  
Aya Sheldon

## Girls Varsity Soccer

**MVP**  
Angela Matinale

**MIP**  
y S b r

**Coach's Award**  
Spr z r  
S r h W ss

**All County**  
A

**All Class AA**  
F z K pc k

**All Conference**  
K r F h y  
Spr z r

Graphic by Jonathan Seligson

## Girls JV Soccer

**Coach's Award**  
Nicole Botsaris  
Aryel Newmark

## Girls Varsity Tennis

**MVP**  
Kristin Norton

**MIP**  
Emily Szulman

**Coach's Award**  
Gabriela Monsanto  
Laila Selim

**All State**  
Laura Chen  
Kristin Norton

**All Conference**  
Laura Chen  
Kristin Norton

**All Division**  
Gabriela Monsanto  
Laila Selim

## Girls JV Tennis

**Coach's Award**  
Stephanie Weinberg

## Girls Varsity Volleyball

**MVP**  
Burgandy McCurty

**MIP**  
Gabrielle D'Annunzio

**Coach's Award**  
Lindsay Byrne

**All County**  
Burgandy McCurty

**All County Honorable Mention**  
Christina Carrington

## Girls JV Volleyball

**Coach's Award**  
Carly Furino  
Emily Weinstock

## Special Fall Awards

**Leo Costello Award**  
Harry Jung - Football

**Ellen Herman MVP Award**  
Nathalie Brilliant - Field Hockey

**The Joseph Rezek Memorial Award**  
William Brown - Boys Soccer

**The Tyler Rauzon Memorial Scholarship Award**  
Bryant Rich - Boys Soccer  
Sarah Weiss - Girls Soccer

## Individual Accomplishments

**Richard Schmitz - Cross Country**  
2nd in Nassau County  
County Conference AA Champion

**Kristin Norton & Laura Chen - Girls Tennis**  
Conference I, Nassau County Doubles Tournament  
Champions  
All New York State Honors  
All County Honors  
3rd at New York State Championships



# VIKING SPORTS

## Schmitz leads cross country to division crown *Boys and girls teams dominate Division I and County*

by John Forman  
Contributing Writer

The boys cross country team scored its third division title in the sport's long history at Schreiber. Before this season, Port Washington's last division crown was in 1964, over four decades ago. This should bring the long awaited banner to Schreiber's gym, putting on prominent display the pride these runners have in their sport, which is nicknamed "your sport's punishment."

"This was a monumental season, not just for Richard Schmitz, but for our entire varsity squad," said Coach Klaff, noting both the personal accomplishments of the team MVP and the performance of the entire team.

After two consecutive disappointing seasons in 2002 and 2003, the boys simply looked to improve this year, but they did much more than that.

Led by Coach Jeremy Klaff, the boys did not lose a single divisional meet. Juniors Peter Gabrielli and Richard Schmitz took first and second place

respectively in every division meet. The team ended with a 6-0 record and ran away with the Division IB title.

"Looking back at past years, we see how especially great we did this year," said junior Matthew Mondragon.

The boys team came out of the gates with a loss to Massapequa and Oceanside in the first conference meet. The boys would redeem themselves, however, beating both teams in later matches. In fact, over the rest of their season, they beat every team in the county, finishing with a conference record of 11-2.

"I was a little worried after our two initial defeats, but it was awesome to see how much we improved when we came back and beat these two 'powerhouses' later on in the season," said Schmitz.

The boys entered the conference finals with high hopes but finished third to very strong Syosset and Massapequa teams.

The team then surpassed Massapequa and took home second place in Nassau County Class AA, again edged out by Syosset, a favorite to qualify for state-wide competition for the ninth consecutive year.

In addition, Schreiber placed fourth overall in Nassau County, exceeding Coach Klaff's preseason hope of cracking the top ten.

Several boys on the team were also able to excel personally amid the team's success. Senior Jacob Litke and juniors Christopher Catalano and Gabrielli earned All Division honors. Gabrielli missed the distinction of All County by two places. Senior Maurice Alfaya was named All Conference.

Schmitz was named All County, taking second place overall in the county championship and missing All State by only three places. Schmitz was Nassau County Class AA champion, with a time of 16:07.9, a new school record that had not been broken for many years.

"How many people in our school can run a 5:15 mile? Now picture running three consecutive 5:15 miles. That's what Schmitz did at states," said Coach Klaff, following Schmitz's breakout season.

"The season was a lot of fun. It was nice to see our hard work pay off with second place in the county," said Schmitz, who also looks positively towards next year. "We will continue to work hard and aim for a county championship next year. Our strong group of returning varsity runners, along with some exceptional JV athletes are bound to improve and give us an upper hand in next year's competitions."

"We are a really deep team.

Guys who ran JV for us could be running varsity on most other teams," said Coach Klaff. "A good team usually has seven runners under twenty minutes. We have fifteen."

Not to be lost amid the boys' success is the girls season. In the past, too few girls would try out for cross country to field a girls team.

This year, however, after fifteen years without a girls team, enough girls came out for the squad.

The seven team members consisted of senior Lauren Hanat, juniors Tarryn Fisher, Marissa Fox, and Hae Inn Woo, sophomore Astrid Firland-Schill, and freshmen Rose Ellen Diffley and Katherine Maxted, who pulled together to finish a close second in the division with a 5-1 record.

The only loss the girls endured was against undefeated division champs East Meadow. The girls also finished at 10-3 mark in Conference I.

"I'm proud of the way our team gelled so well in our first year, especially in a sport that depends on individual performances," said Firland-Schill. "The guys certainly did well with their second place finish in the county, but our 5-1 record should not be overshadowed by their remarkable finish."

Like the boys, the girls team had many individuals earn honors for their consistent performances this season. Fisher and Firland-Schill earned All Division honors. Senior team captain Hanat earned the distinction of All Conference.

Both teams were very proud of their running this year, with the boys earning second place in the county and the girls coming in second for their division, but they still look forward to next fall.

Returning varsity runners are optimistic that they can turn silver into gold, winning counties and earning a trip to states.

"Next year we may improve as a team, but next season will not be nearly as much fun as we will sorely miss our seniors," said Catalano. "It will be impossible to replace seniors Litke, Maurice Alfaya, Wilmer Chamul, Jose de la Rosa, Jinyo Lay, and Raul Maraboli, who brought veteran leadership and fun to the team."



Junior Richard Schmitz finishes strong at Bethpage State Park, where he won the gold medal.



Junior Tarryn Fisher sprints to the finish line at Bethpage State Park against Baldwin on October 17. The team's win brought the girls to a 4-0 record.

### Boys Cross Country

9/20 Schreiber vs. Hicksville W

9/27 Schreiber vs. Long Beach W

10/11 Schreiber vs. Farmingdale W

10/17 Schreiber vs. Baldwin W

10/17 Schreiber vs. E. Meadow W

10/24 Schreiber vs. Plainview W

### Girls Cross Country

9/20 Schreiber vs. Hicksville W

9/27 Schreiber vs. Long Beach W

10/11 Schreiber vs. Farmingdale W

10/17 Schreiber vs. Baldwin W

10/17 Schreiber vs. E. Meadow L

10/24 Schreiber vs. Plainview W

All Photos by  
Josh Talesnick