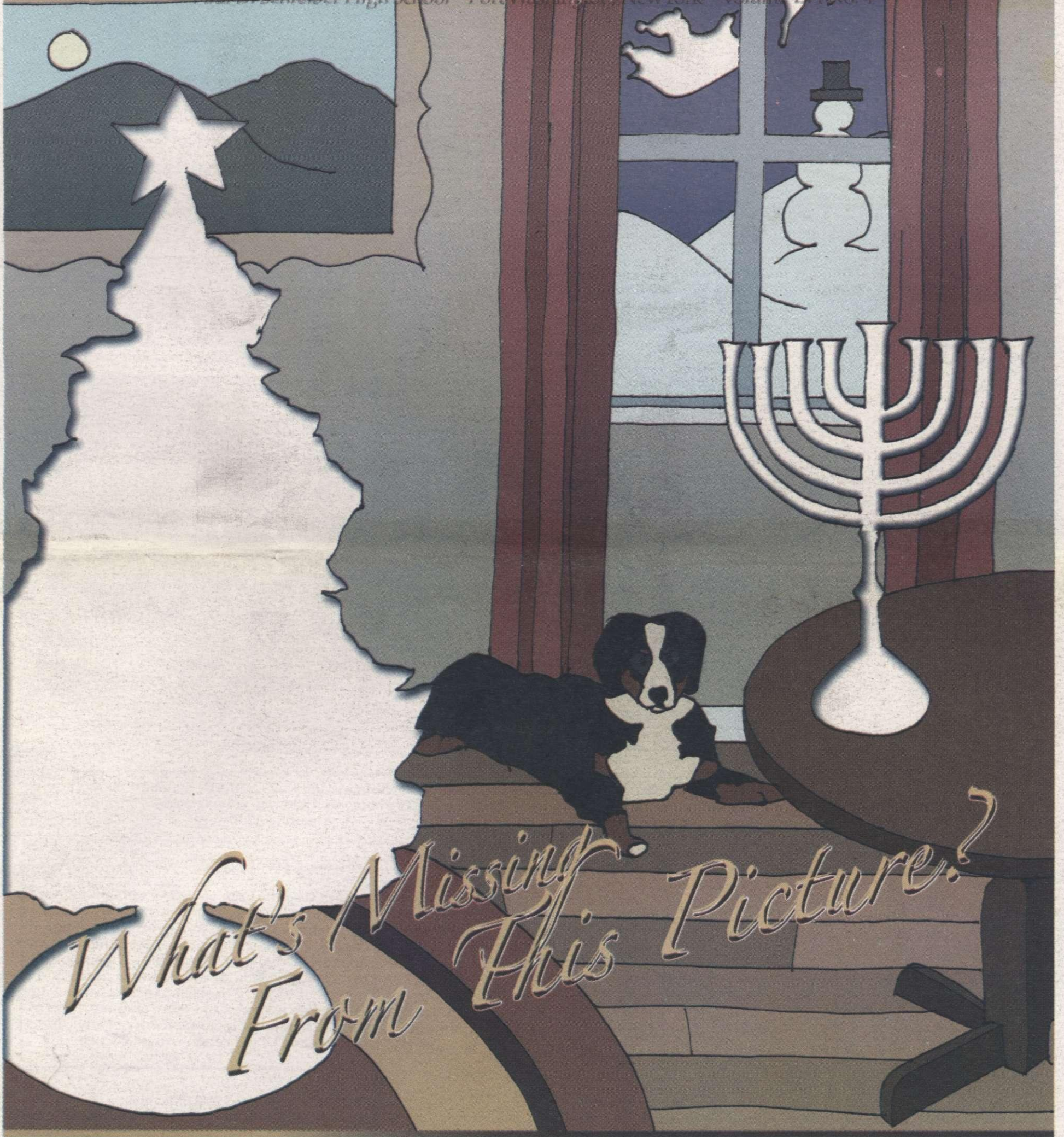


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THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume 111 No. 4



**Mr. Frank
Returns Home**
Features



**Vikings Pass
"First Real Test"**
Sports

School Vandalism
Opinions
Checkup on the Osbornes
News

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NEWS



BRIEFS

AP Art trip exhilarating experience for students

Once closed as a health hazard, the P.S. 1 school in Long Island City is now an art museum and the destination of an AP Photography class trip. On Nov. 17, the AP photo students went to the P.S. 1 museum, which is managed by the Museum of Modern Art.

P.S. 1 was a public school until the late 1960s, at which time it was closed because of hazardous conditions. The building was re-opened in 1971 by Alanna Heiss as part of The Institute of Art and Urban Resources.

The museum still maintains the original school architecture. The stairways and hallways make visitors feel as if they are in a school. The original lights and floorboards from the school are still in use, but have been turned into art. P.S. 1 shows how art can be found in all different forms. The museum is dedicated to contemporary art, showcasing emerging artists.

The highlight of the trip was the visit to photographer Jerry Simpson's studio. Simpson, a Long Island native and friend of art teacher Ms. Kris Murphy, is a renowned commercial artist who has worked for multiple companies on commercials as well as magazines and other media. The students were able to see his actual work space, and hear him speak about his career and have him answer their questions.

"Speaking to Mr. Simpson was inspirational. Seeing his work space and his success has made me become more ambitious to achieve my goal of becoming a photographer," said junior Dan Reese.

The field trip gave the students an opportunity to meet a professional

photographer and hear about his experiences. It also exposed them to the modern art of P.S. 1 as well as the unique atmosphere of the museum.

Art Teachers Ms. Murphy and Ms. Joy Jaworski chaperoned the trip and were especially pleased to see that their students were well-behaved and appreciative.

~ Ali Bernhard and Cara Fields

Sports leadership conference

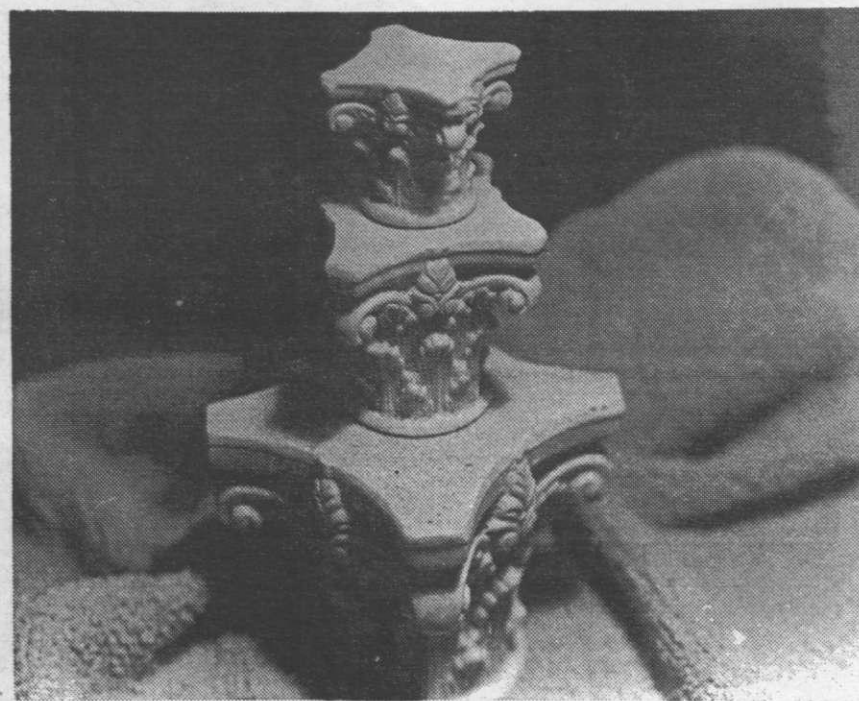
On Nov. 15, Schreiber sent six athletes to the Hofstra University Sports Leadership Conference. The students, juniors Anthony Corbo, Sydney DiMaggio, Michelle Doskas, Ben Jaffe, Angela Matinale, and Carlos Molina, were nominated by their coaches for displaying exceptional leadership both on the field and off.

The conference brought together student athletes from all over Long Island in order to create a progressive and constructive dialogue among teens. The gathering began with a presentation by John Danowski, head lacrosse coach at Hofstra. Danowski spoke about one of his players, who, although he rarely saw playtime, was a leader and served as inspiration to the rest of the team.

Following the speech, students were divided into groups where they spoke about many aspects of high school sports and leadership in general. Sitting in circles, students answered such questions as, "what qualities a leader must have" and "whether students are presented with good role models."

~ Ben Jaffe

Photo Gallery



The contours of the fabric and shape of the Corinthian columns in junior Maia Rowland's photograph allowed her to effectively manipulate light, shadow, and texture.

Blast From the Past

As the winter holidays steadily approach, the idea of holiday spirit naturally comes to mind. A common custom around the winter solstice is Christmas caroling. However, as a government institution, we as Schreiber High School students are not allowed to practice this festive activity. In the 1925 edition of *The Port Weekly*, Schreiber High School's newspaper publication, the joyous caroling activities were described as a school-wide event. Students were even assigned to research the origins of Christmas caroling, which happen to come from German songs called "Wiegenlieder" and French "Noel" carols.

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Jay Lewis, principal
Anne Pellett, Evelina Zarkh, advisers
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Dodgeball tournament is cancelled

Legal problems and student apathy complicate fundraiser

BY Daniella Malekan
Editor-in-Chief

After registration fees had already been paid and team commitments already made, students were the last to find out that the Student Council's second annual Dodgeball Tournament, scheduled for Dec. 9, had been cancelled.

Student Council's seven executive officers voted to cancel the event due to strong opposition from the school's faculty, especially the physical education teachers.

The Student Council executive members gave a great deal of clout to the physical education teachers' opinions because they are in charge of athletics for the entire school. They also have been heavily relied upon to help schedule, referee, and supervise the event.

"We want this to be a safe event, and for it to be backed by the school," said Student Council adviser Ms. Amy Prochaska.

The first major reason that the physical education teachers were opposed to the dodgeball tournament was because dodgeball is not supported by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, which feels that the sport favors athleticism only in the most capable students, and leaves out those who may be most in need of physical activity.

The physical education teachers'

beliefs were cemented when Athletic Director Ms. Rose Bonnano sent them a copy of an article that involved a seven year-old girl from New York whose parents won a lawsuit against her school district when she ran into someone, fell to the ground, and broke her arm while playing dodgeball. This added lack of safety to the list of arguments being made against the sport.

After hearing this, Student Council members mentioned to gym teachers that the Key Club was still permitted to hold a yearly badminton tournament, regardless of the fact that there was a lawsuit several years ago against the Port Washington School District when a student obtained injuries after he was hit in the eye with a shuttlecock while playing badminton in gym class.

The physical education teachers' response was that badminton is still a part of the curriculum, whereas dodgeball has been removed from it for years.

Teacher support of the event had also diminished from the previous year. For example, last year's referee, Mr. Don Fish, refused to participate in the cause this year because his wife had been hit by a ball while she was watching one of the rounds in the stands.

Student Council members did not want to make the school, themselves, or their advisers, Ms. Trish Burr and

Ms. Amy Prochaska, liable for any safety accidents, especially since the event was not condoned to begin with.

The fact that many student teams had procrastinated, and only seven had given in their money by the time the event was cancelled, also did not help their cause.

Initially, students were not given definitive answers regarding why the tournament was cancelled, but all ten members from each team were given the opportunity to have their five dollar registration fees refunded.

The event is not cancelled for good, however. After speaking with Principal Jay Lewis about the strong student desire to run the event, Student Council executive officers seniors James Pyo, Bryant Rich, and Zubin Zaveri were told they had a compelling and well thought out argument.

As a result, Mr. Lewis has agreed to check with the school district's attorney to make sure that the school is not at risk of facing any liability charges associated with the event.

If the attorney approves of the event, then Mr. Lewis will have no qualms offering student government his full support, and having the event rescheduled to one of the weeks after winter vacation.

"To be honest with you," said Mr. Lewis, "I don't have a big problem with this, but in this litigious atmosphere, I just have to make sure."

Students help the Osbornes with \$2,400

BY Mike Lau
Assistant News Editor

Katrina, the infamous category-four hurricane, devastated thousands of lives and killed 1,277 people on Aug. 29. In the aftermath of the natural disaster, the students of Schreiber have reached out to a particular family that was greatly affected by the hurricane – the Osbornes.

The hurricane caused Nancy and Michael Osborne and their younger children to lock themselves in a closet in their home, but major roof damage caused by trees and by flooding forced the Osbornes to separate – Nancy and her daughters Sophie, 5, and Sarah, 9, live with friends, Joseph, 17, and Jacob, 15, live with classmates, Rachel, 29, lives with her husband and son, and Emily, 21,

and Ann Katherine, 23, live together. Three days after the storm hit, Michael Osborne drove to a Lowe's store to search for supplies but was shot on the way and died while escaping from his pursuers.

Ms. Donna Milazzo, Nancy's sister, who is a second grade teacher at Daly Elementary School, hoped to help her family by selling its old house and moving into a new and smaller home. Ms. Milazzo needed a monetary boost to help her family rebuild.

Many Schreiber students have happily and generously given monetary contributions to the Osborne family in hopes that the Osbornes will soon be able to live a happy and normal life again. Collectively, the Student Council, Key Club, Science Honor Society, FBLA, and Student Outreach have contributed a total of \$2400

dollars.

"We really liked the fact that we didn't just send a check to the Red Cross or any organization, but we were able to put a face on who we were raising money for and make a difference with one family who we were connected to," said junior Student Council Executive Officer Jason Lifton. "It was also nice to help out someone in the community, Ms. Milazzo, who needed help for her family."

Earlier in the year, the Student Council helped organize a major relief project in which clothes, toys, infant supplies, and other miscellaneous items were collected and sent to the victims of the hurricane. The Student Council wishes to continue its plan to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina by holding another donation in January.

The Key Club held a car wash and raised \$300, the Science Honor Society collected money, and the FBLA held a concert where the Student Council sold food.

"In light of the tragedy suffered by the Osborne family, FBLA was just happy to be able to help out," said senior Zach Bergman, student president of the FBLA.

The money was presented to Ms. Milazzo on Friday, Dec. 16 in the Student Commons. Ms. Milazzo was deeply appreciative of the monetary gift.

"You do not even know the Osbornes, and look what you guys have done!" said Ms. Milazzo to students. "As Mark Twain once said, 'The universal brotherhood of man is our most precious possession.' What you guys have done is truly strengthening and healing."

Deluxe services ensures safety of the community

BY Ben Jaffe
News Editor

Underage drinking remains a ubiquitous problem among Schreiber students, and this illicit activity is only compounded during the holiday season when drinking and driving increases. Deluxe Transportation and other Nassau County taxi companies are doing something to combat this potentially dangerous situation.

In order to combat drunk driving, Deluxe owner Peter Blasucci is offering a special service for Port Washington residents and Schreiber students. If they need a ride home from a local tavern, bar, restaurant, catering hall, or party, they can call Deluxe, who will provide a free ride home. Additionally, another free ride will be provided the next day to retrieve the parked car.

Even though Deluxe recognizes that underage drinking is both illegal and wrong, it is nevertheless taking a step in ensuring the safety of the community.

"It is in everyone's interest for the town and its citizens to remain safe. Deluxe is justified in its stance. Safety should be the first and foremost concern," said senior Jordan Thaler.

During the holiday season, adults and children alike have higher rates of drunk driving. If students are drinking at a party, they may be unable to recognize that they are drunk; however, out of fear of calling their parents, they may drive while intoxicated anyway.

This is why Deluxe is offering this service, in order to try to provide students with the opportunity to stay safe during the holidays without having their decisions compromised because of the risk of being caught by parents.

"I know that I've driven after drinking before. But now that I am aware of this great alternative, I can choose a safe option," said one Schreiber student who wished to remain anonymous.

Other taxi companies taking part in the service are Ollie's Taxi & Airport Service, All Island Transportation, Taxi Latino, McRide's Taxi, and Luxury Transportation.

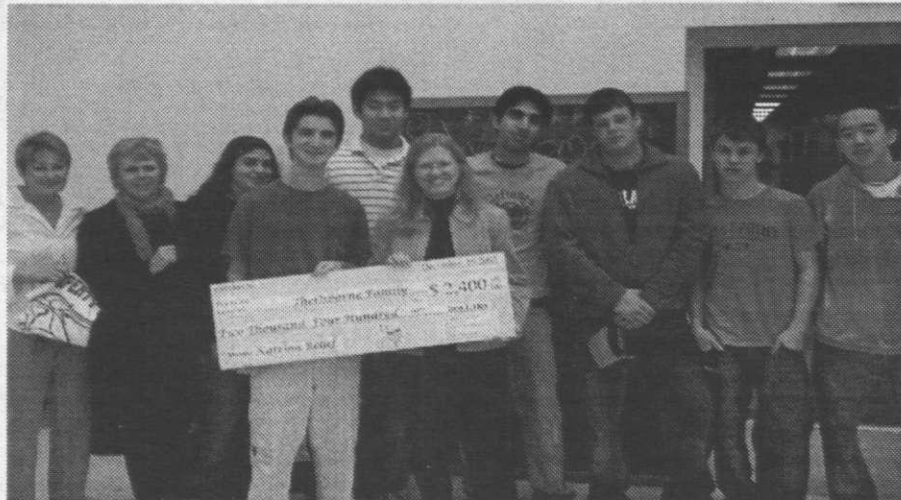
"I applaud local taxi companies for their efforts in trying to get drunk drivers off the road," said Roger Bogstead, Nassau Taxi & Limousine Commissioner and former DWI Coordinator of Nassau County.

Andrea Major, Deluxe Vice President, was disappointed that last year, the only people who took advantage of the program were those who wanted transportation to other bars and clubs.

Despite this inappropriate use of the service, Deluxe will continue to offer the service this year through Jan. 1.

"If we can stop one teenager from drinking and driving, the cost for providing this service will be worth it," explained Ms. Major.

Schreiber already has a somber history of driving accidents. In 2001, Schreiber student Justin Bakst was killed in a car crash. Although drinking was not involved in that case, Deluxe's service will help to remedy the problems of Schreiber's past.



(l-r) Student Council advisers, Ms. Amy Prochaska and Ms. Trish Burr and Student Council officers, juniors Emily Mottahedeh and Jason Lifton; seniors Dan Koh, Zubin Zaveri and Bryant Rich; junior Zach Singer and senior James Pyo, present the \$2,400 to the sister of Nancy Osborne, Ms. Milazzo.

Saturnalia: the annual celebration of Chronus and winter Latin students show eager enthusiasm in their field of study

BY Damian Bidikov

Staff Writer

Latin might be a dead language, but every December Schreiber Latin students show a bit of passion for the language that isn't usually associated with conjugating verbs or translating line after line of *The Aeneid*.

The foreign language department and the Latin Club organized a celebration of the Roman holiday Saturnalia on Dec. 8. The holiday marks the winter solstice and gets its name from the god Saturn, also known as Chronus, the god of time.

In Roman culture, Saturnalia festivities lasted one week and involved a letting down of the proverbial laurel wreaths. The Romans loosened moral restrictions, indulging in whatever pleasures were available to them.

While the Latin Club did not provide cheap red wine and bloody gladiatorial games in the cafeteria where the festival was held, weeks of preparation were necessary to organize a series of fun events and a huge supply of food.

This year's Saturnalia was hosted by Schreiber's newest Latin teacher, Mr. Santoro. Dressed as a Roman emperor of old, wearing a toga, wreath, and sandals, Mr. Santoro happily greeted Latin students of all ages as they entered the cafeteria.

Students were encouraged to emulate Roman clothing with bed sheet togas.

The cafeteria walls were lined with paintings that displayed this year's theme, "The myth of Hercules," as well as the commendable artistic efforts of Latin students in grades 9-12.

School staff, including foreign language chair Mr. John Placella, assistant principal Mr. David Miller, and foreign language teacher Dr. Louise Lindemann were present at the event. Also making an appearance was recently retired Latin teacher Ms.

Ruth Haukeland, who was warmly greeted by old students. Middle school Latin teacher Mr. Arthur Cooke also attended the event, and brought his young daughter so that she might get a taste of Roman culture and high school

Greg Ormont, who proudly holds the title for three out of his four years as a Latin student, and junior Nikki Pond, a first-time winner. The next competition was a relay race in which teams of four students from each grade

contest was won by the freshman class.

Another contest held every year during Saturnalia is a test of storytelling ability. Senior Matt Katz, junior Jonah Lovens, sophomore Eric Glasser, and freshman David Becker all were required to continue a story begun by Mr. Santoro, with Hercules discovering two Port Washingtonians. Despite a passionate, unorthodox "interpretive dance" by David Becker, Jonah Lovens won with an amusing response and a more traditional verbal story.

A costume contest was also held with competitors from all classes. The judges were just barely able to distinguish junior Emlyn Diakow from the flying horse, Pegasus, to declare her the winner.

Additionally, the paintings on the walls were judged, and the junior class' rendition of the Cretan Bull, traced by Nick Defeo, was pronounced winner. Every year a grab-bag is also included at Saturnalia,

during which students have a chance to receive a mystery gift in return for one of their own.

Schreiber's Saturnalia festival may not compete with the raucous, week-long celebration held in ancient Rome, but it brings together the Latin students for an evening of class-oriented spirit, competition, food, and celebration.



Liz Corkett

(l-r) Sophomores Mary Forman, Maryann Vlahos, Madeline Mirzoeff, Nina Zorfass, Astrid Firland-Schill, and Sidney Ginsberg enjoy themselves at Saturnalia, the Roman festival of the winter solstice. They donned togas in honor of ancient Roman society.

life at an early age.

The evening's planned festivities began soon after 7 p.m., with the Mr. and Mrs. Rome competition. Two candidates from each grade compete in this yearly event, and must respond to a question by which their merit for the title is judged.

This year's winners were Senior

sprinted to collect bits of paper, and then collaborated to put them together and solve the riddle. The senior class was the first to excitedly shout "Marc Antony!"

After a lengthy break for food (probably the main focus of Saturnalia), students competed for victory in a game of charades with Latin themes. This

The intricate workings of the beast An answer for those who think the school computers "byte"

BY Rob Bellon

Staff Writer

The staff and students of Schreiber could do nothing but sit back in frustration as the school's computer server shut down repeatedly over the last few weeks. Computer problems at Schreiber seem to be increasingly prevalent this year, and students and staff alike have been left in a fog.

The most recent bout of computer troubles occurred earlier this month. On Dec. 1, it became necessary for the Schreiber tech staff to shut down the computers as a result of a computer virus that had invaded the local server.

"Some of our antivirus definitions were out of date," said sophomore grade administrator Mr. David Miller. However, he added, "Norton Antivirus has now been updated."

In addition to being the sophomore grade administrator, Miller has a prominent position in the operation of the Schreiber network.

The servers had to be shut down to isolate and eliminate the virus. "With

fewer, if any, computers logged on," said Mr. Miller, "it was easier to track it down." Shutting down the server also prevented the virus from spreading any further.

But this was not the first time the network needed to be shut down. Last June, the network was shut down, because an air conditioning unit in the server room broke. The servers would have overheated had they not been shut off.

But there have been a number of other incidences of the network being shut down. In most of these cases, "we have had to do restarts or had problems with PowerSchool that have required restarts," said Miller.

Some students believe that the problem is PowerSchool.

Miller made clear that the problem on Dec. 1, "was not, in any way, related to PowerSchool. We have had some issues in the past when we, as users, made mistakes in PowerSchool and then had to restart the system."

In Miller's experience at other schools, he points out that they have

always had server problems.

"In my experience we are in much better shape here," said Miller. "Actually, in many places they lack the sophistication that we have and haven't been truly networked. We have a highly evolved system that really functions quite well."

Miller says networks are, "very complex, almost organic systems. Just as the human body sometimes breaks down and gets infected so do networks. Humans have doctors and networks have technicians."

He said that the technicians, Sigmund Souza, Mark Glass, Pat Baglio, and David Baylen provide extraordinary support.

"I think the real issue is the extent to which we have all, as a society, come to rely on computers. They crash and we run around waiting for the sky to fall." Miller acknowledges that when people lose contact with computers and the Internet, they lose contact with information, people, news, and, essentially, the world. "In many ways, it is very isolating."

For Miller, as an assistant principal, the loss of computer access is very difficult. He loses the ability to look up information such as phone numbers and student schedules. All of his record keeping and attendance are on the computer, so it is problematic for him when the computers go down. In the event that the servers need to be shut down, Miller does keep hard copies of all student schedules and personal information.

Perhaps, as Miller said, the real issue is the school's dependence upon computers. When the computers were shut down at 1:20 p.m. on Dec. 1, during fifth period, many students and teachers were frustrated, confused, and even angry.

With this being said, it is evident that Miller's conception of society's dependence on computers is indeed a reality.

The system failure on Dec. 1 certainly served as a reminder to all of the importance of computers in society, and perhaps served even as an indication of our excessive reliance upon them.

Debate reaches quarterfinals

BY Sidney Ginsberg
Staff Writer

The debate team traveled to snowy New Jersey for Princeton's ninth annual Classic Invitational High School Speech & Debate Tournament on Dec. 2. The Public Forum team, comprised of six students, and the Lincoln-Douglas team, comprised of five students, went to the competition.

Social studies teacher Mr. Alex Webster and English teacher Ms. Anne Pellett chaperoned the students alongside social studies teacher Ms. Renee McClean who is the coach of both divisions of the team.

The Lincoln-Douglas team debated whether judicial activism is necessary to protect the rights of American citizens while Public Forum argued whether the NBA should rescind its dress code. The topics remained the same for both debate teams all through the months of November and December.

The Long Island Forensics Association set up tournaments for each topic. One tournament, held at Schreiber on Nov. 12, served as a good fundraiser and practice tournament for those who debated at Princeton. It also allowed participants to gain experience in the same subject matter which they would later be debating on the national level.

Schools from all over Long Island competed, and sophomores Jordan Lewis and Erin Szulman, who opted not to compete, assisted in managing the tournament by selling food and making sure all participants and judges knew where to go.

The Princeton trip was funded both by the money raised in the practice tournaments and by the Student Council, which almost matched the amount requested to be able to send all eleven team members.

The weekend at the college was both fun and educational. In between rounds, those in the tournament had the option of shopping and dining in town, or wandering the attractive Princeton campus. However, those who had never competed at the national level and were not used to large tournaments had trouble adjusting.

"Because I had never done this before, it was hard for me to maneuver around the really confusing campus and get to my rounds on time," said junior Amanda Hertzberg. "All our feet hurt from the walking. Besides that, Princeton was great for me and the rest of the team because it was a new experience, something totally different than anything I'd done before."

The team returned from the university on Dec. 4 after competing very well. Freshman Melis Emre proceeded to octofinals in JV Lincoln-Douglas debate and juniors Gulus Emre and Melinda Salaman lost in the quarterfinals of Public Forum.

"I was surprised at how great we did at Princeton this year," said junior Jake Singer. "It's our first time having a Public Forum debate team. Trying something new, I expected we wouldn't get very far. One team out of three getting to quarterfinals is a big accomplishment for Schreiber and the future of Public Forum here."

BOE Notes: Nov. 15

BY Ben Jaffe
News Editor

With the still-unsigned teacher contracts on the minds of many, the Nov. 15 Board of Education meeting focused mainly on the negotiations between the Board and the teachers' union. In addition, the Board voted 6-0 to approve a property-tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.

The main topic of discussion during community comments was the teachers, who have been working without a contract since the school year began. Contention on this issue has escalated, with many controversial back-and-forth letters to the editor in the *Port Washington News*, in addition to heated arguments at a meeting of the recently formed Port Washington Education Assembly at the Port Washington Library on Nov. 21. The assembly is a taxpayers' group that seeks to reduce school spending and lower school taxes.

"I find it hard to believe that teachers can't concentrate on their jobs," said Joel Katz, another founding father of the assembly, in response to the idea that teachers are finding it hard to concentrate because of the unresolved contract negotiations.

He urged the Board to "stand fast, stick to our guns and do what is fair for the teachers and the community."

"This distraction is not being felt by the students," said Ms. Paula Whitman, co-president of the Salem HSA.

Recently, the Board created an advisory audit committee of nine Port

Washington residents, three of whom are Board members, with the goal of increasing community involvement in the process of forming the budget. Lack of community awareness has been cited as a serious problem that contributed to the budget's defeat last year. The committee is chaired by Board member Ms. Jean-Marie Posner.

The Board also announced that Reportit.com, which allows the community to anonymously give tips on security issues in the community, will soon be the first 24-7 web and phone safety hotline in the district.

Prior to the community comments, Port's seven National Merit Semifinalists and twenty commended students received certificates of excellence, senior Eric Leon won special recognition for National Merit achievement by a student of Hispanic descent, and senior Carmi Schickler was honored for winning a national essay contest sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey N. Gordon called it a "badge of honor" that Port could have so many Commended National Merit students, an all-time record.

The meeting closed with a final round of community comments, including one from a man distressed by current student fashions.

"The way some of these students are dressed coming out of school at 3:05 is bordering on indecency," said Mr. Stanley Ronell. With that, the meeting ended.

Grant paves way for robotics club and tournament

BY Spencer Bloom
Staff Writer

The new robotics club, advised by Mr. Donald Schaefer of the technology department and Ms. Phyllis Serfaty of the science department, is currently preparing for a robotics competition at Hofstra University in late March. Over thirty schools in the Long Island area will be competing for a victory at Hofstra, and the winners of the competition will proceed to the nationals in Atlanta, Georgia.

The object of the competition is to build a robot that can complete a predetermined task. The students, however, are not given the task until Jan. 7, and they are given only forty-two days to complete the robot. They then ship the robot out to New Hampshire, where it remains until the day of the competition.

Last year's task was to build a robot that would be able to lift a triangular object six feet in the air and place it on a pedestal. Though the basic concept might sound simple, builders and club members must understand the physics behind electronics, gear ratios, pneumatics, and pulleys before taking on the challenge.

A gear ratio is the ratio between the numbers of teeth on two gears. The purpose of this is to make it so that one motor can be used to turn several axles of chains at different speeds, as opposed to having a different motor for each one, which is less space and energy efficient.

Pneumatics is the use of pressurized

gasses to do work, in a way similar to how liquid is used in hydraulics. Pneumatics is used in drills and pumps because it is often more safe and efficient than using an electric motor. Essentially, pneumatics pushes air until it is compressed enough that it has a large potential energy.

The competition is based on a point

system where teams must not only have a functional robot, but must also complete other tasks including creating a website and writing an essay to gain the most points.

"It is really a lot more involved than just building a robot," said Mr. Schaefer.

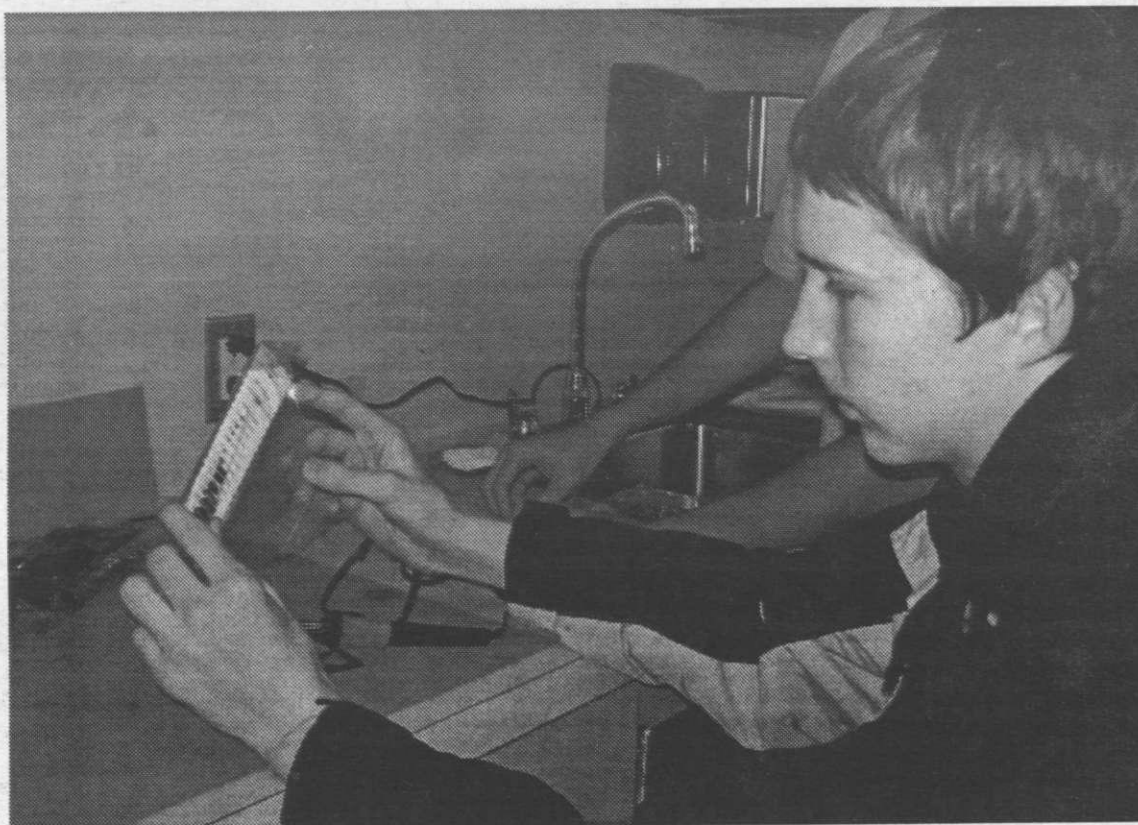
The idea of having a robotics club came last year when Mr. Schaefer went with junior Paul Janis to the local robotics competition at Hofstra. After seeing the competition in full swing, Mr. Schaefer thought Schreiber would benefit from a club that would compete, so he pushed for its creation. An \$11,000 grant was given by the Port Washington Educational Foundation to get the club up and running.

The club meets Tuesdays after school in the technology department's CAD lab.

Robots, however, do not come cheap and the club will need to raise an estimated additional \$3,000 to pay for all the necessary materials for the competition.

Since no one is told what the task of the competition will be until January, members of the club are currently building remote control cars in order to obtain knowledge of circuitry and gear ratios.

The club will continue to do practice projects in order to learn different engineering and mechanical skills until work on the competition robot can begin.



Sophie Kroft

Sophomore Michael Hatter starts to put together a remote control car in order to obtain knowledge about circuitry and gear ratios.

Tree Huggers go vegetarian

BY David Becker
Staff Writer

Despite the overwhelming love for meat among Schreiber's students, the Tree Huggers Environmental Society was able to wrangle enough support for its recent Humane for a Day vegan/vegetarian dinner.

"We omnivores like our steak raw, our burgers thick, and our pork greasy," said senior Dan Marmor, who emceed the event, "but it seems that today we like our vegetables limited."

The night benefitted humane farming practices and the farms that utilize them. Schreiber bands Anachronous, LAN Hol, and Mr. Johnson's Mystery Tea played their hearts out as students ate. Fifty plates of vegetarian cuisine came and went.

Although it may have been easier to buy a bag of mesclun salad and call it a party, the Tree Huggers went to Whole Foods to buy salads, rice and bean dishes, and various desserts.

"There was some wonderful cole slaw, potato salad, asparagus, and even tofu," said junior Taka Katayama. "I love vegetables, but I especially loved the lettuce."

The biggest hits were the quiches

and the homemade fruit smoothies. Of course, there was also unadventurous pizza and bowls of chocolate-covered, dried rhubarb.

Sophomore Zach Zaremba gave a compelling argument for the eating of meat, which was countered by sophomore Neala Schiff's arguments for consuming vegetables. She said that it is better for man and beast.

Senior Lisa Qiu questioned the meaning of human life in relation to eating meat before she danced to light jazz. Midway through the night, senior Katie Leon and sophomore Tim Sherman performed an epic song about flying pigs.

Marmor, the master of ceremonies, livened up the cafeteria with humor and charisma. After a long night of talking on the microphone, students cheered wildly during his impromptu drumming.

Most of the attendees reported having fun at the dinner, even though they had to forgo meat.

"I liked the music a lot, but since there were no dolphins, Dan Marmor made my time at Humane For a Day dinner a valuable experience," said junior James Mannion.

Eppler: German club *ist gut*

BY Ben Jaffe and Sam Wolf
News Editor and Contributing Writer

Regardless of the fact that junior Tobias Eppler, a German exchange student from Machtolsheim, Germany, came to Schreiber this year not knowing anyone, he was still able to gather enough support to found the school's first German Club. Since German is not offered in Schreiber's curriculum, Eppler created the club to teach students the country's language and culture.

"By coming to German Club I learned a lot both about my own culture and the German culture," said sophomore Mike Delaura.

Sponsored by the Education Foundation's student exchange program, Eppler came to live with a Port Washington host family on July 30.

Eppler started the club in order to encourage students to learn about his culture and heritage. Eppler's enthusiasm for the project is

clearly displayed in the morning announcements, during which he has shouted with excitement when trying to encourage others to join the club, as well as the excitement he displays when leading meetings.

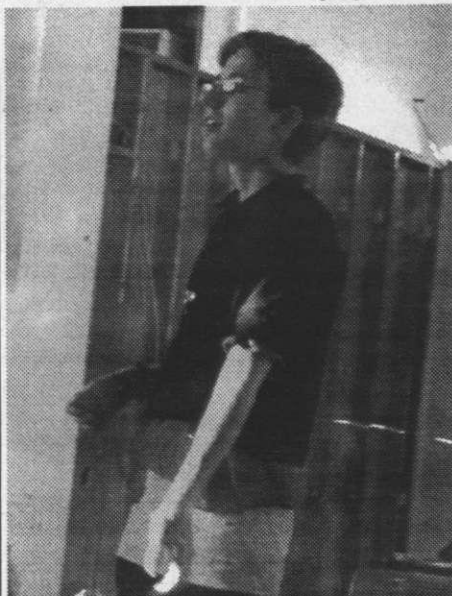
Weekly meetings begin with a short quiz on the information members learned at the previous meeting, including vocabulary and sentence translations. In a recent meeting the club members used the song "O Tannenbaum" as a way to learn new words and the conjugation of common verbs.

In addition to learning the language, the club also offers a view into other aspects of German life. For example, the club members baked hazelnut cookies called *haselhusshauchen*. Eppler used this opportunity to teach some German cooking vocabulary.

"It was fun to be able to learn how to cook a new type of food but it also provided a good way for us to learn more about German culture and language," said sophomore Mikey Boccia. "Now, whenever I eat cookies I can call them *ausstecherte*."

Eppler's motivation for creating the club was in many ways derived from his dismay when the Education Foundation informed him of their policy which prohibits him from discussing politics with Americans. He felt that the main point of his visit to the U.S. was to teach others about his heritage and learn more about American culture, and this rule prevents true cultural exchange.

In general, Eppler has adjusted to Port well; however, he still disagrees with some American values. For example, he explained how cultural perception of sex and violence are backwards in the U.S. Whereas in Germany violence is taboo and sex is less controversial, the opposite is true in the U.S. This cultural difference has provided for discussion in the German Club.



Liz Corkett

German Junior Tobias Eppler teaches German language and culture to club members. One week the club members translated O Tannenbaum into English.

Chess club pawned at tournament

BY Mike Lau
Assistant News Editor

The Chess Club, advised by math teacher Mr. Mark Reynolds, competed in an intense match against Chaminade in the county chess tournament semifinals on Dec. 15. The other schools participating in the tournament were the Freeport and Syosset.

Schreiber's team, consisting mostly of freshmen and sophomores, lost against Chaminade, who beat Freeport in the finals to win the tournament. Freeport originally was supposed to play against Syosset, but received a bye because Syosset did not show up to the tournament.

"Although we lost against Chaminade and placed third in the tournament, I felt that the tournament was a positive experience," said junior Silvio DiLucia. "When I was a freshman, our team consisted mostly of seniors, and we placed second in the county tournament. However, now that the seniors have all graduated, our team is very young and inexperienced."

DiLucia, the first-board player, was the only competitor who won his individual game against Chaminade. Sophomore Neel Doshi drew in his match, and all of the other players lost.

"I had to set a good example for my younger teammates. I worked hard and helped the others with their strategies," continued DiLucia. "Our team, on the whole, built a positive attitude after playing in the tournament."

Mr. Reynolds felt that the team could have done better but was satisfied that the students learned from the experience.

"Our team is so young, and it is just a matter of playing in more tournaments to help develop the skills of our younger players," Mr. Reynolds said. "Chaminade had experienced, older, and better players than us. When our players get older, they will improve and have more experience playing in tournaments. That is when we will start winning. Nevertheless, we did better than I expected."

Coming into the tournament, the Schreiber team had some confidence but knew that Chaminade was a very good team that was highly ranked. Most of the competitors were just looking to have fun.

"Even though we lost, we really had fun at the tournament," said Doshi. "During our free time, we ate lots of food and played Chinese poker."

"I hope we do better in the tournament next year," said junior Paul Fradelakis. "Our only senior was An Dong; our younger players hopefully will improve so we can do better."

Mr. Reynolds has high hopes for the future.

"I know that we will win the county tournament. We came in second place two years ago, and there is no reason we cannot come in first."

Coffee house wows audience

BY Dan Marmor
Contributing Writer

Tension followed students' steps as they walked towards the choir room to attend Coffee House. The major question on everybody's lips, the question that prompted a mass ticket sale was simple: David or Lisa?

Senior Lisa Qiu and freshman David Becker traded hateful morning announcements and publicly humiliated each other in the hallways in preparation for this day. Tables full of attendees bearing "GO DBEX" t-shirts seem to be the payoff for the public relations work they had been doing.

The profits of Coffee House went to Gift of Life, an organization responsible for organ and tissue donation. The Student Outreach Club organized the event, which featured performances and refreshments.

The audience was riveted as senior Selli Blum belted out Gershwin, flanked by accompanists on all sides. Other acts included junior Kayla Feather with sophomores Allison Rosenberg and Mara Hollander playing percussion instruments. Sophomore Jasmine Cheng played the piano. Seniors Leslie Krotman, vocalist, and Kelly Moran, pianist, performed a German musical number. Three Caucasians and an Asian, consisting of juniors Shimon Ishikawa, Dave Rafe, Brad Saveth, and Jesse Stein, also performed.

Teachers also got involved in the production. Mr. Corey Block and Mr. Joseph Corbo played The Killers' "Mr. Brightside," and Mr. Alex Webster and Mr. Craig Medico played Green Day's "Wake Me Up When September Ends."

"The teacher's acts were impressive, and sometimes hilarious," said sophomore Neel Doshi.

Still though, there was one major focus that many attendees had.

"The drama was very much palpable. Everyone was dying to see the dance off and there was a mass exodus after that," observed sophomore Aishwarya Parker.

Qiu was responsible for much of the humor of the night and was met with great audience acclaim.

"I know you're all here to see David Becker, but I'm pretty popular too," Qiu began. "And there have been rumors going around about me - for one that I'm dating a thirty-seven year old. I'm actually dating a twenty-three year old who used to be my SAT math tutor."

She also joked about her Chinese heritage. "Everything is made in China. Or my basement," she cracked.

"I was really taken by her, particularly her joke about the boy from California who sold corn on the freeway," said Parker.

Becker's flamboyant, jubilant attitude in his dance performance rivaled Qiu's antics. Highlights included his tick-tocking arms and his signature double high-kick.

"She had great technique and execution. David had the style," said onlooker Mr. Block.

Yet when it came time to judging who won the dance off, Qiu did not bother to include her name in the voting process. And although each received much applause, Becker was declared the winner.

"David was so obviously the winner," concluded sophomore Christina Mele. "The entire night left me speechless."

Point

Counterpoint

Should there be a display of holiday decorations in Port Washington?

BY Cale Rubenstein

Staff Writer

If you drive through North Hempstead, Manhasset, or Port Washington you see signs of holiday cheer everywhere. Christmas lights, wreaths, the occasional menorah, and signs reading "Merry Christmas," or "Happy Holidays," make the very air around you shimmer with the commercial holiday cheer. But what if that Christmas tree was erected in front of a school, or that wreath hung on the door of the town hall—what then? Is it holiday cheer, or is it trampling the Constitution underfoot?

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion..." is a part of the First Amendment to the Constitution. This is the part of the amendment that prevents the government from forcing you to go to church every Sunday. This is the part of the Amendment that makes sure your teachers don't teach Creationism in class. And, this is the part of the Amendment that makes sure that the government doesn't recognize one religion over another. So, is putting up Christmas trees or menorahs around certain buildings a breach of the sacred First Amendment? Well, technically, yes, it is. But that doesn't give us the right to take up arms and tear down every holiday sign on Long Island. Let me explain why in this case—and only this case—it is okay to bend the First Amendment a little.

Now, before you drop your newspaper and join the mob that is going to take me out of my English class and burn me at a stake, let me explain myself. First of all, I am not a religious fanatic trying to change the First Amendment. I value the First Amendment and the Establishment Clause above all else. And if there was nothing else going on in America that needed fixing, and there was no other abuses of the Establishment Clause in America, I would be ready to help reach a compromise over the issue of holiday decorations. But there is so much more that needs our attention.

Let's look at the current state of American society. We are in the middle of a war, New Orleans has just been hit by a category four hurricane, and at this moment there are people freezing to death in New York because they don't have the money to buy coats. Is a Christmas tree really such a big deal?

It just seems that people are complaining about the holiday decorations just for the sake of complaining about something. If you do protest to the town that is putting up decorations, then it should be because you honestly believe, with every fiber of your being, that the town putting up Christmas decorations is favoring one religion over another. If you feel the need to protest the abuse of the

Establishment Clause, then protest a *really big abuse*. Protest teaching intelligent design in the classroom, or protest the use of God in the Pledge. Protest the influence of religion in our government. Something else, please.

You have to realize, the town is not putting up decorations to put emphasis on one religion over another. They are doing it to make the town a nicer place, to build up holiday spirit, and to bring the town together. And if you ask the average person to say the first thing that comes to mind when someone says Christmas or Hanukkah, the answer will probably be presents. It will take many people two or three tries before they mention the religious aspects of these holidays.

I am not saying that the



way the town puts up decorations for the holidays is perfect. They should be required to recognize all faiths if they put up decorations. But they should put up something. The decorations are not meant to make anyone feel uncomfortable or excluded. And if you do feel excluded, and think that the decorations are ruining this town, take a step back. Be realistic. We have enough problems in this town and in this country. We can do without a controversy over decorations.

BY David Becker

Staff Writer

It's not illegal to wear a cross. It's not illegal to vote with religious motives. But when you start involving public property, there's trouble. It's one thing to have your doorbell rung by an Evangelical Christian. It's an entirely different matter when Christmas wreaths and Christmas trees blanket the lawns and halls of government buildings and public schools. America was founded upon the principles of religious freedom, so why is it okay to create a culture of exclusiveness?

Guess who's not celebrating Christmas: millions of people around the globe. However, "Merry Christmas" is the intended message of many holiday cards and greetings. First of all, holidays such as Hanukkah, Ramadan and Diwali do not follow the Julian calendar. They can fall anywhere between November and January.

On Nov. 1, the date of Diwali this year, I saw that none of the windows in our cafeteria were painted with the words "Happy Holidays." We can't be inclusive of all beliefs, but that doesn't allow us to be exclusive toward just a few. When we set up religious symbols like trees and Chanukiahs, we are in essence saying that Schreiber recognizes merely those two religions.

Of course, many religions, including Judaism, do not have major holidays in winter. Judaism's major holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, take place in the autumn. In fact, the very notion of extracting winter holidays to cushion Christmas and make for "diversity" is ridiculous. Buddhism, for example, has no holiday in winter. To single out winter as a highly religious season is wrong, especially in public environments.

Why is winter singled out as a highly religious season in the first place? Christmas, which is clearly the subtext of "Holiday," is supposed to be the celebration of Jesus' birthday. But there is no dated mention of his birthday in the Bible, although several dates have

been formulated by historians.

The arrival at Dec. 25 seemed to be highly optimal to promote Christianity because it fell during the pagan holiday of Saturnalia, the Romans' celebration of the winter solstice. Saturnalia lasted a whole week from Dec. 17 to Dec. 23 (Dec. 25 with the Julian conversion) of that same month. It is widely believed that Christmas was tacked onto the last day of Saturnalia in order to promote Christianity better by playing on the Romans' love of *panem et circenses*: partying and suspending work.

I'm not insulting Christmas by implying that it is a non-religious day. I'm just saying that the dates and symbols that surround it have little meaning even though they still invade our schools, buildings and edifices of government. Many people were absolutely shocked when Jon Kaiman stood up and said "I just want to make it clear that this is in no way a religious ceremony" regarding the Manhasset tree lighting that took place recently. But I cannot understand why.

What exactly is religious about a Christmas tree apart from the association it has with Christians? From what I know, God and Jesus are huge environmentalists. Would they really approve of millions of people chopping down trees? Trees can be very pretty with lights, but they are empty symbols of a holiday. It's wrong for public buildings to promote that they will celebrate a holiday (or even two or three holidays) on specific days of the year and put up the corresponding paraphernalia.

Don't get me wrong. Hanukkah, which is a long-shot second to Christmas in a number of displays I've seen, has such empty symbols surrounding it that you will probably read the word "menorah" a few times in this issue or just hear the word thrown around. Of course no one is lighting a "menorah," which is a seven-pronged candelabra. Jews are celebrating with a Chanukiah, a nine pronged candelabra.

Still, I hear the story of Hanukkah being told as if it were a civil war when, in fact, it was one battle that left a temple with one jar of oil that lasted for eight nights.

You should understand that I'm only dealing with two of the most common symbols of the winter. Therein lies the point. The fact that you have seen these symbols more than any other is a mistake. The fact that public buildings are willing to attach a label of recognition to certain religions and holidays implied by empty symbols should disgust you. Regardless of whether you identify with Judaism or the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, the emphasis on the winter holidays in public buildings is a disgrace, even if it presents popular views.

Schreiber Speaks

"I think displays are rude because not everybody believes the same thing."
-Jordana Beberman, freshman

"Religious displays connote caring and loving regardless of the religion sponsoring it."
-Amanda Neilan, sophomore

"Religious displays—I think it's cool. It shows dedication to something."
-Jesse Stein, junior

"A public school should be completely secular."
-Tiffany Ledner, senior

Product obsession goes to new levels

BY Brian Cindrich
Assistant Opinions Editor

For weeks, I had been hearing about how the new Xbox 360 is coming out and how everyone is "jumping in." Well, at least the advertisements lead me to believe that. As I watched celebrities flaunt their Xboxes on TV, I knew that "the man" was keeping me down. "I'm going to die if I wait a second longer," I thought over and over again. Then one day, while surfing the latest Xbox 360 fan-boy site, it hit me. Could I be obsessing just a little bit? This epiphany saved me from this must-have-it-now craze. So here I am today, a survivor of the hype machine.

What has society come to when just having the item of your dreams isn't enough, and you need to be the only one who has it? People today believe that some wonderful item will complete them, but only if no one else has it. What are we reduced to when shoppers brave long lines overnight and chilly temperatures to hunt down the newest "got-to-have-it-first" item?

Of course this kind of thing always seems to happen during the holiday season, but doesn't it seem to be getting worse? It's a sad time when the most over-hyped gaming system of the decade is sold out of stock at all stores and the only solution for you is to fork out some big green on Ebay to snatch one.

Smart people, those folks at Microsoft. They've managed to create a salivating, conspiracy-hatching, can't-get-it-soon-enough crowd of devotees for their new Xbox 360 game system without even putting it on store shelves. The Microsoft machine, along with the media, helps fuel the frenzy by hyping the product with gotta-have bundle packs and accessories even though there are not enough systems to put on the shelves. People buy into the buzz and feed the hype by writing and talking about it, even if they can't buy one to try themselves because all the pre-orders have been snapped up. The same process can be applied to any hot product.

As much as I would like to complain about the new Xbox 360 shortage, there are bigger issues at hand. The hype machine is applicable to more than just Xboxes. It can be applied to all aspects of the market. Many girls need the newest, hottest handbag before everyone else. If too many people have the same hot item, then who wants it anymore? The hype machines are creating a concept in society that is simply this: It's the end of the world if I don't have this new product first.

This reflects our own pathetic sense of self worth.

Yes folks, it's all about competition, winning, and gratification. We've lost the ability to simply appreciate what we have when we get it. How about when Tickle Me Elmo was popular? Remember how people nearly trampled each other to death trying to procure one of these must-have furry creatures for their little darlings. I'm sure those kids cast Elmo aside after flaunting them in front of their little friends. Even little kids can fall victim to the hype.

But yes, I am pissed that I can't get an Xbox 360.

MLB steroid policy cracking down on players

BY Stephen Nash

Staff Writer

Finally, the MLB steroid policy is starting to show some muscle. The revised steroid policy now calls for a fifty-game suspension for the first offense of steroid abuse, a hundred-game suspension for the second offense, and a lifetime ban for the third offense. The catalyst for this decision was the looming threats made by Congress to propose even tougher recommendations. However, is this policy tough enough?

I personally believe this policy is a step in the right direction, but should not be the end result. It is an obvious improvement from the weak policy that came before of a ten-game suspension for the first offense and a fifty-game suspension for the second offense.

Although steroid use has become a more tolerable form of cheating, it is still just as bad as the gambling for which former great Pete Rose was banned for life. The MLB must send the message that cheating of any kind is absolutely unacceptable.

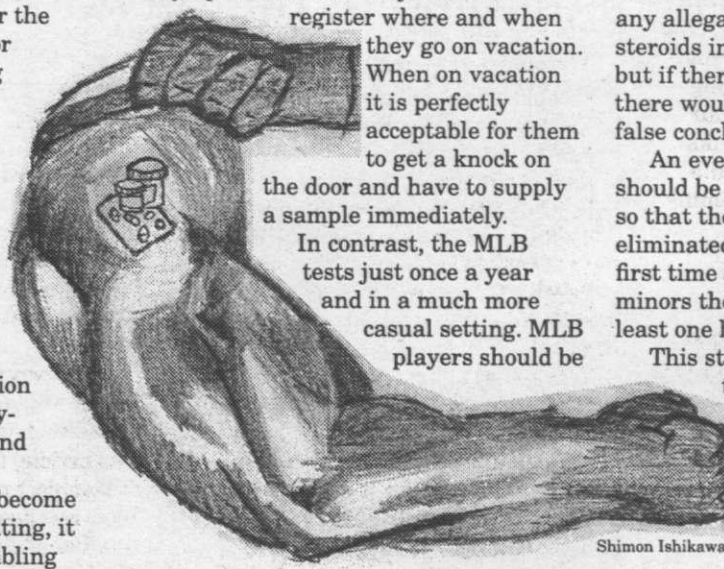
I think the ideal policy would be a one hundred game suspension for the first offense and a lifetime time ban for the second offense. This would send the message that there are going to be serious consequences for cheating in the game. This revised policy is a clear

improvement, but it should be the midpoint in finding a strict solution, not the answer.

It is not just the actual suspensions that are vital in future policies; it is where and when they will happen. The most randomized testing is currently used in cycling and the Olympics. The Olympic athletes and cyclists have to

register where and when they go on vacation. When on vacation it is perfectly acceptable for them to get a knock on the door and have to supply a sample immediately.

In contrast, the MLB tests just once a year and in a much more casual setting. MLB players should be



Shimon Ishikawa

going through much stricter and more frequent testing steps, which should occur completely at random. By having more randomized testing, the MLB would increase the chance of catching players in the act. Having tests more often ensures that the players are drug free throughout the entire year, and not only when they know they are going to be tested.

Case in point: New York Yankee Jason Giambi. Giambi was struggling to perform at his previous levels in the beginning of the year, and during that time, he cleared his steroid test. A couple of weeks later, his play started to pick up and all of a sudden he again became the Jason Giambi we knew when he was on juice. I am not making any allegations that Giambi was on steroids in the latter part of last season, but if there was testing more often, there would be definite answers and no false conclusions could be drawn.

An even stricter steroid policy should be enforced in the minor league, so that the problem can be caught and eliminated as early as possible. The first time a player tests positive in the minors they should be banned for at least one hundred games.

This steroid problem has even trickled down to the high school level, where many high school athletes have become seriously injured due to steroids. Therefore, an essential key for baseball is to nip this problem in the bud as early as possible.

Considering the difficulties between the players' union, the commissioner, and Congress, it is going to be a challenge to see if a harsher policy can be enacted. Nevertheless, I think it is imperative that the league recognize this act of cheating and offer the most severe punishments possible. If they fail to meet their obligation, the game of baseball will lose its integrity and be tarnished as a result.

Are Christian textbooks becoming the new Bible?

BY Allison Rosenberg

Contributing Writer

How Christian can a physics textbook be? The answer, according to Mr. Bob Jones, would be wholly and completely—if you read one of the

“If the Association wins this lawsuit, a student would be able to say that he studied anatomy as taught by the doctrines of, shall we say, the Flying Spaghetti Monster, and would be able to credit it as a course.”

textbooks for Christian schools, that is.

Unsurprisingly, this new trend of christianized textbooks has sparked a new debate about the role of religion in education. Recently, a group of Christian high schools in California filed a lawsuit against the University of California system for refusing to acknowledge some of the students' religion-based courses during the application process. Representing over 800 schools in California, the Association of Christian Schools International is accusing the UC system of discriminating against its students because of their religious beliefs. The University argues that it has the ability to set its own standards, and the classes wanted don't meet the proper requirements. The reason? The textbooks.

The major culprit is the Bob Jones

University Publishing Company, which issues textbooks for Christian schools on anything from the Bible and family life to math and science. Here is an excerpt from *Elements of Literature for Christian Schools*, published by Bob Jones University (2001), commenting on the views of Mark Twain:

“Twain's outlook was both self-centered and ultimately hopeless. Denying that he was created in the image of God, Twain was able to rid himself of feeling any responsibility to his Creator. At the same time, however, he defiantly cut himself off from God's love. Twain's skepticism was clearly not the honest questioning of a seeker of truth but the deliberate defiance of a confessed rebel.”

And even better, the preface of the Bob Jones University's biology textbook states: “If conclusions contradict the word of God, the conclusions are wrong no matter how many scientific facts may appear to back them.”

The use of these textbooks raises the question: what is learning? In my opinion, it is gaining knowledge so we can think and act for ourselves. Bob Jones seems not to agree. Not only do these textbooks provide information, but they do the thinking for the reader too—in a devoutly Christian manner. The obvious problem with this is that

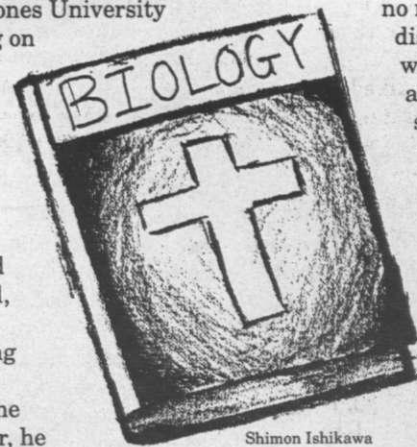
each person thinks slightly differently. The textbooks assume that all the readers, as well as anyone the readers may talk to, have exactly the same opinion. How Christian is that?

Additionally, there is no room for dissent or discussion. The Christian way is the only way, and, as the company website states, “textbooks filled with the errors of secularism, humanism, and materialism are, at best, dangerous.” They claim to enhance critical thinking, and yet they tell teachers “how to train Christian thinkers.”

So who is right?

Legitimately, a private school can teach whatever it feels like,

whether it be three-dimensional calculus or allegiance to tuna fish. However, making such ideas universally acceptable is not within the ability of any school. Certainly not the Association of Christian Schools International, which is not even recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. If the Association wins this lawsuit, a student would be able to say that he studied anatomy as taught by the doctrines of, shall we say, the Flying Spaghetti Monster, and would be able to get course credit for it. However, at the moment, neither event seems likely. Unless, of course, there's something my physics textbook hasn't been telling me.



Shimon Ishikawa

A website that abuses the trust of the public *Questionable information on Wikipedia goes too far*

BY Asher Feldman
Staff Writer

You know the feeling. You have a research paper or big assignment due tomorrow and you left all of your information at school, so you venture into the abyss that is the internet. You go straight to Yahoo! and type in your search and hit the enter key, hoping to find suitable information for your subject. Lately, one of the first links points you to an online encyclopedia named "Wikipedia," created by Jimmy Wales.

You continue to find pages and pages on the exact subject you are looking for and write up your assignment in minutes, with all the information you collected. But there is one problem: the phrase "wiki" means that anyone can edit the information that you are using for your research paper, and therefore it cannot be taken as completely truthful.

This has become a problem on a national stage, as just a few weeks ago, a Wikipedia biography was created of John Seigenthaler, a writer for *USA Today*. It described Seigenthaler as a suspect in the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy, who was his former employer, and John F. Kennedy, the thirty-fifth

President of the United States. This caused a major uproar in both the press world and on the inside of Wikipedia. From this incident, Wikipedia was forced to institute a new restriction on its volunteer editors, requiring a membership to Wikipedia in order to create and edit articles.

Obviously, this changes everything about Wikipedia and the trust that some students place in it for various assignments. Lately, many teachers, even some at this very school, have been complaining about students citing Wikipedia in research papers because the average person can go online, and without any knowledge of website design, make the website say anything. In my opinion, the website is just unreasonable.

I have occasionally used Wikipedia for the average debate with friends or to look up unimportant information, but I would never use it for a research paper in any class. To show you exactly how easy it is to make an article say anything, as a member of Wikipedia, I created a wiki on *The Schreiber Times* itself. I dare you to visit www.en.wikipedia.org and search "The Schreiber Times." There you will find some very interesting information on the great publication that is *The Schreiber Times*.

Most of the time that you use Wikipedia for average information, such as sport teams, census information, and capitols of states and countries, you will find the latest and most accurate information on the subject. This is because Wikipedia has grown so much in popularity that experts in almost every field of study use it as a way to publicize their information.

And, as I stated before, teachers all over the country are becoming acclimated to the world of Wikipedia, and just as quickly as they figure out how the website works, they are able to strike down any student's hope of using the incredibly large knowledge base for research.

As many sophomores will have written huge papers on the French Revolution at the time of the release of this article, the French Revolution and sub-subject pages on Wikipedia will have received quite a few hits. But the number of citations of Wikipedia will be few in number.

Overall, if you are in a dire situation to find knowledge, Wikipedia should be your last resort. It is just too easy to change a real fact such as "New York is a state in the northeastern United States" to "New York is a country in the southwest of Africa."

Schreiber Ethics

For the love of
money, pay me back!

BY Gulus Emre
Opinions Editor

As has everyone else, I have found myself without enough money for what I want. Instead of attempting to make money by displaying some sort of talent like juggling in the lobby for quarters, the thing I usually do is ask a friend if I can borrow some.

According to Webster's Dictionary, to "borrow" means, "to take from another by request and consent with a view to use the thing taken and return it or its equivalent." The key phrase in this definition is "return it or its equivalent." When you borrow, you should always return. If you don't plan on paying back someone, then just ask if you can take money. At least you would be honest.

There are quite a few problems with not paying someone back. For anyone who has ever watched *The Sopranos* on HBO, you know that you could very well be run over by a car if you don't pay back your benefactor. In Schreiber, students (usually) don't go that far, but you'll definitely have to deal with a lot of negative tension, which you can easily avoid by just paying someone back promptly.

Another problem is that you establish bad credit, and if your friend has any common sense, he or she won't lend you money again even if you really need it.

There are some people who will simply borrow money and never pay it back, hoping that the loan will be forgotten. But trust me, people have long memories when it comes to lending money—it is possible that even five months down the road you will be reminded of a debt that you never paid back. So try to pay someone back as soon as possible, so that they won't hold the debt over your head.

Earlier I mentioned that when borrowing money, one usually takes it from friends. But not all people live by this rule, and at one point in everyone's life, they have been hit up for money by someone who they have never met before. Not only is this tacky, but you will probably never get your money back again, which goes against the whole idea of "borrowing" money.

Now for the part about lending money. There are several types of "lenders": those who lend freely with no concern for whether or not they get paid back, those who are extremely stringent with the amount of money they lend out, and those who never lend out money. Although everyone has their own "style," I can confidently say that people who lend out money without caring about whether or not they get it back deserve to have their money taken. You should request that people pay you back before you lend money. Live and learn; don't lend money to people who never pay you back.

As for those who are extremely stringent with their money, and tally up how much each person owes them, more power to you. It is a good idea to keep track of your funds so you don't end up broke. But there's no need to micromanage the people who owe you. And please, don't charge interest unless you plan on opening your own bank, because otherwise it's pretty pathetic.

Decreasing respect, one bathroom at a time *Senior analyzes prevalence of vandalism in Schreiber*

BY Kathryn Podobinski
Contributing Writer

Every day I walk into Schreiber through the same door and take the same flight of stairs to get to my locker. I noticed recently that a plastic light fixture was broken and shattered all around the floor of the stairwell. So, with care, I walked around the plastic shards and up the flight of stairs. Someone obviously broke the light cover. The next day I proceeded to walk up the same stairwell, and as I passed the light fixture, I was very thankful to see that the Schreiber custodial staff had cleaned up the unnecessary mess and replaced the broken light fixture. The following day on my usual walk up the stairwell (surprise, surprise), I was shocked—actually, disgusted—to see another plastic light fixture broken and shattered into pieces all over the floor. It was obvious that someone was purposely ruining school property, a fact that sickened me. But this issue is more than that. It is more than just disrespecting school property. It is disrespecting each and every member of the student body. This is pure ignorance about the consequences of one's actions. For the record, the light fixture cover was not repaired the second time and is still without a cover.

Other parts of the school are being vandalized and neglected by students as well. The school bathrooms are prime examples. The ones in the "new wing" of the school used to be

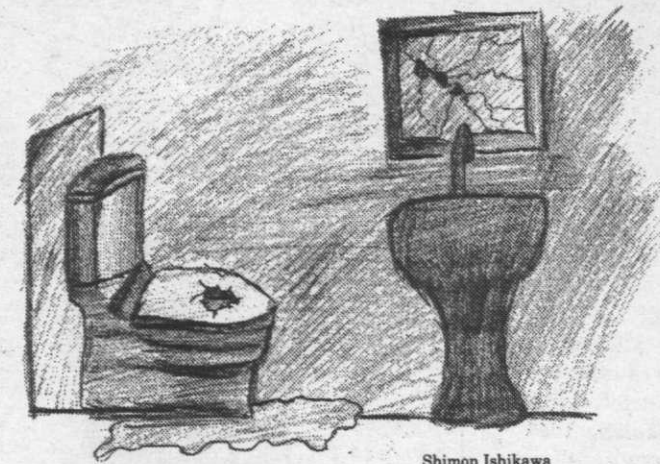
the cleanest and the nicest out of all the bathrooms. However, this quickly changed once people decided to mar the walls with random graffiti and even do repulsive things like scratching up the toilet seats and throwing paper towels everywhere. The new, clean bathrooms soon turned into the old, gross ones that people don't want to use. There have been many instances when I have walked into the bathroom to find the water running in a sink and no one

such as the school); however, ruining the property only hurts our parents, our community, and ourselves. It has been made clear that, due to austerity, the school is on a tighter budget than usual, and does not have the usual funds to continually fix these things. In the case of the running water, the school is paying for water that is not being used just because someone was too lazy to turn off the faucet. Of course, wasting clean water is not a

wise use of our limited environmental resources.

Call me an idealist, but I think that our school should be a place where we can go and not be disgusted by the immature actions of a few that result in things like broken light fixtures and disgusting bathrooms. If you are reading this and agree with me, then maybe you can help convince others in the school. I don't

think I'm asking for much—just a nice, welcoming school environment. So, be considerate. If you are in the bathroom and see the water running, kindly turn off the faucet. And if you see students about to trash school property, remind them that there are cooler things to do than break a light fixture.



Shimon Ishikawa

around. In fact, there was an instance when a sink in the bathroom flooded and water was pouring onto the bathroom floor.

How people find pleasure in destroying our school is beyond me. The funny thing is, I've heard people mention many times how unsatisfied they were with the condition of school property. I understand that as teens, we want to rebel (especially against institutions,

Is sex or violence more taboo?

BY Stephanie Seeman

Staff Writer

On Tuesday morning, while driving to school, I heard an interesting opinion on the radio that really got me thinking. The famous self-promoting Mr. Donald Trump was announcing to the public his thoughts on violence versus sexual content and I suddenly realized that this man proves a good point.

A recent film, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, has been extremely popular not only due to its outstanding reviews, but because it is the first movie of the *Harry Potter* series to receive a PG-13 rating.

Parents of young children are most likely aware of the PG-13 rating but have not let this warning prevent them from allowing their children to attend

“...Parents allow their children to watch two and a half hour movies filled with violence, but at the same time are very strict about films that display sexual content.”

the movie.

Many of these parents have read each of the *Harry Potter* books and know how magical the storyline is. As a result, they do not want their children and their friends missing out on all of the film's excitement just because some of it includes some fight scenes. These parents allow their children to watch two-and-a-half-hour movies filled with violence, but at the same time are very strict about films that display sexual content. I do not understand the principles of parents' rules which they bestow upon their children. Many of them actually believe that exposing their children to violence is less harmful than exposing them to images of naked men and women.

Some movies that display sexual content may not be suitable for children of a certain age; but, overall, parents tend to exaggerate the “horrors” of a movie that shows a woman's breasts in a sex scene. Generally, movies that contain sexual content leave less of an impact on children than movies with violence and fight scenes.

The rate of ambush shootings caused by teenagers has dramatically increased in the past ten years. Citizens across the country are wondering why young children are killing so many of their innocent classmates. Meanwhile, the media is making tons of money by creating violent movies and television shows, which are probably the number one influence on children and the reason they partake in acts of violence.

Donald Trump made a valid point when he stated that the world revolves around the media. Magazines, television shows, commercials, movies, and advertisements mold the minds of our youth. Since the media is so influential on the way children act, parents should make it their duty to see a PG-13 rated movie first. They should not jump to the conclusion that violence is okay for their child to see and that sexual content would ultimately rip their child's mind to shreds.

Quitting cold turkey: an impossible task?

The story of one student who broke his addiction to smoking

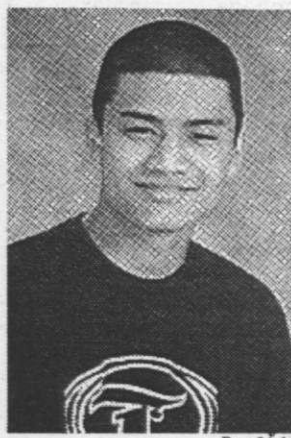
BY Lenny Uchiyama

Contributing Writer

“You're too young to smoke cigarettes, Lenny,” my mother said to me in the car one day. I wish that I had never started smoking, but I had, and all I could do was look forward and try to break the habit.

It all began during my freshman year in high school, when I started to hang out with different people: some of them older, some of them in my grade. I always saw people smoking cigarettes after a hard class, after a long day, or anytime when they were irritated or high. I took it upon myself to start smoking because it appeared that whenever others would have a cigarette, they would become much more relaxed, and they would be easier to talk to. You can say that smoking cigarettes gives the illusion of euphoria. I failed to see through the illusion and I wound up smoking four or five packs a day.

For two years, I managed to hide



By quitting a life-long habit of smoking, Lenny has saved his lungs and his life.

from my parents the fact that I smoked cigarettes. They eventually caught on and at first complained, but eventually gave up and just let it go. It's not that they didn't care; it's just that they realized that I was the only one who could take the required steps to quit; they

realized that quitting cold turkey would be unrealistic.

The majority of my friends tell me I should quit, defining “quit” as stopping altogether in one night. It's truly disappointing that people would even suggest this. Clearly, no one understands that it is impossible to quit cold turkey.

I decided to quit because my mother brought her father's death attention; he died from lung cancer. Shortly after I learned this information, I decided to do some research online and look at some pictures. I realized that at the rate I was going, I would most likely end up with a black lung or two.

The urge to smoke a cigarette often comes from a trigger, such as waiting for a ride, waiting for a phone call or eating big meal. In order to quit, I

had to stop one trigger at a time. For example, I stopped smoking cigarettes in the morning for two weeks, and eventually that trigger was eliminated. Then I quit smoking before I went to sleep, which was the elimination of another trigger. Each one of my triggers took about two weeks to eliminate. This system worked efficiently because eventually there were no triggers left to instigate my urge to smoke. The entire process took me about a year, but this long period of time saved many more years of my life. If I had decided to quit cold turkey, I probably would not have made it because I believe that it's truly impossible to just decide to stop smoking one day and never smoke again.

Cigarette companies aim the majority of their campaigns at the world's younger population. The tobacco industry aims to convince the public that smoking is a normal thing, and that it is no big deal. The propaganda affects the public because they pick up these packs of cigarettes, and only smoke occasionally. Little do they know, every cigarette they smoke brings them closer to an addiction, one of the hardest to break.

The best way to stop an addiction is to prevent it. Education before addiction is the most effective way to stop anyone from smoking.

Memoirs of a Geisha sparks controversy in Asia

Movie of reverence for Japanese culture construed as an insult

BY Claire Lee

Contributing Writer

The upcoming movie, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, has caused quite a stir in the West and the East alike. While Americans are eager to see the cinematic portrayal of a novel that has sold four million copies in English, the countries of Japan and China have been offended by what they see as the movie's “cultural insensitivities.” However, these “insensitivities” have been blown out of proportion; the movie was not intended to offend its audiences; rather, it was created to please the viewers with a lost, lovable tradition of Japan.

Memoirs of a Geisha is a novel that revolves around a girl's rise to high society in Japan by becoming a geisha, or a woman who is trained to entertain men by means of conversation, singing, and dancing. The film version, which opens nationwide Dec. 23, is an American film that stars Zhang Ziyi, Gong Li, and Michelle Yeoh - all of whom are Chinese. This has caused quite an amount of controversy because the Japanese believe that the use of Chinese actors limits the authenticity of the movie's portrayal of Japanese culture.

“I'm offended at the fact that Chinese actors were used to portray Japanese roles, especially in a movie directed by Americans,” said Korean sophomore James Kim. “[The directors are] basically saying that all Asians are the same, with the same looks and cultures, when in fact we are not.”

While it seems that mainly the

Japanese would take offense to the movie, the Chinese have been equally, if not more, hostile to the movie's use of Chinese actors. The Chinese feel

China does not have particularly good relations with Japan due to Japanese military aggression during World War II, the same period during which *Memoirs of a Geisha* takes place.

It is upsetting to see that *Memoirs of a Geisha* has attracted so much negative attention when the movie had such positive intentions. The use of Chinese actors was not meant to aggravate the misconception that all Asians having the same culture. By using Chinese actors, the directors have broadened the movie's audience to China, an action that might influence the Chinese audiences to appreciate Japan, which could, in turn, lessen the tensions between the two countries.

The idea may seem a bit farfetched, but using media entertainment as a means of easing cultural tensions has worked in the past. Last year, the popular Korean drama “Winter Sonata” was sold to Egyptian television with hopes that it would make the Egyptians more amenable to the idea of South Korean soldiers being stationed in Iraq. The drama became quite popular in Egypt and caused many viewers to appreciate South Korean culture, lessening the hostility between the two countries.

Memoirs of a Geisha is a token of appreciation to the Japanese culture and the Japanese should be grateful for the American directors' interest in such a large project that has cost more than \$80 million to produce.

This movie was made to entertain, and not to displease. Many hope that once the movie reaches Japan and China, its opposition will be appeased.



that their actors are betraying their country's nationalism. Traditionally



EDITORIALS

Wild proms cancelled

Recently, the students of Kellenberg and Chaminade High Schools were informed that the schools would no longer be hosting junior and senior proms. In the letters that were sent home to parents, the schools cited the elaborateness and high expenses of both the prom and post-prom entertainment as the major reasons for the decision.

The schools' decisions show a passive-aggressive cowardice by the administrators who made them. Instead of facing the problems of unnecessarily costly and excessive proms, they ignored the problem by denying students the opportunity to celebrate graduating from four years of high school and from getting some closure to their high school experiences.

Rather than just cancel the prom, the schools could have promoted more strict policies that would check the current traditions that have gotten

so out of hand. Currently in high schools around Long Island, students spend hundreds of dollars on things such as gowns, tuxedos, limousines, comedy shows, hotels, and even house rentals in the Hamptons to add to the lavishness of their proms.

Both Kellenberg and Chaminade high schools could have slowly phased out some of the excess by banning things like limousines, and making the prom a less formal party. The schools could also force students to sign a contract promising that they would not abuse substances or rent houses after prom, and enforce this by not allowing the students to graduate if they break their oath. By decreasing the hype surrounding prom, the schools would also decrease the hype causing drug abuse at the events and after-prom celebrations, which was the original intent of canceling the proms.

Times Policy Statement

The Schreiber Times' primary purpose is to inform its readers of events, issues, and ideas affecting Schreiber High School. *The Times* also serves as an open forum in which members of the Schreiber community may express their ideas and opinions.

The Times will report all news accurately, honestly, and fairly. We will not give preference to any group or individual. We will respect the rights of all information sources and any errors will be corrected promptly.

We will print submitted materials on the basis of their quality and significance as determined by the editors of this publication. The editors reserve the right to print, refuse to print, or return any submitted materials. The editors also reserve the right to edit any submitted articles.

We will print letters to the editors if judged to be of sufficient quality and importance on a space-available basis. We will

not print letters that are obscene, libelous, or contain unfounded charges. *The Times* reserves the right to shorten letters if doing so does not alter their meaning, and to choose a representative letter from a group of related ones. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors. We will not print any anonymous letters.

Editorials printed in this publication reflect the opinion of the majority of the members of the editorial board. If the situation warrants, minority editorials will be published. Editorials do not represent the views of the Port Washington Union Free School District.

We will not publish advertisements if they are deemed libelous, obscene or likely to incite criminal activity. Prices of advertisements are standard and price schedules are available upon request. Advertisements do not necessarily represent the views of *The Times*.

We will establish new policies if the need arises. Until such a point occurs, *The Times* will follow the policy described in this space as well as the guidelines of common sense and reason.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

In the Nov. 29 issue of *The Schreiber Times*, Cale Rubenstein wrote, "for all of you who think that 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."

Now this statement is wrong! Some people do live in nice, big houses and get whatever they want. Others, like us, don't. It's not fair to say that we are all upper class when that's only half the town. We don't live in total poverty, but we are not upper class. The author of this article looks at the town as if it was perfect and good, but it's not. There is poverty and unfortunately, not everyone in this town makes the right decisions with their lives. In the author's eyes, Port Washington is a wealthy town, but if he had done his job as a reporter and asked a few more people about the issues or went to the places he said

didn't exist here, he would have gotten a very different perspective.

In case you haven't noticed, there is more to the graffiti than initially meets the eye. The police don't just go after speeding cars, they have also arrested gang leaders and deported them. A handful of people in this school even have rap sheets that are longer than their school schedules.

This article makes us angry because it shows how people can be so oblivious to the fact that we are not all upper class. Gangs in this town are just as real and just as deadly as ones in Compton, so you cannot say that they are fake and that they do not affect us.

Sincerely,

Ebube Abara, Stephan Brossard, Mario Chevez, Rachel LoGrasso, Diego Lopez, Amanda McPhatter, Celina Morales, Kim Perez, Hugo Rivera

Dear Editor,

The last issue of *The Schreiber Times* had an editorial entitled "Save Block Scheduling." Whoever wrote it failed to check with us at the Port Washington Educational Assembly before writing that factually incorrect editorial, claiming we wanted to "annihilate block scheduling." That is simply not true.

What we do advocate is getting twenty hours per week of direct classroom teaching from Schreiber teachers, instead of the current seventeen hours/week. What we propose has nothing to do with changing block scheduling. We know some in the administration favor changing block scheduling and others favor keeping it. So also in our organization—some favor it and others oppose it. But our organization takes no position. But we do take the position we want what the teachers contract allows, namely, four hours per day of classroom teaching, with or without block scheduling. Since the average teacher costs us over \$110,000 in salary and fringe benefits per year, with a third

earning over \$100,000 in salary alone, getting 4 hours per day of classroom teaching would save us over \$1,500,000 every year. We realize many could care less about this. But we do care, viewing the tax burden as increasingly out of control.

Many Port teachers have written letters indicating most teachers usually stay around until 4 or 5 PM. We'd like to see the new contract state that officially, and require all Schreiber teachers to stay around just three days a week until 4 PM. Then we could even expand the tutoring time! There should be no objection to this since most teachers apparently are staying well beyond this time anyway.

We'd like to ask *The Schreiber Times* editor, where he got the false notion we were calling for a change in block scheduling?

Respectfully,

Frank J. Russo, Jr., President
PWEA

Is the time right for the United States to pull out of Iraq?

By Siddharth Ninan
Staff Writer

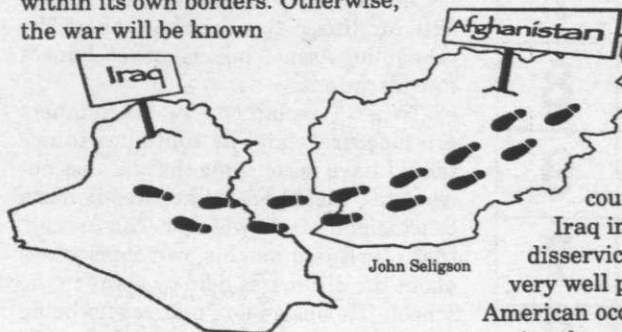
The war in Iraq has been controversial from its very inception due to the questionable rationales for initiating the conflict. The absence of weapons of mass destruction was a great blow to arguments for the war; the rising American death toll and the accused mismanagement of the war have hurt domestic support.

The administration's inability to establish a stable democracy and the never-ending fight against insurgents have also eroded public support for war. Many commentators are now calling for an immediate withdrawal from Iraq.

The public is tired of the failures and casualties due to the war, and many want an abrupt end to the chaos. While such a course of action would undoubtedly save the lives of countless American soldiers, is it acceptable to simply leave Iraq in shambles? After invading Iraq against international opinion, fighting a war that turned out to be founded on falsified information, and slowly bleeding away lives of American soldiers, are we ready to accept further international criticism

by leaving the flailing nation without a government and terrorized by insurgents?

Pulling out is not an option, and despite the folly and waste of the war, we are now stuck in Iraq. America must remain in combat until Iraq can govern itself and maintain control within its own borders. Otherwise, the war will be known



to history as a nearly unmitigated disaster.

No one doubts that Saddam Hussein's removal from power was worthwhile. Based on his atrocities alone, which seem to be the only remaining reasons for the war, the US should have removed Hussein from power many years ago. His genocide and torturous dictatorship

are infamous. Removing Hussein is the only major redeeming result of the war, and when the Democrats proposed a bill to end the war, many viewed it as the exit needed to relieve the US of more casualties and the continual strain of fighting a stagnant war.

Such reasoning is completely understandable. The Democrats' desire to spare the lives of brave soldiers and end unfounded violence is a natural course of action, but leaving Iraq in shreds would be doing a disservice to the country and could very well pit all Iraqis against their American occupiers.

Another situation in which the US helped a country only to abandon it before reconstruction was finished is Afghanistan. During the Cold War, when the US was determined to stop the international spread of Communism, America allied itself with Afghanistan in order to fight off the invading Russians. Many parts of Afghanistan were reduced to rubble, but the Afghani-American alliance

finally drove the Russians back. Just when Afghanistan needed help rebuilding their wounded nation, America packed up and left, leaving the country to sort out its own problems without any help. Public sentiment in Afghanistan largely turned against America. 9/11 was the ultimate result.

In addition, pulling out of Iraq would leave its citizens at the mercy of the insurgents, who would claim victory. One of the major problems is that the insurgency simply won't stop, so more than just eradicating it, the US has to train Iraqi soldiers to effectively handle insurgents. Essentially, we have already banished the main threat, but now we must rebuild the country, get it on its own feet, and make sure that Iraq can exist as an independent and orderly nation under a new government. Not until these goals are achieved can we extricate ourselves from this mess of a war.

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

THE DEATH OF BLOCK SCHEDULING?

Trying to curb budget increases, group wants teachers to teach six

By Nick Werle
Editor-In-Chief

According to the Port Washington teachers' contract, teachers can be assigned a maximum of twenty hours per week of "direct teaching responsibility." However, the current system of giving teachers five classes each leaves them with fewer than seventeen hours per week of class time.

This difference is what has excited the wrath of the perennial opponents of the ever-growing district budget, including three candidates in last year's Board of Education elections, Frank Russo, Joel Katz, and Peter Wezenaar. During their unsuccessful joint campaign in 2005, these candidates brought this issue of twenty teaching hours into the open.

This year, they have joined together to form the Port Washington Education Assembly, a group that tries to lobby the district to cut costs. The group claims that its proposal to increase each teacher's load would save the district between \$1.5 million and \$2 million annually.

"Any community group has a right to meet and converse," said Principal Mr. Jay Lewis. "I have no problem with that. I do have a problem with a community organization being established on any topic where there are no experts as members or regularly invited guests.... There is very little talk about educational quality, only about the cost."

The PWEA claims that the school could easily force teachers to take on six classes. In an interview, Mr. Russo, who is the President of the PWEA, said that he looked at the personal schedules of every Schreiber teacher whose name begins with "M." From these documents, which show each teacher's five classes, hall duty, lunch, and prep time, Mr. Russo concluded that he could "easily" fit the extra classes into their current schedules.

"Teachers just don't want to put in

the four hours [of teaching] per day," said Mr. Russo. "They don't want the extra work. Plus, they would have more papers to grade."

While the PWEA claims that its effort to add a class to each teacher's schedule is separate from any discussion of block scheduling, Assistant Principal Mr. Carmine Matina, who is responsible for creating the schedule for the entire school, disagrees. He contends that Mr. Russo is ignoring the realities of the system and that the two issues are actually one.

The block scheduling system is built around a master schedule, which includes every class for every teacher in the building. The master schedule allows administrators to fit classes into nine distinct patterns. For a class to fit into the schedules of staff and students, its meeting times must match up with one of these patterns.

The master schedule has eighteen possible templates for teachers that include four different class meeting patterns each. This allows administrators to create classes with flexibility, ensuring that their meeting times will be convenient for students who wish to take the courses.

However, adding a sixth class into each teacher schedule template reduces the number of unique configurations to nine. If there were to be so few configurations, classes would exist at times when there would be no demand for them. Teachers would already be busy during periods when students need additional sections of a class. This would effectively eliminate many classes because the enrollment would not be sufficient to sustain them.

Thus, many classes, especially electives, would be cut, according to Mr. Matina. While Mr. Russo claims that he could keep every single class, it would be impossible because many would meet at the wrong times.

Mr. Russo claimed that many of these elective courses are unnecessary

and cost the district more than can be justified. He mentioned voice and dance classes, in particular, as being expendable.

However, this year's dance and movement sections were almost all at or over capacity at the beginning of the school year, indicating significant demand.

Mr. Russo claims that the district is stonewalling. For support, he points to the tape of a January 2004 Board of Education meeting during which Mr. Matina explained to the Board of Education why the block schedule structurally prohibits teachers from taking on more than five classes at a time.

"I have listened to the tape of that meeting again and again and all I get is total gibberish from Matina when he is talking about that issue," Russo said. "He is speaking English, of course, but the sentences coming out of his mouth make no sense."

Mr. Russo said that he has spoken to Dr. Geoffrey N. Gordon, the Superintendent of Schools, several times and has never gotten a clear explanation. He said that he also "might have spoken to Mr. Lewis," but got "no answers."

Mr. Russo admits that he has never tried to construct a mock master schedule to prove that his plan could work. Instead, he is relying on his evaluation of the individual teachers' schedules. He said he was unsure of what the master schedule is, and when it was explained to him, he seemed shocked. "It is a massive system," he said, "and it has a lot of details."

Mr. Matina and Mr. Lewis each confirm that the school has sent Mr. Russo a copy of the up-to-date master schedule at least twice this school year after he filed requests using the New York State Freedom of Information Law.

However, when asked if he thought that he might not understand the full complexity of the system, he said he doubted it.

Mr. Lewis sees this as part of a larger pattern of ill-informed lobbying from the PWEA. "They are oversimplifying and they are talking about rather simplistic solutions to a complex organization," he said.

Mr. Lewis also claims to have spoken with Mr. Russo over the phone about the scheduling issue, among other budget considerations.

"When I explained how his numbers are inaccurate and he continues to use them I have to conclude that he does not want real facts because he already has a conclusion," Mr. Lewis said. This feeling, that Mr. Russo has his own conclusions about the district, is held by many in the school. "He has a lot of motives for being involved in the school district," said Mr. Lewis. "He has a very specific agenda and a view of what he thinks the school district should be. I believe that he is selective about what he lets out."

Mr. Lewis also questions the potential savings of forcing teachers to take on six classes. He said immediately that it would "destroy the school."

First, Schreiber would become the only school with teachers who have six

classes. "We are right on the industry average," said Mr. Lewis. He suspects that this would strongly dissuade new teachers from coming to work in Port and would encourage some older, more experienced teachers to leave.

Faculty members seem to agree.

"Anyone who is offered a job in Port Washington is good enough to have his choice of districts," said Mr. Brad Fitzgerald, the Assistant Principal for Schreiber's senior class.

Ms. Andrea Martinez, who is in her first year teaching math at Schreiber, confirmed this assertion, saying that she was being courted by several other competitive districts and would most likely not have come to Schreiber if she were forced to teach six classes.

The possibility of this talent drain frightens department chairs, who are responsible for hiring their teachers.

If teachers were forced to teach six classes "I might save about one teacher," said Mr. John Placella, chair of the language department, "but we would lose qualified teachers because they would leave. Right now we are begging

“Mr. Russo seemed angry at questions about how teaching quality might change. ‘Forget this quality nonsense,’ he said.”

for qualified applicants."

English department chair Ms. Joan Lisecki complained that there are hundreds of unqualified applicants for each applicant she interviews.

Mr. Jeff Lesser, who is the chair of the math department, also said that he has trouble filling empty teaching slots every year with quality faculty because the talent pool is so unqualified.

Mr. Russo was incensed at the suggestion that his ideas would have these negative effects. "There are tons of teachers in the city who would die to have these positions. These teachers don't know how good they have it," he said. "There might be an unnoticeable drop in quality if we dissuade some good teachers from coming to Schreiber."

He also accused the system of being corrupt. "We're not even hiring the best teachers as it is," Mr. Russo said. He said that the lack of any statistics that tell how many applicants get interviewed reeks of corruption. "It's who you know and where you went to graduate school," he said.

Regardless of what teachers the school might attract under a new scheduling regime, some department chairs said that they would have to hire more staff to keep providing the same quality education.

"You hear from colleges all the time that students can't write, so we're going to have to make up all that lost time," said Ms. Lisecki. "We need to keep up all

Continued on the next page...

	Period 1 65 Min	Period 2 60 Min	Period 3 60 Min	Period 4-1 60 Min	Period 4-2 60 Min	Period 5 60 Min	Period 6 60 Min
Day A	1	3	4	6	L	7	9
Day B	2	1	5	4	L	8	7
Day C	3	2	6	5	L	9	8
Day D	1	3	4	6	L	7	9
Day E	2	1	5	4	L	8	7
Day F	3	2	6	5	L	9	8

The master schedule, which includes every class for every teacher in the school, works because it is based on a series of nine patterns shown here. Each class' meeting time must match up with one of these patterns to avoid conflicts. From these patterns, there are eighteen possible configurations of five classes. These are the templates for teachers' schedules. If teachers were forced to teach six classes each, the eighteen potential teacher schedules would be reduced to only nine. This would prohibit administrators from creating a master schedule with enough flexibility to match students' needs.

"Bodies...The Exhibit" is the anatomy lab for the masses

By Sarah Silvergleid
Senior Features Editor

Usually the only people able to directly investigate the inner workings of the human body are first-year medical students -- and that's in a training course called "Gross Lab." In Da Vinci's time, the only glimpse into the

human body was through dissections of corpses exhumed from local graveyards. Today's medical technology has enabled us to look at our body's inner workings as we never have before. The South Street Seaport's "Bodies...The Exhibit" is the first major showcase of anatomy to be opened to the public. Using real bodies preserved with a special polymer

method, this exhibition is nothing like the plastic models seen in biology classes.

For a limited time "Bodies" will be a public exhibition for anyone who is vaguely interested in anatomy. The exhibit is not scientifically technical at all, but rather a very up-close look at real human beings' organ systems that speak for themselves. Visitors enter exhibit to see the first room which shows the skeletal muscle system. After desensitization

to the idea of dead people on showcase, the cadavers become visually interesting. The first room's cadavers' bones and muscles are preserved and colored to represent how they would look in a living person. The bodies are positioned in athletic maneuvers such as throwing a football or catching a frisbee. One body had his skeleton separate from his muscular system, and together "they" leaned backwards with their hands entwined in a very interesting, albeit creepy, demonstration of man's balanced aversion to gravity.

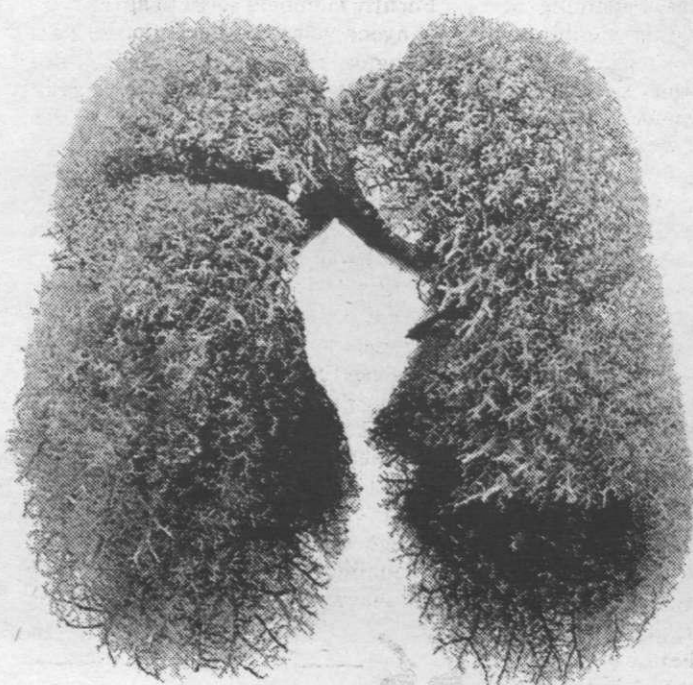
Each room following that focused on a different body system. The circulatory room was especially ingenious in its presentation. The polymer method of preservation allowed scientists to separate large vessels and even miniscule arteries and veins from all other bodily tissues. The different vessels were painted red or blue depending on whether they were arteries or veins.

This unique view allows one to see the individual circulatory systems that feed each organ. The circulatory system had the look of fractals. Without the new technology needed to separate individual parts of the body, we could not see each system in such detail.

The respiratory and digestive systems exhibits offered new twists on the health class warning posters of lungs and livers. In this case, one could see the lung of a smoker or the liver of a heavy drinker up close. The digestive system room definitely gave new perspective on how we eat. One glass case contained a full stretched-out intestinal tract.

The human development room offered an unprecedented display of growth from the earliest moments of existence. A walk through took visitors from the first stage of embryo to a newborn baby. The exhibit begged the question of where exactly the scientists acquired the fetuses (and all the other dead bodies for that matter), but was fascinating in its display. The exhibit even included a pair of conjoined twins.

"Bodies... The Exhibit" sets out to take something we are all very familiar with and literally slice it into many unimaginable variations. There is one body sliced vertically in half, and another lies in thirty horizontal cross sections spaced evenly apart. In "Bodies...", our anatomy is torn apart by system and shown to us in the most crude, real way possible.



The circulatory system room of "Bodies...The Exhibit" contained the veins and arteries to major organ systems. Above are the vessels that support the lungs.

The latest cost cutting might be the end of block scheduling

Continued from the previous page...

of those services like working with students on college essays that are not strictly delineated."

Of all the teachers in the building, the science teachers would probably experience the most drastic change with the abolition of the block schedule. In a traditional schedule, science classes meet for a double period every other day. This means that teachers in that system could have a maximum of only three classes instead of the four they currently teach. Mr. Phil Crivelli, chair of the science department, said that he would need to hire four or five more teachers if the school switched to a traditional schedule.

Block scheduling makes it logistically impossible for science teachers to have more than four classes. More classes would also violate the contractual limit of twenty teaching hours because science classes meet more often than classes in other subjects.

But teachers say that the real costs of these changes would be in the educational quality of the Schreiber experience.

"To have to prepare lessons for six different classes and shift gears that many times would be extremely difficult," said Ms. Geri Ganzekauer, who teaches AP Calculus. "You just couldn't put in as much time on each class."

"People don't know that the best

teachers are the best actors," said Mr. Placella. "To have to be on stage all the time and control thirty different people and to do different preps and to impart knowledge is very draining on the person itself. The quality of the knowledge they would share would suffer as a result of stretching."

Mr. Russo seemed angry at questions about how teaching quality might change. "Forget this quality nonsense," he said.

He also didn't seem to think that the current amount of tutoring time was worth preserving. His proposal, according to documents from the PWEA's website, would cut tutoring time from five hours per cycle to two and a half.

He feels that tutoring is "not worth the amount of money that we're paying right now." He said that parents could hire tutors outside of school if they thought their children needed extra help.

Mr. Russo did say that he might support reserving some tutoring time for students from low-income households.

But teachers say that tutoring time is essential, and cutting it back would hurt students. Mr. Placella estimates that at least thirty percent of all language students regularly use resource time. Additional anecdotes indicate that other resource centers are used even more frequently. Some English teachers' sign-up sheets for writing conferences can be completely booked -- including before and after school -- at least a week

ahead. The battle for tutoring time is even fiercer when a test or paper is approaching.

"I try to talk to my teachers as often as possible to get extra help or review for an upcoming exam," said sophomore Liza Rinsky. "It's hard sometimes because our schedules don't always match up."

"As an administrator of a department and a teacher, taking away resource time would be very, very damaging to the teaching quality, especially on top of already overcrowded classes," said Mr. Placella.

Mr. Lewis confirmed that the school is short on teachers this year. He said that there was enough demand for many more sections of courses but that the freeze on hiring new teachers has cost students. He said that demand was sufficient for three more auto tech sections, five more home economics sections, three more business sections, and three to five more art sections.

"I am six or seven teachers short this year compared to the first budget proposed to the Board last year," he said. "And the students paid a price because I had to turn them away from classes."

Finally, teachers contend that a switch to a traditional schedule would confine lessons to a shorter period, probably about forty minutes, hurting the value of class time, according to some.

"It's just not as good to have forty minutes because you have to have time to review homework, teach a lesson and

then practice it," said Ms. Ganzekauer. "There isn't enough time."

"By the time you include introduction time, the class is down to less than forty minutes," said Mr. Ken Case, who teaches chemistry. "Now we can get on a roll in class. The more you fragment a topic, the less valuable the learning is."

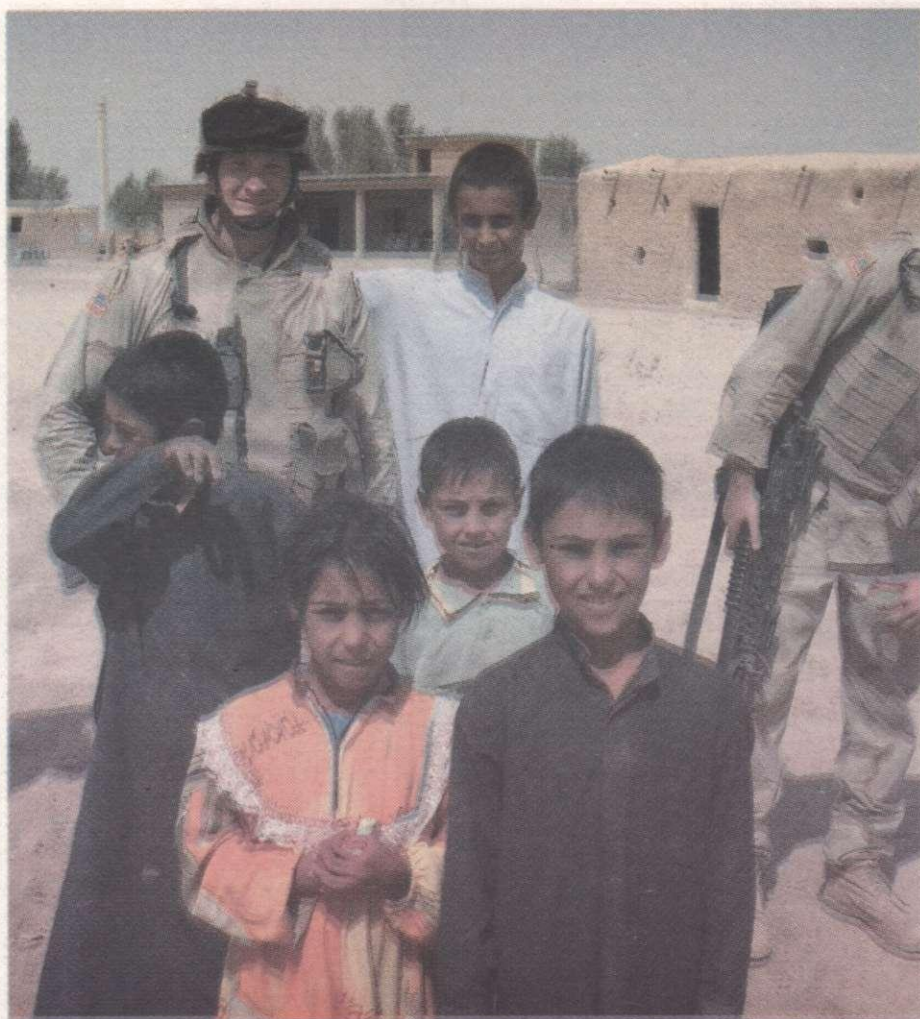
Mr. Crivelli also said that there are problems with the traditional schedule unique to science classes.

Because the class would meet for only forty minutes some days and double that on the other days, teachers would be forced to do labs only on certain days, even when they were not educationally optimal.

He also said that he has heard from students in schools with traditional schedules that when there is no lab the double period is often plagued by paperwork, serving as time filler.

Ultimately, there is widespread agreement among teachers and administrators that the educational benefits of block scheduling far outweigh any added costs.

Ronnie Smithline, the director of guidance, has worked in several schools in the past that used a traditional schedule, but never one with block scheduling before coming to Schreiber. "My feeling is that the block scheduling gives kids more of an opportunity to see what college is like," she said. "It allows them to manage their time off to do the best job."



THE WAR, THE MEDIA, AND LIFE AS A SOLDIER Mr. Bryan Frank

BY Sarah Silvergleid

Features Editor

Upstairs in the resource room, someone accuses Mr. Bryan Frank of stealing an unpaid for slice of pizza. He lightheartedly responds, "I'll get Klaff and Macriagne for this," and then continues telling his story of the year he spent at war. From the outset one would never guess that just weeks ago, Mr. Frank was stationed in Tikrit, Iraq. Mr. Frank certainly does not give off the air of a hardened, disillusioned veteran, but he has gone through an experience that no Schreiber student has.

Not only did Mr. Frank survive a war, but a war that is ongoing and extremely politically charged. Many kids in Port have opinions on the war and know a great deal about it through newspapers and television, but we do not get the whole story at all.

The "embedded journalists" who inserted themselves into the action back in 2003 raised ethical questions. The topic does not get much attention today, but the press continues to "embed" itself within the war. These journalists are not exactly on the "front lines," though, but a safe distance

away.

"The country is still dangerous. The press doesn't have free travel," said Mr. Frank. "The press just isn't telling the whole story about the war because the reporters aren't there. The way the war is portrayed is not at all accurate – not even a little bit."

The media isn't hiding anything from us or "sanitizing" the war. The information is there, and there is progress on some level in the country; the public just doesn't know the whole story some of the time. "The media is still sensationalistic, though," Mr. Frank said. "You'll see 20 minutes on the woman who was abducted in Aruba, and then a two minute blurb on all the soldiers that died that day. The wounded men never get a mention."

As far as things are going in Iraq, a topic that causes many individuals' blood to boil, Mr. Frank says, "The information is there. Someone who really wants to know the state of things just needs to do the research. You can get a picture of what's going on if you know where to look for it."

What is going on then? "As far as things go now, we are trying to give responsibilities over to the Iraqis and get them ready, as the first real test of their government is coming up with the first elections," Mr. Frank said. He cannot comment specifically on the

state of everything in the country, but he says, "It's definitely there. There is a plan and we are going through with it."

On Dec. 15, Iraq voted for its parliament for the third time. The violence was lower on this day than in the past two elections. Sunni turnout was much higher in this election, up from the last two in which the minority questioned the legitimacy of the elections. Sixty to seventy percent of eligible voters cast their ballots, a higher percentage than American elections bring. This may not be the final election, but each successive election seems to show improvement.

Mr. Frank said that his views on the war have not changed as a result of his term of service. "We just have to wait and see," he said. "History will judge our actions in Iraq ten years from now. It will be incredible if what we are doing there is successful."

He thinks that today's critics of the war are perfectly justified. "Everyone is asking fair questions," he said. "Not everything can be reported, so it's understandable that everyone has questions. It's natural to oppose the government's actions and question why and how we are doing things."

The war, and the President who brought us into it, has not been put in the best light lately. We are behind

in our political agenda for the Iraqis. Most of all, we are still there in great numbers. It's a hopeful prospect, though – for a liberal or a conservative – that Iraq will jump start a democratic domino effect in the Middle East.

When Mr. Frank joined the National Guard at age 17, he definitely did not foresee this. "I joined years ago," he said. "I got out for a while and then rejoined in 2002."

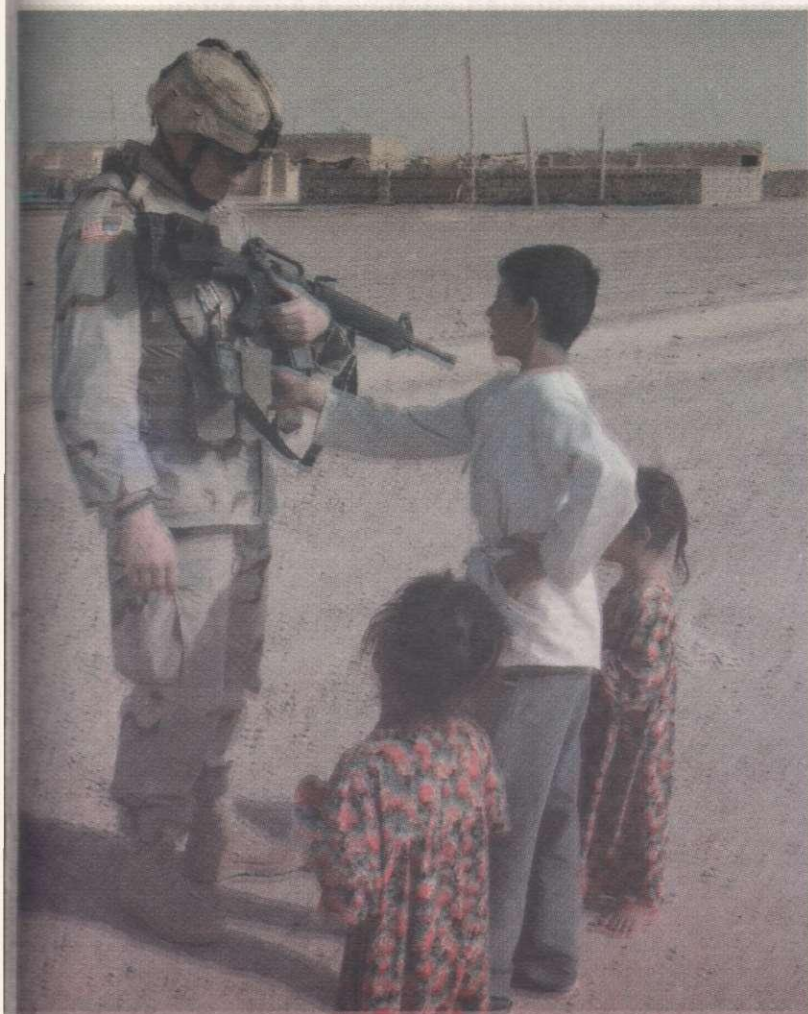
In 2003, Mr. Frank was called to guard the subways for a few weeks. When the call came to let him know that he may be called into war, Mr. Frank was surprised.

"It is atypical for the National Guard to be called in for active duty, so I was surprised," he said. "I was called in with the 42nd Infantry Division that consisted of around 15,000 people. It was the first time the National Guard has been sent as a division since the Korean War."

Mr. Frank received official notification from the Army around two months after the first call. "They call you up and say, 'You've been activated for this many days,'" he said. In Mr. Frank's case, it was 18 months – 6 for general training and 12 in active duty.

"I spent around 6 months training stateside in New Jersey," he said. "It was a refresher course since I've already gone through training."

All photos courtesy of Mr. Bryan Frank



Returns from Iraq

Mr. Frank was sent over to Iraq in Nov. 2004, knowing that he would remain for a year. For Mr. Frank, life as a soldier was relatively easy to adjust to.

"What separates the National Guard from the active army is the similarity among those around you," he said. "All of the soldiers in my unit had civilian jobs and many were from Long Island. It was easy to relate to them and talk to them about your house or your wife... In general we had a lot in common."

"They also kept us in as normal a routine as possible," Mr. Frank said. "There were few shifts in schedules, and every day was like a typical 8 to 10 hour workday."

Mr. Frank was a part of the Aviation unit, which was divided into planning, intelligence, and communications. Mr. Frank worked in intelligence analysis. "We weren't a unit that went outside of the Forward Operating Base that much," he said, which refers to the safe zone.

War is always war, but today, and even in the 1991 Gulf War, the typical perception we have from textbooks and novels is very different from reality.

"War will never be the same," Mr. Frank said. "It's not typical – even the 1991 war was not the same as other wars because of the technology. No

one writes letters; everyone e-mails their families as often as they want. In my company, a third of the men had computers. At some point in the near future, soldiers will be able to use video feed to actually see their families at any time."

A major part of "war" is isolation. Revolutionizing communications and technology has in turn changed the nature of war. "It's good in a way and bad in a way," said Mr. Frank. "It's obviously good that soldiers can have such closeness with their families, but it also causes them to focus on home instead of the war."

Iraq is a very different kind of war, but it is one that is happening during our time and will have lasting impact on the world. Our job there is unfinished and arduous. Mr. Frank has come home to stay but there are still 160,000 American soldiers stationed in Iraq, and many more from other nations.

"I've always had an interest in the military," Mr. Frank said. "I joined the National Guard before the end of the Cold War. When the Cold War ended, things changed. The fact that we were called out is almost unprecedented."

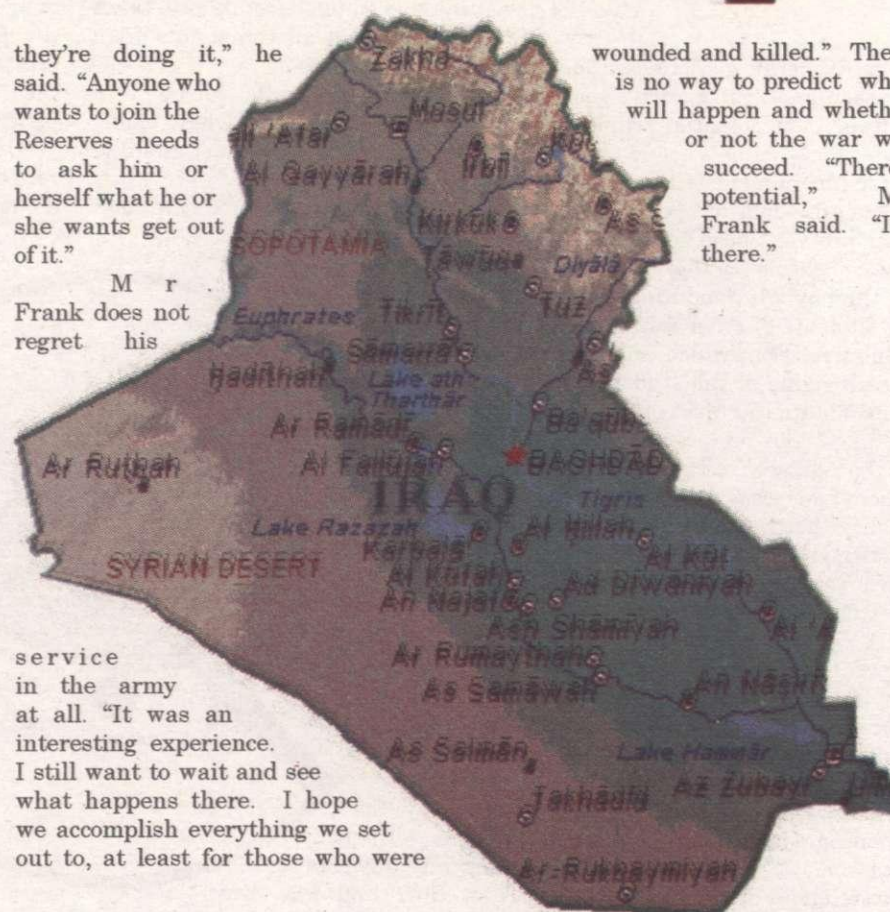
As far as kids joining the National Reserve out of high school, Mr. Frank thinks that students must look towards the future. "It all depends on why

they're doing it," he said. "Anyone who wants to join the Reserves needs to ask him or herself what he or she wants get out of it."

Mr. Frank does not regret his

service in the army at all. "It was an interesting experience. I still want to wait and see what happens there. I hope we accomplish everything we set out to, at least for those who were

wounded and killed." There is no way to predict what will happen and whether or not the war will succeed. "There's potential," Mr. Frank said. "It's there."



(Above) A map of Iraq; Mr. Frank was station in Tikrit, one of the cities in the Sunni triangle. (l-r) Mr. Frank poses with two members of his company at his base in Tikrit. Mr. Frank takes a photo with native children of the area. A native boy goes up to Mr. Frank and touches his gun. An 9th century temple in Tikrit.

The lack of holiday cheer brings us a 'silent night'

Students notice the absence of Christmas trees and menorahs

By Amanda Schiff and Erin Szulman
Assistant Features Editor and Features Editor

For a time usually filled with holiday cheer, Schreiber's "holy days" are definitely more secular than the term suggests. Schreiber's holiday schedule is filled with winter concerts, window painting, and holiday parties. These festivities are usually filled with symbolic references to America's major religions. However, the Schreiber administration has decided that religion can be used, but only in moderation.

Presently, Schreiber and other public schools' policies are dictated by federal law. The First Amendment prohibits schools from promoting religion, but does not say schools can or should prohibit religion.

While there is no specific Schreiber policy about religion, the administration must use judgment to interpret the

“Window decorations and winter concerts support the festivities. Do we really need to bring religion into it? Even a Santa hat does not represent Christmas, it simply represents the holiday season.”

rather vague federal guidelines. The school has been known to exercise good taste in all areas of potential religious influence.

The First Amendment is the source of Americans' "freedom of speech," but these rights are very hard to define in many cases. Schools cannot promote religion, thereby intimidating and alienating students of other faiths, and cannot inhibit religion, which infringes on the speech rights of the students of various denominations. Most principals rely on the 1980s Supreme Court decisions that allowed religious songs for educational purposes only.

The "policy" has been consistent for a while, without any major changes. There have never been any direct conflicts except for a minor complaint or two.

Schreiber Principal Mr. Jay Lewis feels it is imperative to have balance and moderation in the school's stance on religion, especially in such a diverse school. Events and curriculum decisions are based on this "balance" concept creating a lenient attitude to an important issue.

For now, religious decisions are made primarily by the department heads. Serious issues are delegated to Mr. Lewis. However, this hasn't happened in recent years.

"The current practice is reasonable," said Mr. Lewis. "I sense that the

Schreiber community and the Port Washington community, if there was discomfort, would want us to adjust. This school has gracefully adapted. The bottom line is what is best for our students."

He believes that it is essential for the community to have a say in the policy and that adjustments can always be made. "I would say that's the rule of thumb for any of this," he added.

All subject-related regulations are made on a departmental level. For the music department, Mr. Mark Brenner has jurisdiction over all concerts and musical selections.

"Our music is based on quality and the curriculum," said Mr. Brenner. One of this year's choir songs, "Worthy to be Praised," has caused some discomfort among choir members because the song mentions the Holy Trinity.

For some choir members, this line of the song not only makes reference to another religion, but also made the singers feel uncomfortable. However, Mr. Brenner has never been confronted concerning musical selections.

On the other hand, Mr. Lewis was directly approached after the second winter concert this season. He said that there were very few concerns overall and almost constituted the concerns he received for the entire year.

Mr. Phillip Crivelli, chairman of the science department, expressed no concern about religion and science at Schreiber.

"Evolution has been accepted by the scientific community...and by major religions. What's the threat of evolution?" said Mr. Crivelli.

Mr. Lewis has supervised all of these departmental policies to make sure everything is going smoothly. He takes into consideration all complaints from community members.

"Public school needs to be very attuned and sensitive to what's going on," said Mr. Lewis. "We can't afford to turn a deaf ear to concerns."

On Dec. 7, the annual holiday window painting in the cafeteria brought members from all Schreiber clubs.

In what was to be a spectacle of colors, each club made its way to its

designated area.

The event was run by the Student Council, along with advisers Ms. Trish Burr and Ms. Amy Prochaska. The event sparked talk of Schreiber's religious policy by students and faculty members.

It has become clear to many Schreiber students that something is lacking on the cafeteria windows.



Ali Bernhard

The International Club hopes for peace on earth with a slightly more religious concept than many other window decorations. Ms. Trish Burr and Ms. Amy Prochaska monitored the paintings although there were still decorations with religious implications such as the Christmas ornament in the painting above.

Christmas trees, dreidels, menorahs, and lights, which are usually in full view at this time of year, are taboo according to club advisors and the administrators.

Last year, JAM121, the Christian Club of Schreiber, had written the greeting, "Merry Christmas" on its window, along with an uncontroversial image of footsteps in snow. Before the paint had even dried, one of the proctoring teachers promptly obliterated the "offensive" message by smearing paint over it.

Outraged members of JAM121 returned later and rewrote the message, along with an additional phrase: "Peace on Earth." The re-edited window was left alone.

Religious, or holiday inspired symbols are controversial for many reasons.

Displaying symbols such as the Christmas tree and the Menorah, although appropriate for this time of year, can offend or anger certain people.

The majority of teachers in the school have discussed the issue in class whether it pertains to art, social studies, English, or another subject.

"I am so sick of drawing snowflakes, snowmen, and sleds," said art teacher Ms. Kris Murphy to her Drawing and Painting class. "They don't represent the holidays."

These sentiments elucidate the fact that the holiday season is a festive, celebratory time of year for many people. For some, it seems better to include nothing rather than everything.

"I think that the school does its best with creating a festive atmosphere as the holiday season approaches," said chemistry teacher Ms. Christine Nelson. "Window decorations and winter concerts support the festivities. Do we really need to bring religion into it? Even a Santa hat does not represent Christmas, it simply represents the holiday season."

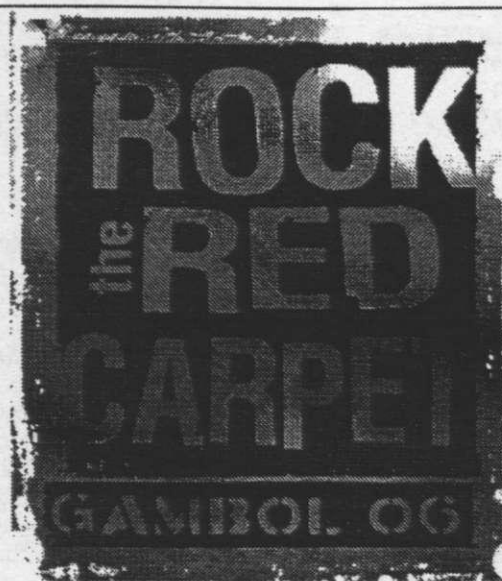
Her sentiments illustrate that for some people, it is neither necessary nor appropriate to bring religion into the classroom.

On the other hand, many teachers feel that it would be fitting at this time of year to simply use symbols from many different religions in order to produce a festive atmosphere.

"I would not feel offended if I saw a Star of David - I would wish my Jewish friends a happy Chanukah," said social studies teacher Mr. Petro Macrigiane. "I don't even think I would notice if there were religious symbols or not. I see no reason at all as to why all holidays should not be represented."

The holiday season brings families and friends together with many different festivities. These festivities that take place and the symbols that represent them are appropriate for family gatherings.

However, when they are included on school grounds, they lead to controversy between the faculty and the students. The administration and faculty make an effort to make a comfortable environment for students of all religious backgrounds.



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DON'T MISS OUT

Formerly free cafeteria is now a "no-touch" zone

Newly implemented lunchtime rules cause tension among students

By Sidney Ginsberg
Staff Assistant

No matter how grueling a day's schedule is, 4-1 or 4-2 is a safe time for Schreiber students. The cafeteria is a place for eating, working, relaxing, conversing; it is the one place at school where kids can fraternize with friends and stay away from the watchful eyes of teachers.

The same rules don't apply in the cafeteria as in the classroom, however.

"The cafeteria is a place we can eat food and not have to put it away, we don't have to worry about being caught for anything which we would get in trouble for during class," said junior Laurence Critchell.

"The amount of freedom we've had is enormous," agreed senior Gaby Monsanto. "But recently it has gone down. I thought there were virtually no rules in the cafeteria until this year."

Many students have noticed a sudden increase in the strictness of the cafeteria staff's policies.

Jordan Caruso, a senior, was recently reprimanded for attempting to shave his head with a razor plugged into one of the cafeteria's electrical sockets during third period. Cafeteria aides publicly castigated Caruso, unplugged the razor, and called in an assistant principal.

Ms. Ivy Santodonato, a cafeteria aide, said that in each individual case of student misbehavior, the cafeteria staff has to analyze the situation and determine what should be done. She argued that the staff on duty that day found Caruso's behavior

displays of affection have been dealt with seriously, and couples can no longer sit on each other's laps. There is no specific rule that bars the romantic behavior from the cafeteria during the school day. Students see no reason to behave differently just because an official tells them to.

"If I feel like expressing my affection towards someone, I will do so no matter what anyone says," said sophomore Ran Shalev. "No matter where it is! These days, it's the only way we can show how we really feel, and we shouldn't let anyone stop us."

different than a make-out fest, but with no method of measurement for literally "how far a couple can go," students have begun to question the aides' authority.

"I once got called a crazy [expletive]!" Santodonato said. "Respect is a big issue during lunch. People stare blankly when asked to do something, like throw out trash, and say they will but don't. Every time someone is caught not behaving in a respectful manner, further action must be taken and we call in the assistant principal."

Not having a sheet of rules or laws that can be referenced contributes to the constant contempt towards cafeteria personnel.

"Why should I listen? There are no rules in the cafeteria, there is no piece of paper that says what we can and can't do," sophomore Richard Blue said.

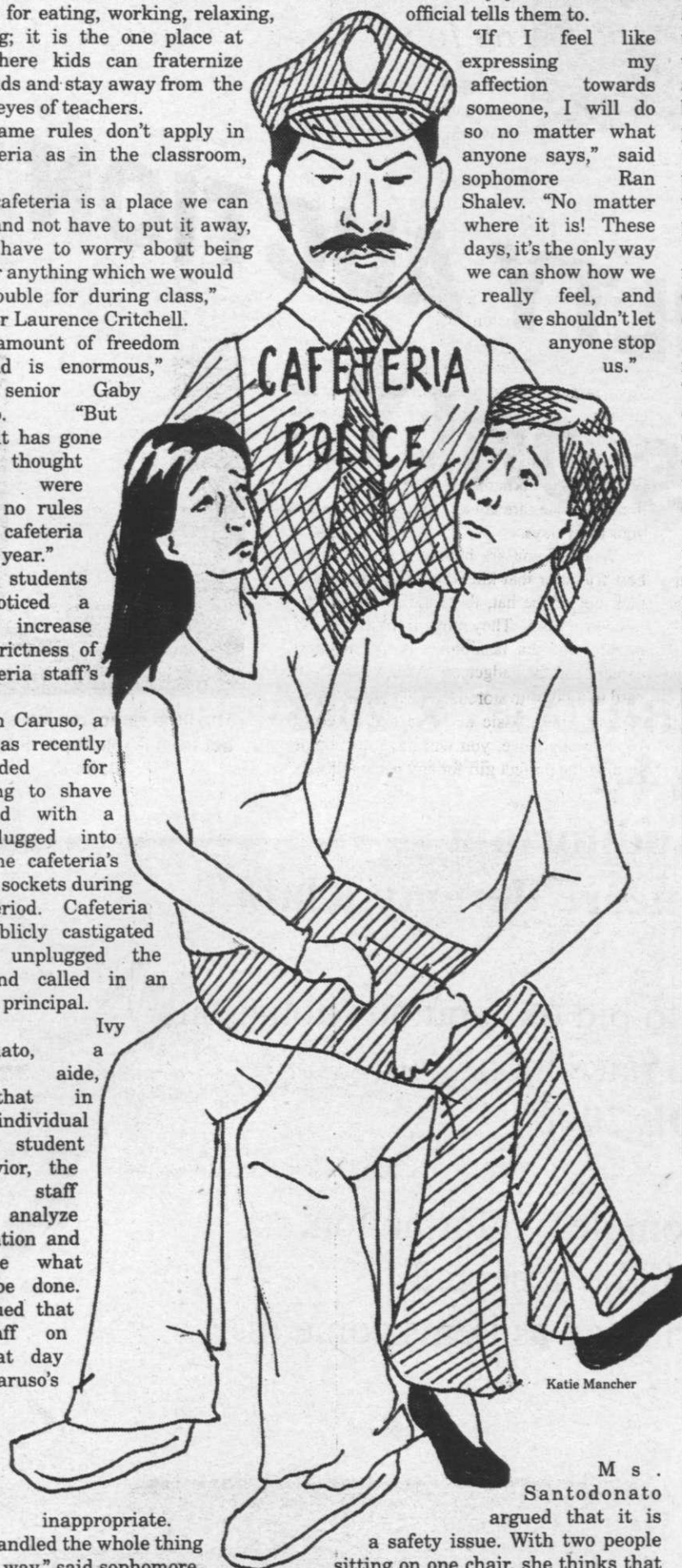
Mrs. Santodonato said that a tangible rule sheet would help her and the other "lunch ladies" enforce school rules more easily. Despite the lack of an official list of rules, the school provides the staff of the cafeteria with yearbooks, telling them to familiarize themselves with each person and his or her "clique."

"A lot of problems start outside of the cafeteria but are brought in. We do our best to try and stop things before they happen," said Santodonato. "You know who people are friends with and

notice how they act around each other. We can tell by a group's body language if it is fighting. The expressions on their faces make us say to ourselves: 'that's going to be a confrontation.'" The aides are told to use their judgment to take care of issues, but sometimes judgment isn't enough. "It would be great to have a school lunch code to manage all of the gray areas."

Each lunch lady has different standards. Some are more strict, and let things slide, making the rules inconsistent. "I got yelled at a lot over the last two years by one lady for things that were trivial," said sophomore Angelica Kapsis. "This year, when the lady is on her day off, things that take place in the cafeteria need to be handled that often nothing is done about. A senior was picking on me and I wanted an authority figure to stop them but no one intervened."

Decisions regarding cafeteria behavior are based only on the guideline "stop people who are not acting in a respectful way." With such a broad mandate and inconsistent rulings by the cafeteria aides, there is no way to fairly judge inappropriate behavior. This results in a tricky relationship between the cafeteria staff and the lunching students.



inappropriate. "He handled the whole thing the right way," said sophomore Rich Imperatore. "He shaved his head over the garbage can. No clean up necessary. It was just something funny, and I'm kind of upset that I didn't get to shave my head too. I don't understand why they stopped him."

This year, new rules are being enforced, and for new reasons. Public

Ms. Santodonato argued that it is a safety issue. With two people sitting on one chair, she thinks that the chair might collapse, which can be dangerous for both people. However, some think that the only reason provided for the new anti-PDA movement is simply that it is "inappropriate for the lunch space." No standards are provided for what "inappropriate" may be, a peck on the cheek is certainly

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MAKE YOUR LIST AND CHECK IT TWICE

Everything from classic sweaters to modern cameras top this year's holiday hit list

By Amanda Schiff
Assistant Features Editor

With Secret Santas and grab bags in mind, Schreiber students will set out in search of the hottest holiday gifts to give to love ones this season. In addition to the classic gloves, hats, and jewelry, there are new fashions and gadgets that are flying off shelves everywhere.

From Best Buy to Lord & Taylor, the possibility for good gifts are limitless. Each year, as wintertime rolls around and stores once again fill with holiday cheer, people face the problem of buying gifts for the boy or girl who may already have everything. Electronics have become affordable enough for any trendy shopper to purchase. Even iPods, which were once the teenage "must have," have dropped almost 100% in price, and at standard size, can hold a thousand more songs than the original, which came to stores in 2001. Well, this year, something new and original isn't too far out of reach.

In 2004, the fashion craze of half-sweatshirts made Camp Beverly Hills and Juicy Couture see dollar signs. Also atop the hit list of last year's holiday season were Ugg boots, ponchos, and Junkfood T-shirts shown with cartoon characters and cereal boxes. This year however, new companies and new styles have taken charge.

This year, winter fashion trends are being carried over to the holiday gift craze. Belted sweaters, beaded tanks, and knit shrugs are replacing last year's poncho and cropped sweatshirt. Other hot items include long beaded necklaces, boho earrings, and gauchos. Instead of cartoon characters and cereal boxes, The Beatles, Kiss, ACDC, The Rolling Stones, and other band logos are being ironed onto tees.

The perfect stocking stuffer or grab bag present is not hard to find this year. Many companies are marketing smaller versions of their products, making grab bags and Secret

Santas less of a challenge. Try a Coach initial key chain for around \$28 or a pair of gloves from the Gap for as low as 13 \$. J. Crew is carrying small MP3 cases for \$25 and iPod



www.bestbuy.com

Casio digital cameras (above) are flying off the shelves at Best Buy.

holders are also in stock at Coach for about \$70. Other great deals include Hard Candy's Jewel Box for \$18 which incorporates all cosmetic essentials into one compact case. It can be purchased at Sephora along with many other cosmetic gifts for under \$25.

For the gadget lovers, the iPod Nano and the Xbox 360 will be at the top of the wish list. These are new and improved versions of the iPod Mini and Xbox costing \$200 and \$300 respectively. Another hit for the game

lover would be the Play Station Portable (PSP). This is a small, packable game system which makes fun traveling a breeze. Digital cameras are also atop the hit list for this year. Best Buy has digital cameras starting at \$100 and going up. With all of the technological advances this holiday season, all of the tech lovers will be saying "what's a palm pilot?"

For the movie lover, DVDs and Blockbuster gift cards are always appreciated. Also, many television shows are marketing box sets of all of their seasons. *Friends*, *Sex and the City*, *Seinfeld* and *Everybody Loves Raymond* are being remembered all over the country. They are generally around twenty dollars. New releases such as *The 40 Year Old Virgin* and *The Island* also make great holiday gifts. Whether you like comedy or drama, movies are always a fun way to spend your rainy days.

Whether you are buying a gift for your best friend or that kid who you happened to pick out of the hat, there are many options to choose from. They range from the perfect sweater for the fashionista to the thinnest camera for the gadgeteer. As always, a gift card to a favorite store is greatly appreciated. Between the classic necklace and the most modern appliance, you will have no trouble finding the perfect gift for any personality.

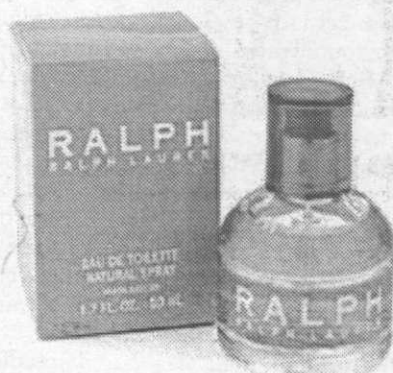


www.ipod.com

The iPod Nano, the latest product from Apple tops all holiday hit lists.

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3. Belted Sweaters
4. Initial Key Chain
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Children roar with approval for *Narnia*

BY Damian Bidikov
Staff Writer

Half a century after C.S. Lewis completed the first installment of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, his books have become wildly popular classics, and the series is now a staple for the collections of fantasy-loving kids and young adults. Following in the footsteps of movie renditions of the *Harry Potter* and *Lord of the Rings* series, director Andrew Adamson (*Shrek*) aims to secure a spot for Disney in the epic-fantasy slot with his production of the first *Narnia* novel: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

If you're depraved enough to have missed this story in your childhood, a brief summary is in order. The book, which is the first one published but not the first in chronological order of the series, follows the adventures of the four Pevensie children, who discover a portal to the land of Narnia in an old wardrobe. Narnia is inhabited by the creatures of classical fantasy: dwarves, fawns, and a host of talking animals. The children discover that the land is plagued by a curse and threatened by an evil witch, who curses Narnia with continual winter. They join forces with the virtuous talking

lion Aslan in order to overthrow her.

Though children under thirteen will probably be enchanted by the convincing special effects, talking animals, and light humor, the first half of *Narnia* might feel a bit unremarkable to more mature viewers. However, as the movie progresses it gets more entertaining, and certainly darker. This development is an impressive accomplishment and a dead-on interpretation of Lewis' novel, which starts off rather airy and innocent but builds in intensity and maturity as the children travel deeper into the land and discover the fate of the world that they have entered. The surprising battle sequences, especially, can compare even to the likes of *The Lord of the Rings* in terms of effects and execution.

Although the cast is relatively unknown in America, the English actors are quite capable in their roles and the voice-overs for Narnia's talking animals are convincing and appropriate. Perhaps most impressive were the roles of Tilda Swinton as the deceptively sweet and equally terrifying White Witch, and Liam Neeson's majestic portrayal of Aslan's voice. Georgie Henley is startlingly cute and innocent as Lucy, the youngest of the

children and the one who discovers Narnia. Her brother Edmund is played by Skandar Keynes, who brings in themes of greed and temptation to the story.

The themes in *Narnia* are unmasked as Christian (the four Pevensie children are referred to as the children of Adam) and the entire series is basically an allegory to the bible, for which the series and film

have earned much criticism. However, this shouldn't really get in the way of anyone's enjoyment of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*—children will enjoy the magic and amusement on the screen, and even older audiences will be stirred by the movie's more dramatic and violent sequences and showdowns. While the *Narnia* series so far lacks the



Andrew Adamson brought C.S. Lewis's classic religious allegory-turned-children's book to the big screen. The movie was a hit with younger audiences, combining fantasy with epic storytelling.

grandeur and epic scale of *The Lord of the Rings* and might not quite match *Harry Potter* in its ability to amuse younger audiences, Andrew Adamson's efforts show promise in securing the series as an entertaining, ambitious, and majestic fantasy tale in its transition to the big screen.

Rent moves from the Broadway stage to the silver screen

BY Rebecca Prowler
Contributing Writer

Rent, a Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning rock opera based on the opera, *La Boheme*, was recently made into a major motion picture. The show premiered on Broadway at the Nederlander Theatre ten years ago this April. Just months earlier, its composer and lyricist, Jonathan Larson, had passed away the night before the final dress rehearsal. The cast bonded through this ordeal and created a force on stage that has been unmatched in other plays.

Since its debut, numerous directors and studios have attempted to bring *Rent* to the silver screen. For example, Spike Lee and Martin Scorsese, who have collaborated as directors, were rumored to have been casting Hollywood actors and pop stars such as Justin Timberlake and Brittany Murphy for the film. However, all of these plans fell through. Chris Columbus, the director of *Home Alone* and the first two *Harry Potter* movies, was hired to direct the movie, and Revolution Studios agreed to fund it. Columbus had

seen *Rent* on stage in 1996 with the original Broadway cast, and he wanted to capture this same energy and bring it to the screen. He met with many of the original actors and cast all but two of them for the movie.

At first, *Rent*'s extremely loyal fan base was skeptical of the movie. It was the cast that they knew and loved, but Columbus is traditionally a director of family-oriented movies. Also, the original cast members are now ten years older and many beloved songs had been cut from the script as well. Fears were lessened as Columbus, the cast, and Larson's family posted entries and videos on an online blog. As they described their filming experiences and answered questions, it became apparent that this film was created for the fans.

The character relationships in *Rent* are very intricate. Mark Cohen (Anthony Rapp), is a filmmaker and the story's narrator, who lives with his roommate Roger Davis (Adam Pascal), a struggling songwriter and musician who is HIV positive. Roger

meets Mimi Marquez (Rosario Dawson), a dancer with AIDS and a drug problem. Angel Schunard (Wilson Heredia), a street musician, and Tom Collins (Jesse L. Martin), an NYU professor, are also a couple that is HIV positive. Maureen Johnson (Idina Menzel), a performance artist, and Joanne Jefferson (Tracie Thoms), a Harvard-graduate lawyer, are also a couple. Finally, Benny (Taye Diggs), who used to be Mark and Roger's roommate, has married up, moved out, and bought the building. He wants to collect the rent. Dawson and Thoms are the only members who were not part of the original Broadway cast.

Rent is a story of a year in the life of this group of eight struggling artists in New York City's East Village in the late 1980s, attempting to live and love in the wake of poverty, failure, AIDS and death. Although this movie is a musical, it is unlike most other movie-musicals. The characters do not sporadically break out into song and dance; rather the songs act as dialogue to move the story along. Some songs, however, were changed into spoken dialogue for the movie.

This film only improved on *Rent*'s magnificence. The story took on more depth that could not be incorporated on stage, including flashbacks and fantasy sequences. Several scenes that were presumed to occur on stage were actually included in the film. The soundtrack, which was produced by Rob Cavallo, whose other work includes Green Day's *American Idiot*, is now much richer and fuller with a stronger rock vibe. The acting is also very strong, especially since most of the cast is new to acting in front of a camera for movies. Particularly noteworthy performances were given by Rapp, who plays Mark Cohen, and Martin, who plays Tom Collins.

Overall, *Rent* is a notable representation of the original stage show and should not be overlooked. If you have seen the Broadway show and enjoyed it, be sure to see this movie. However, it is not necessary to be familiar with the show to enjoy the movie; *Rent*'s positive themes will unquestionably stay with you.

Politically-charged *Syriana* offers liberal commentary

BY Rebecca Sander
Senior A&E Editor

The Bush administration's involvement in Iraq and America's general involvement in the Middle East have come under national and international scrutiny. Opposition has been acute and has come from all angles. The movie *Syriana*, which opened on Dec. 9, is one more chapter in a long story of criticism of America's relationship with the Middle East, especially with regard to oil.

The writer and director of *Syriana*, Stephen Gaghan, recently produced the Oscar-winning film, *Traffic*. The quality of direction and writing in *Traffic* is seen again in his latest movie. Gaghan travelled all over the Middle East and Europe, filming the movie on location and becoming acquainted with the far-reaching effects of the American oil industry. The movie is based loosely on the CIA agent Robert Baer, who wrote a book entitled *See No Evil: The True Story of a Ground Soldier in the CIA's War on Terrorism*. However, while the name of the main character and the theme of the CIA's war on terrorism is the same, the plot of *Syriana* is entirely fictional.

Syriana involves several plots that are ultimately related. The movie opens in Tehran, Iran as a man (George Clooney), whom the audience later learns is a CIA operative named "Bob," is trading weapons with Iranian officials. As the two Iranians load their car with the weapons, the car explodes, killing both men. However, Bob walks away from the scene unscathed. Bob later must return to the Middle East, sent on yet another CIA mission, this time to assassinate Prince Nasir (Alexander Siddig).

The plot then shifts to Texas and the board room of Connex oil, which is poised to merge with a smaller oil company,

creating the fifth largest oil company with an annual revenue larger than the GDP of a small country. Connex obtains their resources from the Middle East and counts on continual chaos and American involvement in the region to further its interests. The oil merger



In the opening scene of Stephen Gaghan's *Syriana*, Bob (George Clooney, above) assassinates two Iranian officials. Bob eventually becomes involved in the government plan to assassinate a Gulf prince in order to further America's interests in the area.

serves to create plot intricacies while also raising questions of government and business ethics.

From there, the scene shifts to two lawyers, Bennett Holiday and Dean Whiting (Jeffrey Wright and Christopher Plummer, respectively) investigating the oil merger and possible government corruption. The reach of the government conspiracy extends when Bob discovers that someone is investigating his past and trying to stop him from exposing the situation in the Middle East and the CIA's involvement.

The movie then jumps to Geneva,

Switzerland, where Byran Woodman (Matt Damon), a young and ambitious oil broker, is trying to make a career-making deal with Nasir. Damon's character is one of the few to undergo major development during the course of the movie; the death of his oldest

son forces him to reexamine his life. Woodman finds redemption in his partnership with Nasir, who is an idealistic Gulf prince, fighting to bring peace and self-rule to the Gulf. However, Woodman is forced to question the purpose of his work and life in general when the plots of Bob and Woodman collide and Nasir is assassinated at the hands of an American missile.

Perhaps the most compelling, and ultimately the most moving story line, is that of a teenager, Wasim Khan (Mazhar Munir), who is laid off from his job at a Persian Gulf oil refinery. Throughout the course of the movie, Khan struggles

to find a job and make a life for himself. Eventually, in his desire to find meaning and purpose for himself, he joins a fanatical religious group and dies on a suicide mission. Khan's character shows the change in a teenager from a hard-working individual to a religious radical.

Although few characters apart from Woodman and Khan are highly developed, the acting in *Syriana* leaves nothing to be desired. The actors chosen for the roles portray their respective characters convincingly; especially notable were Clooney and Siddig. Gaghan, aiming for authenticity and for a quasi-documentary feel, filmed the movie throughout Europe and the Middle East and used only two hand-held cameras. The movie certainly achieves the authenticity its director strove for, which is especially evident in the scenes set in the Middle East in which all the men wear full length white robes and the women are completely covered in black. Also, the oil fields in the Persian Gulf are nothing short of magnificent and the cinematography shows the devastation oil drilling can cause to the landscape.

Syriana is not a movie to be entered into lightly. Because of the intricate plots and frequent switches to subtitles, the movie demands a certain amount of attention in order for it to be followed. However, for the more politically and liberal-minded audience member, the movie sends a strong message about the oil business and questions the true impact of American Middle Eastern involvement. Although confusing, the numerous plots serve to show the extent of the impact of American business interests on the Middle Eastern region, from princes to ordinary and impressionable teenagers. *Syriana* may not be an Oscar-winning movie, but it sends a clear message and raises thought-provoking questions.

Walk the Line honors country and rock music legend Johnny Cash

BY Max Lewin
Contributing Writer

Ray, the 2004 biopic about Ray Charles, set a new standard for biographical moviemaking. It covered his life from childhood to old age, including romance, drama, drug addiction, and good musical performances along the way. *Walk the Line*, directed by James Mangold (*Identity*, *Girl Interrupted*) attempts to recreate this successful formula, followed the life of legendary country and rockabilly musician Johnny Cash. However, the movie fails in some respects to take its own advice and "walk the line" between originality and repetition, often erring to the latter.

Joaquin Phoenix stars as Cash, and does a solid job with the role. While he does not come close to achieving the likeness that Jamie Foxx did with Ray Charles, Phoenix is certainly believable in his portrayal of the deep voiced man in black. Although his emotional spectrum is limited at times, ranging from angry to crazed, there are moments of utter sincerity, such as a memorable performance in Las Vegas that ends in a drug-fueled collapse.

As for Phoenix's onscreen counterpart, Reese Witherspoon does an excellent job as June Carter, torn between her Christian faith and her love for Cash.

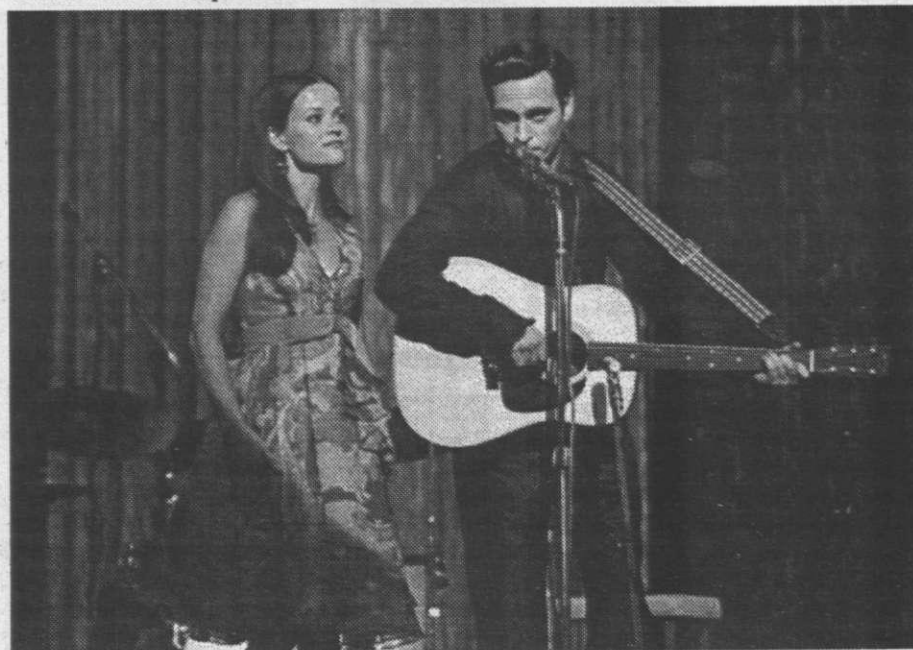
For the musical elements of the movie, Phoenix and Witherspoon recorded their own voices instead of deferring to the original recordings as was done in *Ray*. While this does add a sense of realism not quite attainable by the lip syncing technology of today, the catch is that the music is not entirely true to Cash's. Indeed, music takes somewhat of a backseat to Cash's troubles throughout the movie, unlike in *Ray*, in which Mr. Charles' creative development is one of the main focuses of the film.

The dramatic development of *Walk the Line* is fairly well sequenced and executed. Cash's slow decline into drug addiction and despair is fairly realistic, although, at times, the plot jumps without an adequate portrayal of the passing of time. Plot development is one of the categories in which *Walk the Line* trumps *Ray*, which was overly episodic and at times confusing.

While the average Schreiber student might not fill their iPod with classic

country and rockabilly tunes, there is no denying the importance of Johnny Cash in the development of modern rock

and roll. *Walk The Line* does a fair job of painting a portrait of Cash as a human.



Reese Witherspoon and Joaquin Phoenix star in *Walk the Line*, which details the life and career of music legend Johnny Cash. Although the movie did not have the power and epic proportions of last year's *Ray*, starring Jamie Foxx, *Walk the Line* was an adequate portrayal of Cash's life.

Miss Seventeen prefers morals over modeling

by Kyra Siegel

A&E Editor

In October, MTV teamed up with *Seventeen* magazine to produce the reality show, *Miss Seventeen*. At first glance, the show seems to follow in the footsteps of other typical, competitive reality shows, like *The Apprentice*. But the longer you watch, the more you realize that the show has an additional bizarre element.

On *Miss Seventeen*, a group of young, pretty, ambitious and talented girls are picked to compete for a grand prize, which includes a summer internship at *Seventeen*, a modeling contract, and a college scholarship. Also, in each episode, two teams compete to best fulfill a *Seventeen*-related task (for example: creating a \$20-a-day girl's guide to New York City).

The show could be just another catty, overly sappy reality show, except for a strange twist. On *Miss Seventeen*, getting eliminated has *nothing* to do with the final prizes. On shows like *America's Next Top Model*, contestants are rejected because they prove unsuccessful at some aspect of modeling. But on *Miss Seventeen*, the winner isn't judged on her ability to be a competent intern or gorgeous model. Moreover, the girls who are responsible for best completing the *Seventeen*-related task are *still* eliminated.

So how are the contestants narrowed down? Well, the Editor-in-Chief of *Seventeen*, Atoosa Rubenstein, vaguely judges each girl's moral character and singularly decides who gets booted off

"The List." As the opening theme puts it, Atoosa separates "the mean girls from the *Seventeen* girls." And not just mean. If one of the girls happens to be lacking in enthusiasm, generally idiotic (Connie kept time on a broken clock), or willing to invade a guy's privacy to

songwriter perform), individually she made a fatal mistake. The ubiquitous hidden cameras caught her looking through the cute guitarist's bag, finding his cell phone, and copying down the number. Atoosa told her that the act was an invasion of privacy, wrong on

little too *Big Brother*, the inspirational messages *are* beneficial in helping Atoosa walk a fine line. Reality shows have become popular and profitable because of their cattiness, competition, pressure, and drama. But *Seventeen* wouldn't want to endorse a show with such obvious negative qualities. So the magazine mixes in positive messages about being "real," feeling comfortable with oneself, and respecting others.

This approach of integrating the good with the bad isn't new. In fact, Atoosa faces the same problem with the magazine itself. *Seventeen* magazine superficially appeals to the desire to look flawless and get attention. The cover of the newest makeover issue reads: "How to get your best body ever!" and then inside expounds: "Get a 2006 makeover: update your hair, transform your body, get noticed."

So how does Atoosa counteract this? She writes a letter to the readers with her own makeover trick: building self-confidence. Her message rings true, and it's a welcome contrast to the shallow self-improvement tricks one comes to expect from teen magazines.

However, when *Miss Seventeen* strives to integrate positive messages with profit-driven drama the effect is somewhat boring. The ethics lessons can get too corny and the drama is pretty muted. (One episode starts off with the girls composing a song about how much they love each other). What saves the show is the surprise element; with vague moral criteria, you never know who will get eliminated next. Overall, *Miss Seventeen* is worth a watch, but it is a show you probably won't get hooked on.



The final contestants of *Miss Seventeen* are shocked when the Editor-in-Chief of *Seventeen* announces that she is sending them to *Total Request Live*.

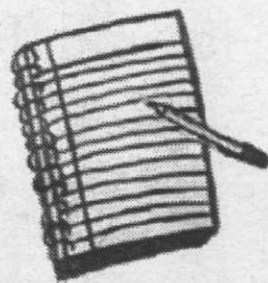
get his number, then she doesn't stand a chance.

Basically, Atoosa ends each episode with a real-life ethics lesson. She told the contestant Jill that even though her team was more successful at completing their task (helping an up-and-coming

both moral and legal grounds. While the message was commendable, the way Atoosa surreptitiously found out was a little creepy. Even as MTV's summary guide ominously puts it, "Atoosa sees all."

Although this judging might be a

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Gwen Stefani inspires Madonna's new album

by David Becker

Staff Writer

Gather around, boys and girls! When last we left off in our quest to find the real Madonna, we were left with three indecipherable clues. The first was a *Vogue* interview in which Madonna claimed she had "reinvented for the very last time" as a stay-at-home mom. The second was the truly heinous children's Kaballah guide, *Yakov and the Seven Thieves*. Third was a pink spandex leotard with the words "I'll be back" smeared in blood.

Now Madonna is back on the music scene with her new album, *Confessions on a Dance Floor*, which she released on Nov. 15.

Confessions reflects Madonna's desire for dance, delicious dandies, and dereliction of the decrees of disco. It's enough to fill the void that fans unmistakably felt even after *Erotica* was made.

It's honest, it's real, and it's unbelievably simple for a Madonna album. For example, in tracks like "Let It Will Be" and "How High" she sings

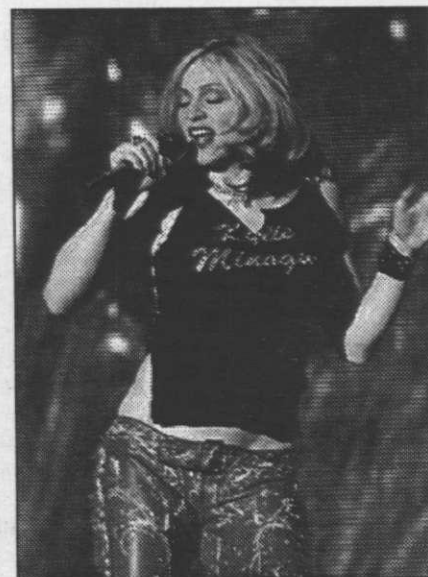
about fame and identity. It becomes clear that, in the end, the girl who introduced us to the cone-bra and the Britney Spears lip lock just wants to have fun.

There are several elements of *Confessions*, including songs "Hung Up" and "Sorry" that clearly emulate

Gwen Stefani, who paradoxically calls Madonna one of her influences. The tick-tocking and trapped gymnastics in "Hung Up" can be heard and seen in Stefani's "What You Waiting For."

It makes perfect sense that *Confessions on a Dance Floor* has been a hit. Who else could pull off such shameless self-promotion disguised as self-actualization disguised as club music but Dita Von Dance?

Recently, the album has catapulted Madonna to an interesting place in music history. She is currently tied with Elvis Presley for the greatest number of top ten hits ever. *Die Another Day* and *American Life* may have shown our Madonna on the rocks, but according to the statistics, her comeback means she receives the adoration of The King.



Madonna struts her stuff during the tour of her new album.

System of a Down completes dual-album package

BY Andy Werle
A&E Editor

System of a Down has long been one of the most popular bands, headlining world tours and releasing videos that have had heavy circulation on MTV, MTV2, VH1, and FUSE. Their brand new release *Hypnotize* is the precursor to *Mesmerize*, which came out earlier this year. The album is in classic System style, with impossibly fast guitar riffs and bass lines layered on superb drumming with often-absurd lyrics howled over all of it.

System of a Down, made up of vocalist Serj Tankian, guitarist/back-up singer Daron Malakian, bassist Shavo Odadjian, and drummer John Dolmayan—who are all of Armenian descent—is based in Los Angeles and has had large influence over the nu-metal scene. Tankian and Malakian write most of System's

music, and Malakian performs vocals in their two newest releases.

The band first gained large audience with the release of *Toxicity* in 2001, with their chart-topping hit "Aerials" leading the charge. Their next release, *Steal This Album!*, released in 2003, focused less on the social issues addressed on *Toxicity*. It instead fixed musical problems, and created a more melodic, albeit more wacky, album. After a two year hiatus, System of a Down came roaring back.

Advertisements for a new album plastered construction sites all over the city while radio stations salivated over the single released from System's "comeback" album of 2005, *Mesmerize*. The single that roared over the

airwaves, "B.Y.O.B.," was the first of two chart-topping hits off *Mesmerize*. The band told fans that the album was only half of what they had been working on in the studio. Although the material on *Mesmerize* was in classic System fashion, fans and critics eagerly awaited *Hypnotize* to finish off the the double album.

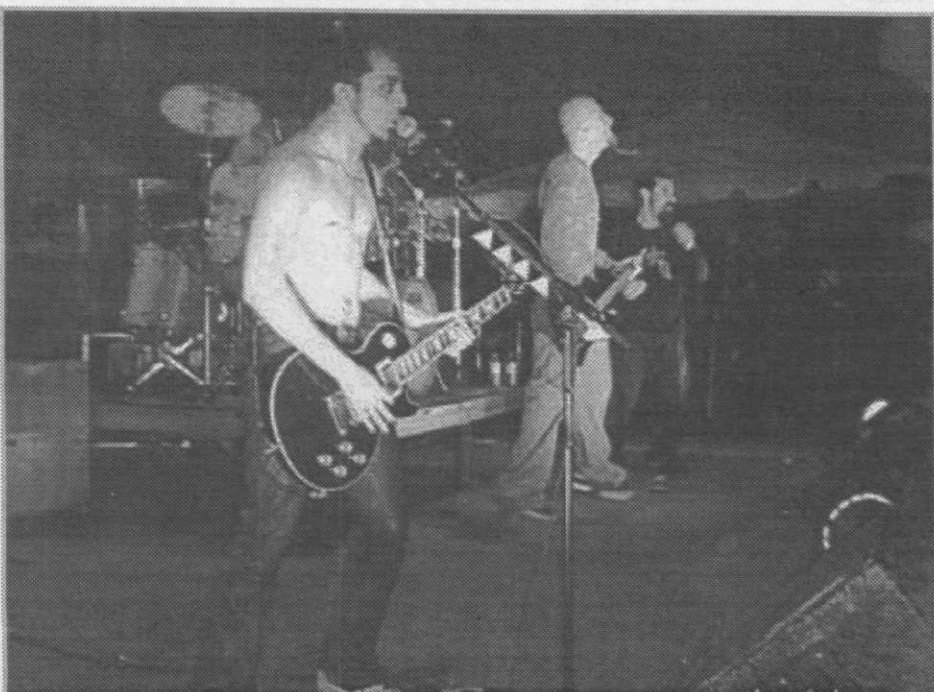
The release of *Hypnotize* on Nov.

Malakian has also added a large part of the vocals on *Mesmerize* and *Hypnotize*, sometimes even taking over lead duties on certain songs.

Unfortunately, the album starts off with one of its weaker tracks, "Attack." The unusual tune "Dreaming" follows and sets the tone for the rest of the album. "Kill Rock 'n' Roll," the third song, is one of the best songs on the

album, combining humor and a catchy chorus to create a true gem. The title track is another highlight of the album, and shows off Malakian's new vocal prowess. The fifth track, called "Stealing Society," starts off on a very high note, but the whole song is really quite average. One best songs on the album could be "Tentative," which contains perhaps one of the best vocal lines written by System.

The second half of the album is not as solid as the first, but it still includes some amazing tracks. The seventh track, "U-Fig," has an interesting chorus, but can be easily skipped without missing anything too impressive. Thankfully, the following track, "Holy Mountains," would sound perfectly in place in *Toxicity*. "Obscenity," mentioned previously, is a truly strange song, with Tankian hollering on about "banana terra-cotta pie," yet the whole thing is highly listenable. Another filler track, "She's Like Heroin," is exactly that, filler. The second-to-last track, "Lonely Day," features Malakian singing and playing a rare guitar solo. The final song is the emotional "Soldier Side," which, as already noted, is the precursor to the song of the same name on *Mesmerize*.



System of a Down, (l-r) Daron Malakian, Shavo Odadjian, and Serj Tankian with John Dolmayan playing drums, continues their streak of solid albums with the release of *Hypnotize*.

22 was preceded by the title track, which was released as a single. The last song on *Hypnotize*, "Soldier Side," is the beginning of the first song on *Mesmerize*, also called "Soldier Side." The jewel cases on the albums themselves are made to fit into one another to form a single album. As on *Mesmerize*, the songs on *Hypnotize* range from grim and serious subjects, such as "Tentative," which focuses on bombing attacks, to hilariously goofy songs like "Vicinity of Obscenity."

Hypnotize demonstrates the musical evolution of the band, especially in the drumming of Dolmayan. And, although Tankian contributed his own ideas to the songs' construction, Malakian has taken over writing songs for the band.

Guster performs at New York's Nokia Theater

BY Justin Samson
Contributing Writer

Guster's New York City performance included everything a loyal fan could hope for: large, rowdy, standing crowds; speakers that blew your ears out before the second number; energetic and enthusiastic band members with all the right jokes; and of course a large cult of fans who eagerly hum along to each song.

The Nov. 19 concert, held in the Nokia Theater, was my first time seeing a show at this venue. I didn't know what to expect from my favorite band, as I was also seeing them for the first time. When I walked into the large room in which they were playing, my friends and I were blown away by the noise and the crowd, which definitely exceeded the legal capacity for the room. We made our way up to the stage where we got to see our favorite three Guster members, Ryan Miller (guitar/vocals), Adam Gardner (guitar/bass/vocals), and Brian Rosenworcel (drums/percussion).

Throughout the show, people were singing and holding up their lighters. Even the 230 lb man standing next to me was getting into the spirit of the event. Some of the better songs played by the band during the concert included "Amsterdam," "Demons," "Fa Fa," "Happier," and songs from their upcoming album such as "Satellite," and "Dear Valentine."

Bassist Victor Wooten uses unparalleled talent to fill seats

BY Jordan Lewis
Contributing Writer

Victor Wooten, considered by many to be the world's finest bass guitar player, played a concert at Times Square's Nokia Theater, where he found it difficult to attract a diverse audience.

Victor Wooten's Soul Circus, made up of the five Wooten brothers, is facing the same problem that Jimi Hendrix faced forty years ago; he can't attract African Americans to his shows. Hendrix, a guitar legend, was notorious for bringing in a primarily white audience. Both musicians faced the problem of gathering a diverse audience due to political and social issues.

Racial tension and the Civil Rights movement defined the '60s. African American performers like Hendrix faced many difficulties in attracting a racially

diverse audience. The numerous protests and race riots that made headlines daily during the '60s in many cases frightened the African American populace from attending mixed shows. Hendrix, at the height of his popularity, would typically play "white" venues or clubs to which African Americans felt intimidated to go. As a result, Hendrix was harshly criticized by the African American community. Even the Black Panthers, a civil rights group of which Hendrix was supportive, criticized Hendrix for not playing to black audiences.

Victor Wooten faces different problems in today's society. The explosion of hip-hop and rap music onto the mainstream has turned many African Americans away from other forms of music. Victor Wooten, a jazz and funk musician, has been deemed "underground" by many African

American listeners.

Today, a reverse phenomenon has affected white music listeners. Whereas in the '60s, African American Hendrix fans felt intimidated to attend and follow the mainstream rock music, today, many white fans choose not to listen to mainstream hip-hop. They choose to look for other genres of music such as jazz and rock to satisfy their musical cravings.

Despite the lack of diversity in the audience, Victor Wooten and his four brothers, Adam Wooten on saxophone, Joseph Wooten on keyboards, Regi "Teacher" Wooten on guitar, and Roy Wooten ("Future Man") on various percussive instruments, continued to play a very impressive show.

Though Victor Wooten headlined the show, each member of the Wooten family played a vital role. Regi Wooten did an impressive version of Hendrix's

"Fire," Joseph Wooten took the stage by himself to perform a hilarious song, "Testosterone," Adam Wooten, the oldest member of the Wooten family, soloed with two saxophones at once, and Future Man's drum solos were nothing short of extraordinary.

For his own encore, Victor Wooten chose to play his signature piece entitled, "Me and My Bass Guitar." The encore, which lasted thirty minutes, featured Wooten's signature skill, slap bass, a style in which the bassist plays a number of notes in succession while slapping the strings with his thumb on his playing hand.

Wooten's speed and phrasing ability (the ability to make groups of notes sound like speech) caused everyone in attendance to walk out of the theater with their jaws dropped and their ears content.

PORT WASHINGTON CUISINE

Cafe Porto is a welcome addition to the restaurant scene

BY Dan Stewart
Contributing Writer

This past October, Cafe Porto opened in the Main Street storefront previously occupied by Best Deli. Cafe Porto, located at the corner of Main Street and Port Boulevard, a short walk from the Monfort steps, is of a mix between a cafe and a high-class pizzeria.

Porto's extensive menu includes pasta, panini, cakes and pastries, gelato, cafe beverages and, of course, pizza. Food-wise, not a fault can be found with Cafe Porto. The penne a la vodka is superb, as are the panini. The cannolis are as good as you'll find in any Italian bakery, and the zeppolis are slightly out of the ordinary, an unexplainable style many prefer. The mousse cake is delightfully rich and looks even better, presented on a plate drizzled with a number of colorful syrups.

If you haven't tried the hazelnut gelato yet, run in during your next free period to get a taste. Cafe Porto offers five gelato flavors at any time, rotating throughout the day among a wide variety. Adding some homemade whipped cream to top it off makes a wonderful afternoon treat.

As far as pizza, Porto offers a number of specialty slices ranging from chicken parmesan to baked

ziti. The price of a plain slice is nearly the lowest in town. Even better, Porto is offering a discount exclusively to Schreiber students. A plain slice costs only \$1.50 and other varieties cost only \$2. But Porto's convenient location makes any price worthwhile.

In contrast to its food, Porto has a

rather bleak beverage selection. For a non-coffee drinker, the choice is more or less Coke or Sprite. The "cafe" part of the restaurant is nothing more than a decked-out cappuccino machine that it seems the staff doesn't know how to use completely — a mocha is too complicated of an order.

Like beverages, some other aspects of Cafe Porto do not match up to its food. Its semi-modern decor is not very comforting, and a huge abstract painting feels imposing since it towers over the diners in the store. Cafe Porto's size also creates bottlenecks and restricts the number of tables available. This eliminates the possibility of using it as an after-school hangout unless the cafe is empty.

The service at Cafe Porto is mixed. Some have been quite upset with their treatment. Many have received rude comments and have found that some members of the staff are not willing to go out of their way for customers. Others, however, are very pleased with the staff and vouch that they have had only good experiences with the personnel.

"In my experience at Cafe Porto, the service was good," said senior Brandon Schneider. "They brought drinks and pizza over to our table, which is more than you'd normally expect at a pizzeria."

Overall, Cafe Porto is a good bet. The delicious pastas, cannolis, and gelato alone could compensate for any of its shortcomings. If good food is what you're looking for, Cafe Porto is definitely worth a visit; maybe even a few times per week.



Andy Werle

The new Italian restaurant, Cafe Porto, presents a wide array of pizzas. Porto offers an extensive menu of high quality pizza and other foods.

Schreiber students showcase their talent at open-mic night

BY Willa Jones
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 17, Dvora Troshane opened up her "paint your own pottery" studio, simply called Dvora's, to host an open mic night.

Many Schreiber students who have either formed a band, or have practiced singing and playing an instrument by themselves were given a great opportunity to perform for their friends and show off their music.

"I love to listen to live music, and since I feel that the community has really welcomed my store, I thought it'd be great to give back to the community and have a safe and fun place for teenagers to come and listen to music," said Troshane.

Senior Kleio Kolitsopoulos presented the idea of an open mic night to Troshane one day when she walked in the store with her guitar. She also played a big role in organizing the event and even performed her own original songs to a captivated audience.

The store created a comfortable and laid-back atmosphere for kids to perform. They were able to relax on a Saturday night and listen to young talented singers, guitarists, and song writers.

"I loved the atmosphere since most of the people there were kids from our high school," said Kolitsopoulos.

About four different groups and soloists performed, each with very impressive music. People casually

flowed in the store to listen to people perform, eat from the various snacks laid out, make necklaces, or paint their own pottery. So many people showed up for the event that some were sitting on the floor.

Some attendees found it somewhat ironic to listen to loud, distorted guitars surrounded by pottery. Occasionally, the shelves shook so much that the pottery could be heard shaking.

Unlike other concerts for high school students, no audition of any kind was required. Whoever wanted to sing or play could do so. One could simply walk up to the stage and create his or her act on the spot.

"I liked how anyone was allowed to perform, and I also liked hearing different kinds of music from different people," said sophomore Erica Fagelman, who attended open mic night to watch her friends perform.

Sophomore Ilana Broad, who beautifully sang five songs she wrote herself, said she loved performing at Dvora's.

"Since singing is my hobby, I really enjoyed performing at Dvora's," said Broad. "It was cool how my friends were able to hear me sing while they relaxed, ate snacks and painted."

Open mic night provided students with a way to spend a night listening to different kinds of music played by fellow Schreiber students. At the same time, it provided a forum for any musician to play or sing in front of a crowd in a relaxed environment.

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Boys varsity hangs tough, but can't pull off win

Port falls in season opener against smaller Division team

BY Jus Chadha
Sports Editor

The boys varsity basketball team lost its season opener away at Levittown-Division in a nail-biter. With weeks of training, conditioning, and devising plays, Port entered the game with an optimistic outlook, having eight seniors, all of whom have played at least one season at the varsity level.

From the opening tip off, Port dominated the game on Dec. 13, but lost 63-62.

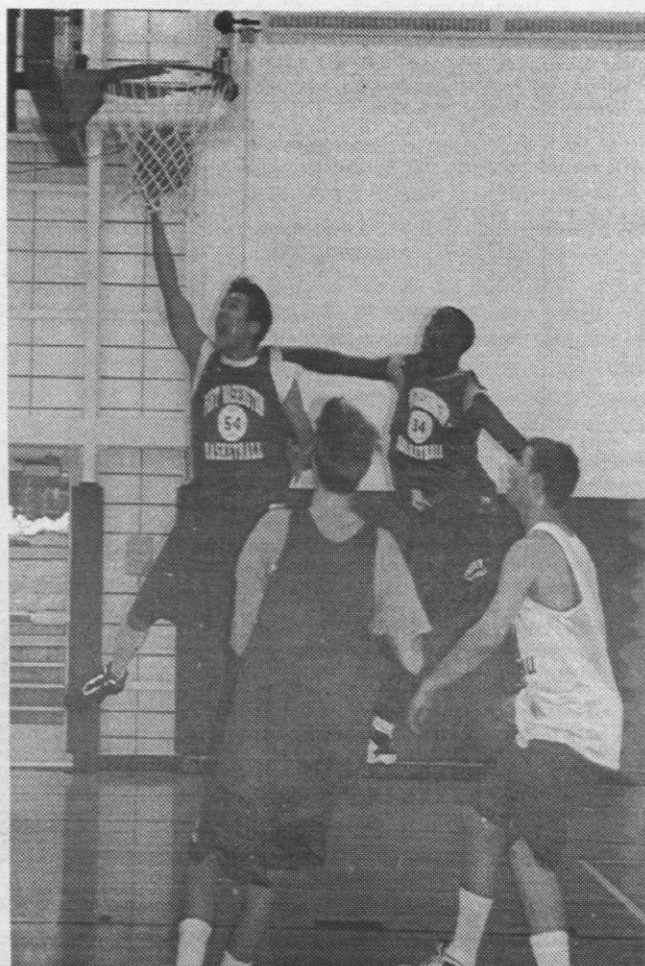
"We came at them hard, and fought for every opportunity," said senior Dan Koh. "Plus, we were physically bigger than the other team. We were able to capitalize all throughout the game over this mismatch."

Port's physical presence was felt early, as they attacked the net and stayed in control of the rebound category. They also controlled the paint, which gave them a lot of opportunities to score.

In the first quarter alone, Koh led the team with six points, and senior Tom McDonough added four.

At that point, seniors Bobby Candela and Jamal Parchment moved the ball around, creating opportunities to score. Candela added a layup, cutting through the defense and showing the versatility of the offense. By the end of the first half the score was 31-31.

"It was extremely competitive coming into the half. It's tough because Division



Liz Corkett

Senior Dan Koh leaps to the basket looking to score. Senior Jamal Parchment, senior Andrew Preston, and sophomore Chris Ryder look on in anticipation as the lay up is attempted.

was making every shot, especially the three pointers. I feel that we should have had a bigger lead. We still are making some careless errors," said Parchment.

In the third quarter, Division slowly built an eight point lead, hitting shots from all over the court, including deadly three pointers.

To counter, Port hit its first three pointer, coming from Parchment who began to heat up during the quarter. On the floor, Port stayed strong on defense and capitalized on defensive steals from Koh, Parchment, and Preston. During the quarter, Preston added two layups, and McDonough also played aggressively adding four points in the paint and grabbing defensive rebounds.

Coming into the fourth quarter, both teams were looking confident. The teams went shot for shot, but

Division still held the lead. However, later in the fourth Port started to heat up. The team came up with many key offensive rebounds, especially from Candela. These plays gave Port the luxury of extra chances to score.

Furthermore, Parchment added 12 points in the fourth alone, as his point total moved to a team high of 26.

He also went seven for eight at the free-throw line, giving Port easy points and keeping them in the game.

"I took the game into my hands. I felt at the time, I could take the defenders, they couldn't guard me. So I went for my shots and succeeded," said Parchment.

To top it all off, Parchment used his crossover and fought his way past the defenders to drain a clutch lay up, bringing Port within one point.

"It was a great feeling. I was pumped and everyone fed off the energy," added Parchment.

With six seconds left, Port devised a play around Preston, but the ball rolled around the rim and dropped out, causing a heartbreaking loss.

"It's not a good feeling. I know I didn't lose the game for us, but I didn't win it for us either," said Preston. "It would have been a good feeling to get the season started off right with a victory."

Off the bench, sophomore David Lee showed promising talent, hitting three shots from the field and totaling six points from the floor. Lee, along with sophomore Christopher Ryder, have contributed off the bench, shedding light on impressive years to come.

Varsity wrestling starts off season shakily

Success against MacArthur does not carry over

BY John Forman
Staff Writer

The wrestling team takes to the mats this season looking to improve after last year's sub-par finish. With two matches in the books for both the varsity and junior varsity teams, the Vikings look forward to getting better and earning victories.

"We've got a young team, but our youth hasn't held us back from taking positive steps," said Coach Anthony Schettino. "Our young nucleus is already improving, and as we gain experience, the team will turn around, hopefully by the end of the season."

The varsity squad had its first match of the season against a shaky MacArthur team. On the strength of dominant performances by seniors Andrew Sideris and Paul Stalnaker, as well as junior Travis Baugher and sophomore John Froccaro, Schreiber earned a victory.

"Paul Stalnaker, Travis Baugher, and Johnny Froccaro have been impressive this season," said coach Walsh. "They have stepped up and helped lead the team by example."

Varsity was tested in its second match on Dec. 13, facing Hicksville. Unlike in their match against MacArthur, Schreiber was put against the ropes by a strong opponent, and crumbled under the pressure.

The team lost in an unimpressive 50-21 blowout.

"We have a young team, but our continual hard work should reflect in our record at the end of the season," said junior Jason Rau.

Not to be lost in Schreiber's defeat is the success of the four varsity wrestlers who earned a win toward their personal records.

Sideris won the 135 pound weight class by pinning his opponent. Baugher won the 112 pound weight class by a score of 8-1.

Rau gave Port the victory in the 171 pound class, taking his opponent down with a pin. Freshman Jeff Froccaro had the team's final victory, winning the 152 pound weight class by a pin.

The team's loss was not helped by the fact that crucial team members are sitting out with injuries.

Senior captain Paul Stalnaker and juniors Anthony Corbo and James Froccaro have seen less action this year because they are nagged by ailments. Corbo is recovering from a knee injury he sustained during the football season.

"We have the pieces in place to have a really successful season," said Corbo. "As long as everyone works hard at practice, we have the level of talent necessary to have a good record and do something in the playoffs. Injuries should not keep us from achieving our goals."

Youth has been a point of emphasis for the team. Coach Schettino expressed his confidence that he could improve the junior varsity wrestlers, and continue to work with the varsity squad.

The lack of veteran leadership has, however, been evident during the early part of the season. Seniors Rishi Nanda, Andrew Sideris, and Paul Stalnaker have stepped up, but the experience of the team has been lacking.

Like the varsity team, junior varsity has a record of 1-1, beating Jericho and losing to Hicksville.

"We have a lot of new guys and underclassmen that don't have too much experience wrestling at this level," said junior Eric Alvayero. "We will have to teach them the basics, and work up to more complex moves. We've got to make sure that everyone, especially the young guys, keeps up with their conditioning."

The team looks to get ready for their next match against Plainview-JFK, which will be at home on Jan. 4.

The team hopes to rebound after its tough loss against Hicksville. Everyone seems to be relying on seniors Sideris and Stalnaker to provide veteran leadership.

"The team has shown me something in our first two matches," said Coach Schettino, "but we should certainly be able to improve on our .500 record."

Varsity Wrestling

MacArthur	W
Hicksville	L

Upcoming Matches

Westbury	12/21
Plainview-JFK	1/4
Herricks	1/5
Lawrence	1/11
U.S. Central	1/13
South Side	1/17
Great Neck South	1/20
Double Duel	1/27

Athletes of the Month

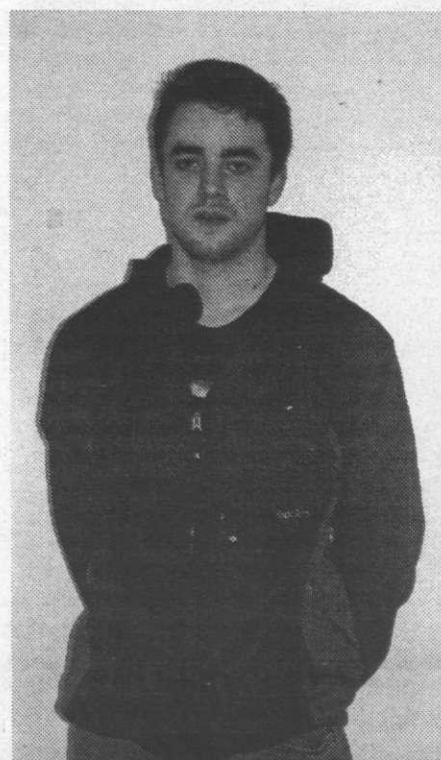
Mike Horvilleur Sarah "Bea" Weiss

by Lane Mergler
Staff Writer

Junior Mike Horvilleur started wrestling in seventh grade and has been wrestling ever since.

"I like [wrestling] a lot. It's really intense and fun," said Horvilleur.

Ever since he began wrestling, Horvilleur has spent much of his free time training for matches. When he



Liz Corkett

was in seventh grade, he often practiced with his brother.

Until last year, he also trained himself by running and working out, however, last year Horvilleur's methods of training changed. He still runs and works out, but he has also been practicing jujitsu, a form of Japanese weaponless martial arts, as his main form of training.

Despite a slow start of 1-2, Horvilleur hopes to quickly turn his season around and go to the counties this year.

Making the counties is also his goal for next year, but he hopes to finish with an even better record. If he can reach such a level of success, it is possible that he will continue wrestling in college.

"I've never really considered wrestling in college," said Horvilleur. "Perhaps if I improve enough, then I would think about wrestling in college seriously."

Wrestling in college may be a difficult feat to accomplish, but it seems that Horvilleur is determined to reach that level. If he continues to practice jujitsu along with his other training methods, the possibility becomes more and more realistic.

Not only is Horvilleur a skilled wrestler, but he also helps lead the team.

"Mike is a very hard worker," said Coach Anthony Schettino. "He's dedicated and very determined. His hard work helps the team out a lot and [he] is very competitive."

by Jeremy Gurewitz
Contributing Writer

Every team has a person that is the heart and soul of the squad. Senior Sarah Weiss has been that person on every team with which she has played. Throughout her varsity sports career she has demonstrated her excellent leadership and exceptional skill in not one but three sports at the varsity level.

A two-year varsity soccer player, she was the captain of the team and a key midfielder in the team's undefeated 2004 regular season, as well as in its successful season this year, which ended in the playoffs.

Not limited to one sport, she will be playing her second year on varsity basketball and is the captain of this team as well.

To finish off her intense sports year, Weiss will play lacrosse for the third year, not including when she was moved up from JV for the playoffs as a freshman. She is considered one of the team's top midfielders and is looking forward to leading her team back to the playoffs.

Weiss has been commended off the field for her talent in all of her sports. She has been awarded the Coach's Award for varsity soccer, JV basketball, and varsity basketball. In lacrosse she was recognized last year

as an All-Conference athlete.

Not only is Weiss a great athlete, she has won the varsity soccer Scholar Athlete award, as well as the Tyler Rauzon Scholarship, which is awarded to the person who has a "demonstrated love and desire for the game, a strong work ethic on the field and off, and exemplary character, sportsmanship, and sense of team play." This describes Weiss perfectly. Her work ethic on the field is only matched by her character off of it.

"I love the competitive drive of sports, and the rush I get during games," said Weiss. "Playing sports has provided me with my best friendships throughout high school, and it is overall just the most fun and rewarding activity that I have taken part in."



David Baer

JV girls start off 2-1

by Myles Potters
Staff Writer

Coach Elizabeth Hutchinson and the girl's junior varsity basketball team began their quest to build off of last year's successful season. Under the leadership of Coach Hutchinson the team finished with a 13-1 record in 2004-2005.

"The team has a positive outlook on the season and I think we are going to do really well," said sophomore Brooke Goodspeed.

This year the team will look to sophomores Andrea Constantine and Christine Gerard to step up and provide leadership needed to be as successful as last year. Thus far, the team has competed in several scrimmages and one tournament for the 2005-2006 season, resulting in a 2-1 record.

The one tournament the team took part in was in Freeport from Dec. 1-3. The team was defeated in its first game, losing in the opening round against Elmont. The team rebounded following the loss, and went on to win its second game in the consolation round versus Manhasset.

In order to prepare for their regular season opener on Dec. 14 at Jericho, the girls have played in several exhibition games against other schools. The girls' effort and determination in these scrimmages paid off as the team won its first regular season game, defeating Jericho High School by a score of 57-49.

"In the beginning of the season, our communication was a bit off, and we weren't performing to our full potential," said sophomore Janeen Featherstone. "As the season progressed, we started to bond and now we are a much tighter team. We are starting to get along very well and I think it will affect the way that we play on the court."

The team looks to concentrate during practices. Coach Hutchinson has pinpointed specific areas where the team needs to improve. The team focuses mostly on defense, and also spends time practicing basketball fundamentals.

Coach Hutchinson looks to build a strong foundation for her players to improve individually and collectively. She hopes to not only achieve success this season, but also to prepare her girls for the varsity level.

The team is very young. Coach Hutchinson recognizes this and adjusts accordingly. Unlike in her other seasons as the junior varsity coach, Coach Hutchinson has had to refocus her goals to take into account the team's youth.

"Right now, we're trying to develop the 'team' concept," said Coach Hutchinson. "We're a group of individuals trying to work as a team."

The main goal of the team this year is to raise the level of play from that of young girls to the ability of mature basketball players. The team is looking forward to a successful season and a winning record.

out of bounds

by David Becker
Staff Writer

Track is *tres chic*! Where were you Dec. 22? Were you at the Nassau Coaches invitational at the New York City Armory? Of course not, it's an *invitational*; you have to be *invited*. And so, the hottest invitation of winter (way more over-booked than Donatella's Christmas party and more talked about than *Vanity Fair's* Oscar Party) was extended to Schreiber's own girls track team.

They are *the* girls, you know! Everyone knows who *they* are, and *everyone* wants to know them. When any of the girls *touch* a carbohydrate, everyone wants to share the calories! Their pasta parties are, like, *perfect*. Those girls are, like, *genetically perfect*. I hope they all have bratty children.

When junior Marissa Fox entered the room with Tarryn Fisher, the red sea absolutely parted. Fisher, Fox, and sophomores Julia Catalano and Astrid Firland-Schill were later caught on camera running the distance medley relay. Close sources observed as Ms. Fox ran 1200 meters, followed by Ms. Catalano who ran 400 meters. Apparently, Fisher ran 800 meters, said the source, and the Ms. Firland-Schill sensation ran 1600 meters.

Firland-Schill made a point of being noticed in a slinky number that was specially designed for her by Emilia

Costa. The sophomore track-star came onto the scene again during the 1000 meter dash. She pulled sixth placed with three minutes and 33.5 seconds.

A team of Port shot-putters pulled tenth in a team relay! Junior Nikki Pond was in attendance, of course, at the shot-put win, alongside Carolyn Voelker, who brought a smile to her face. "I'm glad because winter track really is the beginning of the season for me!" Of course the famed style icon was decked out in her pet brand, Under Armor.

Junior Vicki Kasselmann performed extraordinarily in the fifty-five meter hurdles sprint. Kasselmann's 10.9 second time awarded her with a fourth place medal, which she was ecstatic about.

It was no surprise to the team, though, when they did not place in the pole vaulting exercises of the day. It is no secret that the Port Washington Board of Education has not been enamored with the idea of purchasing the oversize batons.

Of course in the 4 x 400 meter freshman relay, Port came in sixth with an impressive time of four minutes and 55.8 seconds. It's no wonder that many of the girls who are on the girls track team have also requested brochures to David Becker's exclusive Varsity High Five team.

We wish them the best of luck as they officially begin their season on Dec. 22 at the Friendship Games.

CALLING THE SHOTS

Sports Editorial

Have the New York faithful jumped the gun? *Jets fans have lost interest in an injury plagued 3-11 squad*

by Brett Friedman
Managing Editor

Take a break, sports fans, from your crazy ongoing controversies over steroids and childlike behavior to check out one of the more compelling debates taking place at the professional sports level. Just like a sports fan must demonstrate intensity and compassion in his behavior, he must also be a loyal supporter of "his team." Loyalty, unfortunately, is something that the majority of New York Jets fans do not possess this football season.

Rowdy, harsh, and unforgiving New York football fans attending the games at the Meadowlands are a given. The fans' opinions changing each week based on the personal performance of the players and the overall performance of the team is inevitable as well. However, a fan's loyalty to "his team" is something that should be absolutely unwavering.

"The greater the loyalty of a group toward the group, the greater the motivation among the members to achieve the goals of the group, and the greater the probability that the group will achieve its goals," said Rensis Likert, a famous psychologist of New York University. Although this quote would normally be applied to the question of loyalty among the players in the locker room, the fans and home field advantage are also very commonly described as a team's advantage over another, or even a secret weapon. Therefore, the loyalty and support of the fans is the one aspect of a team's game that it needs in order to come away with the "W."

After the 14-12 win against the unproven yet resilient Bucs team in week five, the New York Jets' hopes to repeat its trip to the playoffs grew slimmer. The Jets were left with a crippled team, no quarterback, an injured running back, and enough injuries to make any GM lose his hair, but the team and its coach, Herman Edwards, maintained a determined morale. However, what became very evident was that fans that previously heralded themselves as "diehard" or "hardcore" Jets enthusiasts were suddenly at a loss as to how to respond to this dismal season. The easier road to follow for a Jets fan this year included a weekly routine of sitting down on the couch and merely rooting for the Jets' opposition. Why would a Jets fan root for the opposing competitor? That sounds downright treacherous.

The popular explanation for this explosion in the fad of disloyalty is that the more games the Jets lose this season, the more likely they are to draft the 2005 Heisman Trophy winning Reggie Bush in next year's draft. Well I've got news for all of you Reggie hopefuls; there is more than one team

with a worse record than the Big Green at this point in the season, one of which happens to be the absolutely helpless Houston Texans, sitting in the standings' cellar with a record of 1-13.

Not to go off on a tangent here, but this Texans team has, literally two respectable players: running back Dominick Davis and wide receiver Andre Johnson. Aside from their back and wide out, Houston boasts impressively nauseating numbers such as giving up thirteen more points than they score per game. But don't worry, that's only an average, folks. The bottom line here is that there is no team that is going to lose to the sorry Texans squad.

Regardless of who Jets fans may want to see suit up in the white and green for the 2006-2007 season, there is no reason to ruthlessly rip on the players currently on the team. The woes that the organization has experienced this season has translated into criticism of the players, especially from the press.

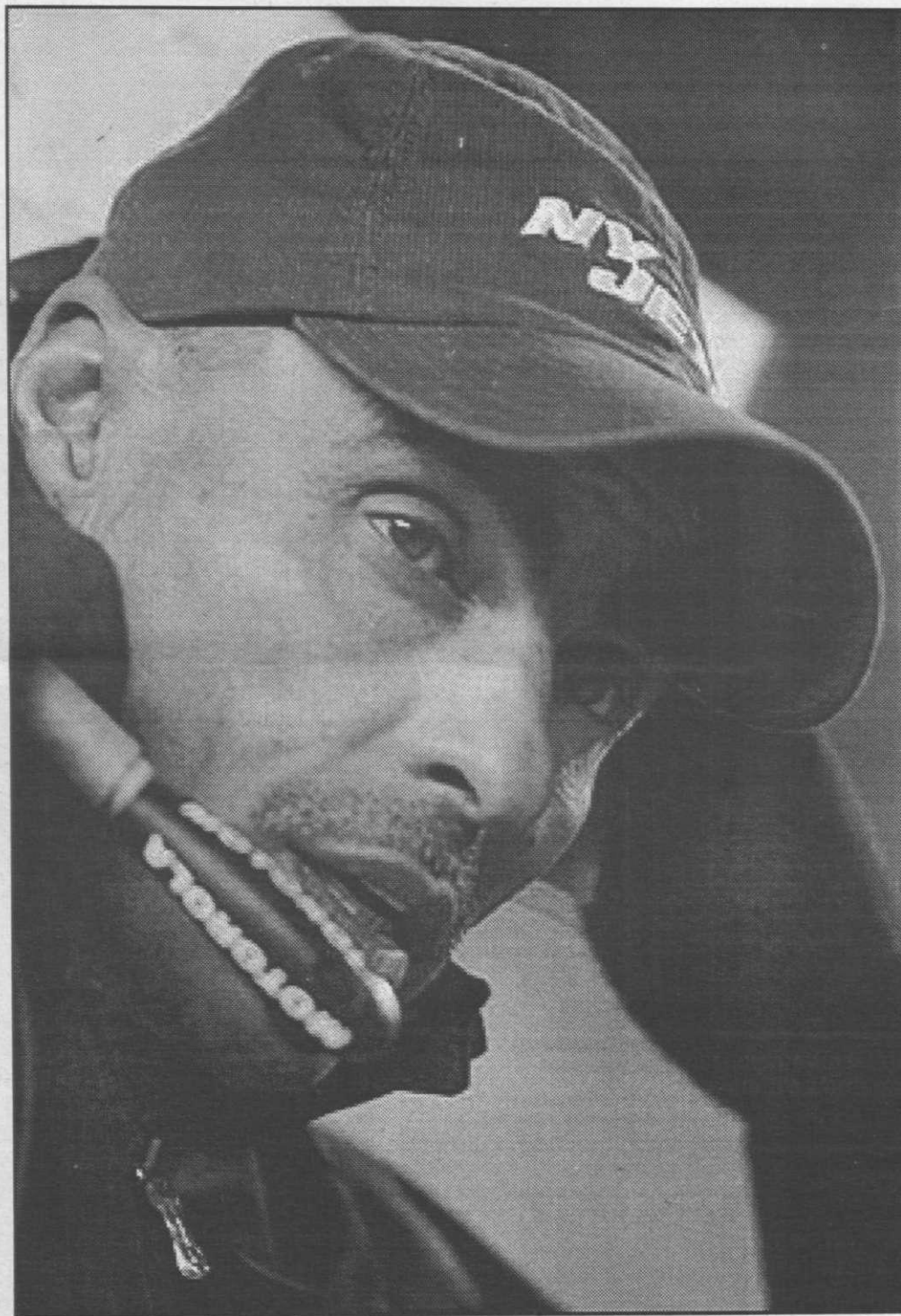
Future Hall of Fame running back Curtis Martin would be a perfect example of the type of Jets player that has seen more scornful newspaper clippings than touches on the field this season. I found it outrageous to hear from numerous peers that "Curtis is washed up" or "I think it's time the Jets looked to the future for their backfield presence." I don't think so. Curtis Martin is and will return next year as the Jets' backfield presence, despite ending his 2005 season short due to knee surgery. To Martin's credit, this is the first time in seven years that he will miss a game. For goodness sake, the man won the rushing title less than one year ago. He is the fourth leading rusher of all time. Most importantly, for almost eight years, Martin has been the backbone of his team's offense. He has been a leader by example and has managed to keep his mouth shut as well; something that many players of his caliber have not been able to do over the years.

If the nagging injuries that Martin has attempted to play through for the betterment of the team is not a good enough justification for his relative lack of performance this year, then we can always refer back to the vast amount of injuries surrounding him. Kevin Mawae, the Jets' six time pro bowler is out for the season. The Jets' best

blocking tight end, Chris Baker, is out for the season, as well as the Jets' two first string quarterbacks. Needless to say, Curtis Martin was not dealt such a favorable hand during the '05-'06 football season. Nobody, not even the godly Reginald Bush could have rushed for a notable number of yards with such a depleted offense as the Jets'.

Many aspects of the New York Jets' plan for this season have gone utterly wrong and, as a result, have brought out the weaknesses of the fans sitting in the stadium in New Jersey. Fröntrunners? Perhaps. Unfaithful? For sure. The next time you consider throwing away your loyalty to a professional sports

team, or anything in life for that matter, just envision Fireman Eddie on top of someone's shoulders in his retro Jets jersey and Jets logo fireman's hat in unthinkable and unbearable weather, screaming to his fellow bleacher creatures "J-E-T-S, Jets, Jets, Jets," with an undying passion until his lungs implode. Think about that stimulating vision before you decide to abandon your favorite players, your team, and what has perhaps become as close to you as your family. After that, if you can come back to me and explain yourself without bumbling over your own fickle words, then maybe I'll discuss Reggie Bush with you.



New York Jets' Head Coach Herman Edwards walks the sidelines at the Meadowlands during a game of what has been a disappointing season.

VIKING SPORTS

Late-game domination earns Port first 'W'

BY David Baer
Sports Editor

In a game that started out close and seemed to remain tight throughout, the Lady Vikings managed to explode for twenty-eight of their sixty-two points in the fourth quarter of their season opener at home against Jericho High School. Despite entering the fourth quarter with a mere eight-point lead, which was their largest of the game up to that moment, Port dominated and won 62-36.

"This game was our first real test," said junior Erin Betsch. "Our opponent was quick, and after a rough start, we really came out and left it all on the court."

During their non-league match-up with Jericho on Dec. 14, Port Washington controlled all aspects of the game. The only time Port was not winning was with one minute, twenty-seven seconds remaining in the first half; that lead lasted a dismal seven seconds.

Although Port's offense put on a show against Jericho, their defense was their consistent key to success throughout the game, allowing less than ten points in three of the four quarters. The Lady Vikings only allowed six points in the first quarter while putting up only twelve.

The second quarter was closer as Port entered the half with a 24-19 lead. Sophomore Jackie Mezzetta was Port's leading scorer at the half with seven.

Jericho was led by junior Jamie Bernstein, who had six points at the break. Bernstein would finish with a game-high nineteen points.

Despite getting in the bonus with six minutes and thirteen seconds left to play in the second quarter, Port put up only another twelve points, while Jericho managed to take advantage of the Lady Vikings' aggressive play, which sent them to the line often.

The physical game between the Jayhawks and Lady Vikings resulted in a total of forty-five fouls.

The two teams shot a combined 57 percent from the free-throw line, as Port shot 22 of 37, and Jericho 9 of 17.

Senior co-captain Sarah Weiss led the team in shooting percentage and points from the free-throw line, shooting 6-6. Senior co-captain Marina Pedisich led the team with her ten attempts from the line. She scored on half of them while she and Weiss combined for seventeen points in the game.

After a close third quarter, Port Washington began the fourth quarter with an eight-point lead.

"We had a small lead throughout the entire game," said Weiss. "We really wanted to win this one. We just kept fighting and fighting, going after the ball. And with a combination of our shots beginning to fall and our coaches pushing and pushing us; we were able to really keep up the intensity throughout the final quarter."

"We came out in our first game with the intensity and team unity we were looking for during preseason," said junior Sam Reichenbach. "We should have a very competitive season."

This intensity, which seemed to be



Senior co-captain Sarah Weiss 'drives to the hole' while splitting two Jericho defenders. Weiss dropped ten points in the Lady Vikings season opener. Weiss also went 6-6 from the 'charity stripe.'

one of the more crucial factors in Port's victory, also happens to be "the main transitional step in moving from the junior varsity level to the varsity level," said junior Michelle Doscas.

"However, the basic skills and tempo are pretty much the same," Doscas added. "In changing from JV to varsity, you have to adapt to the different and tougher challenges that you face, but the team is really unified and is helping us newcomers to become part of the team very quickly."

Doscas is one of only three new additions to the varsity squad from last year's JV team. Betsch and junior Emlyn Diakow are the others.

"Overall, we played flat-out awesome," said Weiss. "Everyone hustled, pushed the ball up-court, and we kept fighting relentlessly and intensely throughout the entire game. We moved the ball well, and we utilized the plays we made in practice, and used them well."

The Lady Vikings started their season in search of a playoff berth, something that they fell short of the last two seasons. "Everyone was just so pumped up for this game," said Weiss.

Over the winter break, the Lady Vikings will be competing in the KSA Holiday Basketball Tournament in Orlando, Florida, at the Wide World of Sports Complex in Disney World.

"We will be a playoff team in 2006. No doubt," Coach Stephanie Joannon had boldly stated toward the end of the 2004-2005 season. With a twenty-six point win under their belt, Port is one step closer to achieving a long-desired goal.



Junior Erin Betsch falls to the ground while trying to rip the ball out of the arms of a Jericho forward.

All Photos by David Baer