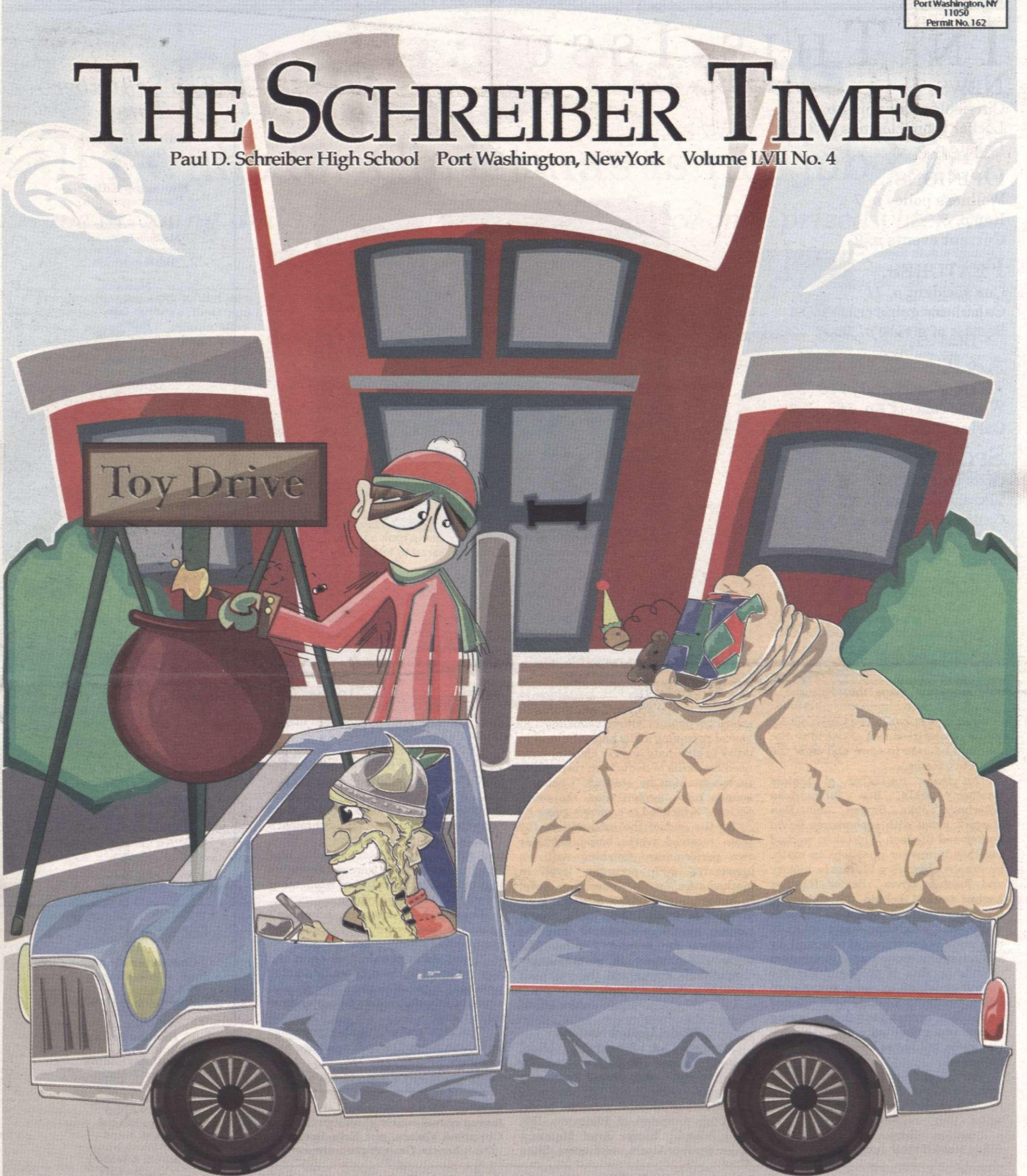


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THE SCHREIBER TIMES

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



**Schreiber Debate
Dominates
News**



**Winter Concert
Wows Audience
A&E**

**Addressing Drunk Driving
Features
Basketball Drops Conference
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For her AP Photo assignment, Ally Davis took a photograph of a woman whose eyes appeared to tell a story.

NEWS BRIEFS

It's Academic

"Auk, auk, auk!" So opened the 2006 Knowledge Master Open Quizbowl. On Dec. 1, Schreiber's It's Academic! team participated in a two-hour long 200 question trivia game that featured a talking auk giving humorous interludes between questions. The inter-school online competition was saved to a disc that will be used to score and rank the respective teams.

The team, consisting of seniors Heather Larkin, Ben Jaffe, Lisa Schechner, Jake Singer, and Dan Stewart, along with sophomores David Becker and Stephen Whittaker, worked together to answer questions in math, geography, chemistry, literature, history and "useless trivia." Senior Heather Larkin worked behind the computer, entering in the team's answers whenever a conclusion was reached. A maximum of five points were earned for answering questions correctly in seven seconds or less. If the team did not answer questions in seven seconds, an additional thirty seconds were allowed to obtain a correct answer. If a wrong answer was submitted, a second chance was given, but not as many points could be earned.

The team members were graced with "auk"-ward compliments such as "auk-cellent!" and "auk-ceptional!" when they responded correctly to a question. Schechner and Singer demonstrated their commendable math

skills by solving complex problems in their heads. Becker proved to be well-read when he answered questions regarding Hans Christian Anderson and Edna Saint Vincent Millay. The majority of the questions pertained to knowledge not acquired in the high school curriculum. Often, deduction and logical reasoning skills had to be used in order to eliminate answer choices. Jaffe used his skills of deduction, responding to one question by stating, "Choice B sounds more foreign than the other options," which led to a correct guess.

At the end of the competition, the team received scores based on their own performance, finishing with an impressive 90% accuracy level in mathematics, a 75% accuracy level in biology, and a 100% accuracy level in "useless trivia." Schreiber's overall placing in the competition will not be known for several months. The team will compete in several other competitions throughout the year and hopes to continue its success.

~Alex Mogul

Model United Nations

Members of Schreiber's Model United Nations Club competed for the first time and proved extremely successful. On Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9, the Model UN Club competed at Plainview JFK High School. Senior Ariel Malekan, junior Steven Alpert, sophomore Shan

Sitafalwalla, and freshmen Sam Rosenberg and Morgan Shapiro, acted as ambassadors to various mock United Nations committees. To be successful, delegates must possess knowledge of the countries they have been assigned to represent, be able to debate their positions well and demonstrate strong leadership.

The team, along with its adviser, Mr. Craig Medico, is trying to restart the club after it was largely inactive last year. At the start of the competition, it seemed that the odds were against Schreiber. Everyone on Schreiber's team was competing for the first time, and team members were only notified which country they were representing just before the competition, while other teams had weeks to prepare.

Despite these obstacles, Schreiber's delegates performed very well, and Shapiro was awarded Best Delegate.

"I was really proud of my team and how we acted in the debates," said club president Ariel Malekan. "We showed superior knowledge over delegates from other teams."

The club meets Tuesday mornings at 7:30 in room 219 and welcomes new members.

~Stefan Muller

Errata: "A show about the 1920s leaves crowd roaring" was written by Christina Vlahos, not Erin Szulman. The Schreiber Times regrets the error.

The Schreiber Times

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Teachers work overtime to put Schreiber on the map

Faculty crosses the Rubicon with new curriculum mapping technology

BY Allison Rosenberg

Staff Assistant

While early dismissals and school closings are always welcomed with open arms by Schreiber students, it is not always understood why we are deserving of such a serendipitous event. On Wed., Nov. 29, students were dismissed early as teachers sat down at their computers to begin a district-wide project: curriculum mapping.

"We want to be able to see the curriculum," said Assistant Principal Brad Fitzgerald. In order for this to be possible, teachers have started transcribing the curricula of the courses they teach, denoting each topic and unit covered during the semester or year. This will not only allow administrators to see if classes meet expectations and state guidelines, but it also creates an accessible database for students, teachers, and parents to use.

"I think this will be an opportunity to get our hands around this curriculum to build on its strength, to look for ways to improve on instruction," said Mr. Fitzgerald.

On that Wednesday, two trainers flew in from Portland, Oregon, and instructed administrators, department chairs, and teachers in using the Rubicon Atlas mapping program. Teachers include hyperlinks, diagrams, and pictures in their course curricula. The final product will be posted on the Internet.

"Creating a curriculum map, while it may be a lot of work, has major advantages," said Mr. Fitzgerald. Teachers will have easy access to every course curriculum in the district and will be able to refer to the course content of subjects with relative ease.

Such access, for example, will help the ESL and Special Education departments in creating their own curricula by building on what is being taught in other classes.

A complete outline will also make it easier for teachers to reform their curricula to improve student performance on standardized tests. When teachers receive score reports, they will be able to

"I think this will be an opportunity to get our hands around this curriculum to build on its strength, to look for ways to improve on instruction," said Mr. Fitzgerald.

identify sections students scored poorly on and check corresponding topics on their curriculum map, which can then be expanded or altered. Teachers, therefore, must be accurate in what they include in their curriculum maps, denoting what is actually taught, not what they think should be taught. The aim is to keep the staff informed about what is being taught in order to provide a more comprehensive education.

In reviewing the curricula, the school has to make sure it complies with national and state guidelines, which, according to Mr. Fitzgerald, is not a serious concern. State standards

are extremely broad, and only require syllabi for Regents-based courses.

"Competitive school districts go way beyond," said Mr. Fitzgerald.

The mapping process has really just begun. "We're going to be doing this for a couple of years, I presume," said Mr. Fitzgerald. There will be more mapping sessions this year, probably causing another early dismissal. The teachers will also be detailing their curricula on their own.

English teacher Mr. Corey Block, for example, has finished mapping his first semester classes—he worked on Creative Writing with Mr. Joseph Corbo and Freshman Studies with a few other teachers—and will start working on his second semester schedule.

"It's a really nice technological tool to have to allow us to take a peek at what should be going on at other levels so we can build on it," said Mr. Block.

Specifically, he feels that the English department needs to communicate more with Weber. Knowing Weber's curriculum would help to prevent repeating books in the middle and high school. Also, it would allow Schreiber teachers to know what skills incoming freshmen have been taught and what skills need to be built upon.

Once the database is completed, Mr. Block doesn't think he will refer to it

that much—perhaps if he was switching to teach a different class or sorting out a problem with Weber's English department—but he thinks it will be worth the effort in the end.

Science teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty disagrees. "I thought that spending time learning how to make something that is [the equivalent of] my lesson plan book is a waste of time and that my time could be better spent teaching my kids," she said.

Schreiber's biology department "team-teaches," communicating often and working together to create tests and lessons. Even without a curriculum map, "Every bio teacher is on the same page," said Ms. Ezratty.

During the mapping session, Ms. Ezratty worked with a few of the other biology teachers, and they finished the Regents Biology curriculum; they still have to map the honors curriculum. She will be doing the AP curriculum on her own.

"I have a lesson plan book," she said. "I don't use this."

In the case of interdisciplinary units, she said, "I think it might be beneficial if one department might need to know what another is doing."

As for the curriculum map? "I don't think it's useful at all," she said. But "we had a great time."

Recent thefts cause lockdown

BY Amanda Schiff

News Editor

It recently came to the attention of the physical education teachers and the assistant principals that valuable belongings were stolen from the gym locker rooms, and the resulting closing of locker rooms is inconvenient to all students.

The physical education teachers, along with the administration, concluded that the boys' locker rooms were the most affected by the latest thefts. Over the past few weeks, multiple items ranging from iPods to wallets have been stolen during class time. For an hour during each gym class, the locker room was left vacant. Consequently, any male could walk in and grab whatever was lying around on the floor.

"I think that people should be responsible and lock their lockers, and that people should think about what it feels like to have something stolen from them," said junior Aaron Silberstein. "Stealing is such a horrible thing to inflict upon others."

Mr. Joseph Del Gais is currently the only full-time male physical education teacher in the building. He noticed that the number of students going into the locker rooms during their off periods was increasing. Since he could not be there all day patrolling the entrees to

the locker room, he decided that the best solution would be to lock the room 15 minutes after the second bell rang, and to open it 10 minutes before the end of the period. This leaves sufficient time for students to change for class and be on time for their next period classes. However, the physical education faculty believes that no student has business being in the locker rooms if he or she does not have a gym class during that period.

"I do not believe that kids should be allowed into the locker rooms because I don't want to be robbed," said junior DJ Rich. "If I forget something in the locker room like a phone or something, I'll feel better knowing that kids are not allowed to enter."

"By locking the locker rooms we can ensure that everyone's belongings are safe for the hour," said physical education teacher Ms. Stephanie Joannon. "However, each student needs to take responsibility for locking their locker and not giving out their combination."

While the new plan has been successful in minimizing the number of thefts, it still does not guarantee that personal belongings will be safe if they are not locked in a locker. Students need to lock up their belongings to ensure that they will be there when they return from class at the end of a period.

New flock for Science Honor Society

BY Melanie Fried

Staff Assistant

The Science Honor Society welcomed over 150 students from all grades at their annual induction ceremony. The number was nearly double that of the inductees last year.

The ceremony opened with speeches by the two co-presidents, seniors Gulus Emre and Ben Jaffe, who explained what it meant to be part of an honor society and the responsibilities that accompany membership.

Biology teacher Mr. Jim Jones followed the duo's speech. Mr. Jones emphasized his own passion for zoology to instill in his audience a similar passion for science.

He demonstrated this through a presentation about great horned owls, which included pictures of owls during different stages of their lives. Mr. Jones encouraged students to apply his notion that passion is critical to success to all aspects of their lives.

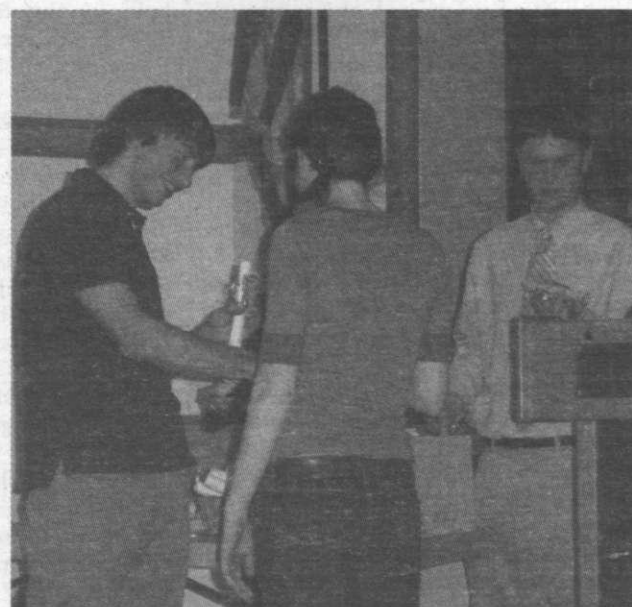
The subsequent speaker was the society's membership chair, junior Amanda Schiff, who reiterated the necessary criteria for admittance into the club. To be a member, a student must maintain a B+ average in both science and math, a 3.0 overall GPA, and be recommended

by one science teacher and one math teacher.

Next, Schiff introduced club advisor Ms. Phyllis Serfaty, who described the club's newly-implemented tutoring program. The ceremony concluded after the names of inductees were read and students received their certificates. To end the night, refreshments were available in the cafeteria to all those in attendance.

"The speeches were inspiring to all of us," said junior Matt Odell. "I am very much honored to be a part of the society."

The induction was held took place at 7:30 on Nov. 28 in the auditorium.



Matt Siegel

After a month of scouting and selecting new members for the club, seniors president Ben Jaffe and vice president John Forman welcome junior Rachel Merker into the Science Honor Society.

BOE buys new security technology

BY Ben Jaffe

Editor-In-Chief

The Nov. 14 Board of Education meeting focused on the proposed adoption of new software to improve the district's emergency communications and public relations. NTI Group, Inc. representative Mr. David Baylen gave a live demonstration and explained the Connect-ED software.

"We have to be ahead of the curve in integrating a lot of types of data, including the home-school partnership and community outreach," said Superintendent of Schools Geoffrey N. Gordon.

Connect-ED is an entirely Web-based application that allows school administrators to record messages that can be quickly distributed, by voice and e-mail, to thousands of people.

"There is no limitation but your imagination," said Mr. Baylen of the software's capabilities. While the software, which is fully compatible with the district's PowerSchool management software, significantly expedites communication during emergencies, "we're looking at much more than just that," Mr. Baylen said. Because of the software's versatility, different messages can be sent to different groups; for example, Spanish-speaking homes could receive calls in Spanish.

Mr. Baylen divided the software's "limitless" applications into four general categories: community outreach, attendance, emergency, and single survey. For community outreach, the district could send out announcements, such as wake up calls for often-tardy students and reminders for parents. Unexcused and excused absences could be confirmed with an automated message sent to students' homes. In the event of an emergency, Connect-ED allows for the rapid distribution of messages; 25,000 messages can be sent in less than 30 minutes.

Mr. Baylen explained to board member Mr. Mark Marcellus that in the software's seven years of existence, there has never been a security breach. Finally, Mr. Baylen said, the software's interactivity provides the opportunity for surveys and immediate feedback. After listening to a prerecorded message, participants can press a number on their phones to enter their feedback on a variety of possible issues, from whether Breathalyzers should be used at school events to whether they will be attending the school open house.

Along with Mr. Baylen, Assistant Superintendent for Business and District Clerk Mary Callahan outlined the cost of the program at \$4.95 per student each year along with a one-time \$1,700 startup fee. These costs equate to about \$14,930 if adopted in January, and then \$24,000 per year after that. Because the program is eligible for BOCES aid, the state could defray some of the costs to about \$8,000 this year and about \$13,000 in subsequent years. There is also the possibility of receiving Homeland Security grants.

Dodgeball game kicks up charity cash

\$500 dollars raised for U.S. soldiers fighting in the Middle East

BY Michael Lau

Senior News Editor

The annual Dodgeball Tournament, hosted by the Student Council, successfully raised \$500 for U.S. soldiers currently in the Middle East. The tournament, held on Dec. 9, pitted twelve teams with eight students per team against each other. Each individual team member was required to donate \$5 to participate in the tournament.

"This year's Dodgeball Tournament was a lot of fun," said senior Paul Fradelakis. "Even though my team lost in the first round, at least we had fun. The tournament was for a good cause, so I don't feel so bad losing."

The three-hour event was filled with team-spirit and competitiveness. With hip-hop music thumping in the background, the dodgeball teams put in maximum effort and at the same time had fun.

Each team was given two chances to

advance to the next round. If they lost their first match, they could redeem themselves by winning a second match. This gave each team a chance to have more playing time.

The winning team, Murdplex, consisting of seniors Lauren Brown, Chris Corteselli, Jeremy Goldman, Harrison Hines, Richard Maiman, Greg Novick, Alissa Potter, and Jordan Spivack, won bragging rights and T-shirts proclaiming them as "Da Champs!"

"We knew from the beginning that we had the talent to win the tournament," said Spivack. "We played hard as a team and had a lot of fun."

The turnout for this year's tournament was not as impressive as last year's.

"It was hard to publicize the tournament because of the limited areas that we can post things in the hall ways," said Student Council Executive Officer senior Jason Lifton. "We had a lot less participation this year than the

last time we did it."

However, the students participating in the tournament still agreed that it was an exciting event.

The \$500 raised for the tournament were donated to U.S. soldiers via AnySoldier.com. This program was started by Sergeant Brian Horn from LaPlata, Maryland, a former U.S. Army infantry soldier with the goal to help lift the spirits of U.S. soldiers in the Middle East. On the website in the Where to Send page, any person from any country could choose a soldier to donate items such as letters and books with an "Attn: Any Soldier" in the address to indicate that the objects are to be distributed to any soldier that is in need. Small things such as a "Keep up the good work!" letter go a long way in giving the soldiers motivation and strength to survive.

"This year we adopted a chaplain from right outside Baghdad who gave us a list of a bunch of things that his unit needed," said Lifton.

AP Art students hold special exhibit

BY Lauren Effune and Kelley Kroft

Contributing Writers

Paintings, drawings, and collages lined the walls of the Schreiber atrium gallery starting on Dec. 13 to show off the artistic talent of the juniors and seniors currently taking Advanced Placement Studio Art. The students' work was showcased in an exhibit titled "The Magic of Special Places," directed by Dr. Mark Graham and Ms. Kris Murphy.

"Throughout the making of these paintings, I learned a lot more about art and art techniques," says junior Maryann Vlahos. "I feel that it was a great learning experience."

The exhibit displayed a variety of landscapes - and ecological scenes, as well as more personal pieces of students' "special places." Sketches from figure drawing classes held in the fall were also among the art collection. Different media that students used in their work included oil paint, pastel, charcoal, and pencil. Some students even used photographs and poems to enhance their collages.

Artwork was accompanied by the artist's personal explanation of his or her type of art and why he or she made certain artistic decisions. Some of the projects had stories behind them and subtle messages embedded within. In landscape paintings, the students displayed their perspective on the scene or setting and the relationship between man and nature.

Students' inspiration for their art was a direct result of two movies viewed during AP Art classes, *King Kong* and *An Inconvenient Truth*. Both

of these films displayed the detrimental effect that man has on nature and its beauty, an aspect evident in many of the students' paintings. To augment the impact of the films, students were also assigned to take nature walks for homework, during which they had to physically interact with the landscape. These interactions with nature further helped to show students the relationship and bond between man and nature.

"The landscape paintings displayed an overall view of the kind of nature in the setting, as well as the students' personal relationship to nature and ecological settings," said Dr. Graham.

The artwork was not created solely for entertainment purposes. Many students felt that they learned a lot from their projects, both the final product and

the process.

AP art students were very pleased with the way their artwork turned out.

"A lot of people put so much effort into their paintings and worked so hard, and it shows in the end appearance of the art," said junior Astrid Firland-Schill.

Dr. Graham was also highly impressed by the final pieces of artwork.

"The artwork is just amazing," said Dr. Graham. "It truly reflects the strong effort the students put into making this art."

The exhibit will be on display in Schreiber's atrium until Dec. 20. Students are encouraged to attend the exhibit and view the artwork of their peers.



Liz Corkett

Figure drawings done by AP art students are displayed in the atrium to accompany their "Special Place" paintings. Figure drawing sessions help the students familiarize themselves with the anatomy of the human body.

Princeton home to new Port record

Schreiber debate team wins Princeton Tourney for first time

BY Sam Rosenberg
Contributing Writer

The debate world is buzzing with talk of seniors Kyra Siegel and Jake Singer. First trumping the competition in last year's state-wide tournament and then being proclaimed champions of this year's Princeton Classic, the dynamic duo have made their mark in the national forensic league and have made Schreiber's debate team a force to be reckoned with.

The Princeton Classic Debate Tournament in early December attracts the country's most prestigious and competitive teams. In order to participate, team members have to demonstrate much dedication and a certain amount of maturity.

Participating in the last Princeton Classic tournament of their high school debating careers, seniors Gulus Emre, Samira Irvani, Melinda Salaman, Gunjan Sewhani, Kyra Siegel, and Jake Singer walked through the Princeton gates for the final time. Juniors Dahlia Hassan, Sidney Ginsberg, and Erin Szulman were accompanied by sophomores Stephen Nash and James Krellenstein. All did extremely well at the tournament. First-time debaters freshmen Priyanka Sewhani and Christina Vlahos cherished the opportunity they were given to compete in such a prestigious tournament.

In Public Forum, there were fifty-four teams from dozens of schools participating. December's resolution was "Resolved: Colleges and universities in the United States should end their early admissions programs."

Three of the five Public Forum teams from Schreiber made it into the octofinals. These three teams were Emre and Salaman, Singer and Siegel, and Nash and Krellenstein.

In the octofinal round, Nash and Krellenstein were matched up against

Emre and Salaman. Due to tournament rules, a coach's decision had to be made to determine which team would move on to the quarterfinal round. Because of their exceptional standings, Mrs. Renee McClean, the team's coach, decided that Salaman and Emre, third seeded in the tournament with a record of 4-0, would continue on.

In the octofinals, Siegel and Singer went against and beat a team from Hunter College. In the next elimination round, the quarterfinals, the duo beat a team from Holy Ghost High School in Pennsylvania.

In a repeat performance of last year's Princeton tournament, Emre and Salaman made it to the quarterfinals, but were defeated by a team from Syosset. Although disappointed that they were unable to go further in the tournament, the duo—along with their other debate team members—were extremely excited to see Siegel and Singer continue on in the tournament.

Siegel and Singer's next round was a heated contest against Regis High School, New York City. Regis High School argued the negative side (Con). Siegel and Singer were the affirmative, and won.

In the finals, the duo's last round, a

close match resulted in a win for Siegel and Singer; they received a trophy for coming in first place.

For Varsity Lincoln-Douglas, Schreiber had two participants, Sidney Ginsberg and Erin Szulman. Ginsberg ended the tournament with three wins and three losses, while Szulman had two wins and four losses. Everyone who participates in Varsity Lincoln-Douglas debates six rounds, and the top thirty six of approximately 150 people go on to elimination rounds.

The LD debate resolution for this November-December tournament was "Resolved: A victim's deliberate use of deadly force is a just response to repeated domestic violence."

"I was sure Jake and Kyra could win because they are diligent and dedicated debaters," said Priyanka Sewhani. "I was so happy that they won and especially because now we're a known school in public forum. I was also very thankful to even be given the opportunity to go to Princeton, visit their beautiful campus, and compete in this tournament."

The debate team meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:15 P.M. in the social studies resource rooms.



Mr. Alex Webster

(l-r) Seniors Melinda Salaman and Gulus Emre; sophomore Dahlia Hassan; freshman Priyanka Sewhani; seniors Samira Irvani and Kyra Siegel; sophomore James Krellenstein; senior Jake Singer; sophomore Stephen Nash; freshman Christina Vlahos, and senior Gunjan Sewhani proudly display their awards and trophies at the Princeton Classic Debate Tournament.

Students celebrate diversity on Multicultural Day

BY Ryohei Ozaki
Contributing Writer

The Human Relations Club held their annual Multicultural Day in the main lobby and was a huge success. Dr. Mark Rothman, the club's new advisor, organized the event with juniors Amanda Jaffe and Adam Schmelkin. On Dec. 8, the club gave out free food from different cultures around the world to celebrate National Multicultural Day and to inform students of the different ethnic groups in our school.

"I want this to make the students more aware of the ethnic diversity we have in this school and how lucky

we are to have such a diverse student population," said former club adviser Mrs. Sarah Byrne.

Senior Stephen Park explained that the purpose of the event is to encourage recognition of Schreiber's diverse community.

"[We] are all very different, and have unique ethnic backgrounds," said Park.

The hamantashen from Israel and the samosas from India were just some of the plethora of foods offered during the day. The food was consumed by the student body in minutes.

"Multicultural Day really made me appreciate the diversity of our school," said senior Jason Lifton. "I really enjoyed all the delicious foods and [it]

made me more aware of the variety of ethnicities and cultures in our school."

The Human Relations Club hopes that, in the future, students will look at our school from a different angle. Hopefully students will recognize all of the different backgrounds and understand how appreciative one should be to live in a community immersed in many cultures and languages.

"The event was very successful and the food was gone after a short while," said freshman Kate Odell.

The table was decorated with the different flags of many of the countries around the world, which, in a sense, represented the student community at Schreiber.

Students mount challenge to Port Washington North curfew

BY Stefan Muller
Contributing Writer

Shortly before Halloween, the Port Washington North newsletter arrived in the mailboxes of its residents. A small message in a shaded box on the back of the newsletter explained that a curfew was in effect in Port North for the nights of Oct. 30 (deemed "mischief night") and Oct. 31.

This curfew went into effect in 1988 after a very disturbing and costly act of vandalism the previous Halloween. The curfew prevents anyone under age 19 from being in any public place in the village (including the Soundview shopping center and Stop & Shop) without a parent between 7:00 PM and 6:00 AM.

Junior Mara Hollander, a Port North resident, brought the curfew to the attention of the newly formed Schreiber Youth Rights Club.

"It seems like a ridiculous piece of legislation," said junior Eliana Theodorou, the club's co-president. "Vandalism is already illegal, and it doesn't make sense that a curfew would be able to deter anyone from committing vandalism, since a person who commits vandalism obviously has no problem breaking the law."

With just a week to go before Halloween, the club sprang into action and circulated a petition, gathering the signatures of nearly 200 Schreiber students. In the meantime, Mayor Robert Weitzner graciously invited the club to speak at the Nov. 27 meeting of the Port North Board of Trustees.

The club spent its November meetings preparing a speech to present at the meeting. This speech included discussions and research of the curfew's effectiveness, curfews in other parts of the country that have been overturned by courts, and even the First Amendment.

Three members of the club attended the Board of Trustees meeting. After the presentation, several members of the Board admitted some failings of the curfew but defended its effectiveness in eliminating Halloween vandalism in the village.

Nevertheless, members of the club thought that the meeting was productive.

"We definitely got something out of it," said Hollander. "We made it clear that rights violations aren't going to continue to go unchecked in Port Washington."

After a long discussion, the Board advised the students to propose revisions to the curfew or alternate ways of eliminating vandalism, which the Board would consider implementing.

Sophomore Eleah Burman was optimistic. "I think we can come to a compromise," she said.

Members of the Youth Rights Club are currently working on a number of proposals for the Board, which they hope to finish within the next few weeks.

Port North is the village just south of Sands Point, between Shore Road and Port Washington Boulevard.



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Point

Counterpoint

Should the school implement a wellness policy?

BY Stephen Nash

Assistant Features Editor

Recently, the newly adopted wellness policy has received a great deal of attention from students and teachers alike. Many students complain that the document limits their choices and that "all bake sales will end!"

However, when really looking at the wellness policy one can easily see that it is no more than a recommendation for students to make healthy choices. In fact, the policy simply states that "the District shall promote the ability of its students to make informed decisions that lead to developing good habits with regard to healthy eating and physical activity that will last a lifetime." Clearly the district is not adopting some radical plan to only provide soy chips and fruit. The wellness policy simply advocates healthier choices in the schools.

Moreover, a change in health standards throughout the district is not, in itself, a bad idea. Obesity, diabetes and other weight-related diseases have sky-rocketed among children throughout the years. Additionally, studies done by the American Obesity Association have all concluded that parents are becoming "more concerned" about their children's weight. Parents believe that their children are eating less nutritious foods than when their parents were younger. Overall, one thing is clear: our generation needs to learn healthy eating habits.

As a result, many districts in the country have taken extremely proactive measures in regulating the food served in the schools. For example, some districts go as far as banning all vending machines containing items considered somewhat unhealthy, such as chips, and forcing a strict healthy wellness policy upon their students. This is certainly not the case in Port Washington. The Board of Education is simply making "recommendations" to try and educate students about healthy choices. It is incomprehensible to me how anyone could possibly be opposed to this.

When one reads the wellness policy, it is easy to see that one of the major goals is to establish a choice-based system in the schools. Never does the

policy specify strict regulations that must be enforced. It merely makes suggestions on proper action that should be followed.

The actual policy is broken up into the two major sections of nutrition education and physical activities. Each section identifies different methods to promote awareness of healthy choices that both the staff and students can utilize. The common thread between these sections and the policy is that they both provide students with the ability to make their own choices.

As mentioned above, many schools in the past were quick to adopt stringent wellness policies, which had no true option for student choice or preference. On the other hand, the wellness policy adopted by this board almost exclusively promotes student choice.

Several interpretations of the wellness policy have been talked about throughout the student body. To be honest, before reading the policy I thought that it imposed strict instructions such as banning all bake sales, eliminating candy from classes, and so on. Many claimed that this was because the policy recommended that the school follow USDA guidelines which advocate that schools remove as many sugars as possible, including bake sales.

The policy explains, however, that the district can form its own interpretation on how best to carry out their version of the wellness policy. And this district has come out against any extreme measures.

In the end, when examining this wellness policy it is truly hard to be against it. Would it really kill anyone if there was a fruit pop in the ice cream machine? All this policy does is recognize that students should be educated about a healthy lifestyle, thus allowing them to make the proper decisions with some basic recommendations. When thinking about that, you really have to ask yourself, is that so bad?

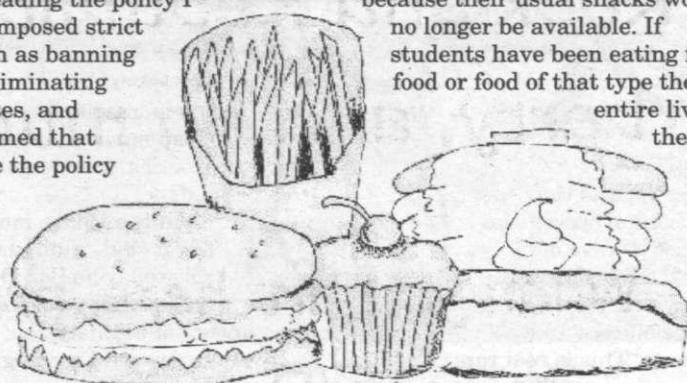
BY Alex Hohaus

Contributing Writer

I am in no way anti-health. But when a school's involvement in a student's personal life begins to invade his or her privacy, it's time to stop. The wellness policy proposal is controversial in that it restricts our personal rights.

The very simple outline of the pending proposition includes some statements that some students will frankly find alarming. One, for example, says that eating habits are influenced by the environment. While that statement in itself isn't anything too bad, many things can be deduced from it. The administration maintains that students are old enough to make choices on their own; therefore, by the time they've reached high school, habits have already formed.

Changing the food available in the cafeteria would only anger students because their usual snacks would no longer be available. If students have been eating fast food or food of that type their entire lives, then



Shimon Ishikawa

they won't just suddenly conform to the desires of the school and change their habits. I'm not saying that students' natural resistance to change is good; I'm just saying that it exists. What's more, the student could react to these food changes by turning to local eateries that would be pleased to deliver whatever food they wished to order. In this way, the school could lose money.

Another rather vague rule pertaining to the food served could lead to outrage from students. The rule states that *all* food served in school, whether it is from the cafeteria or vending machines or the school store, must abide by USDA Dietary Guidelines. Obviously, these national guidelines exist for a reason, but they

could mean the end of a common high school tradition: bake sales. The USDA Guidelines urge a diet low in sugar, and the administration could very well take that a step too far by banning most sugar objects from the school. Also banished could be the soda vending machines, a longtime staple of the cafeteria. I don't want to know what the reaction to that would be. The policy goes as far as to state these as "goals," meaning that they have every intention of trying to reach all of them to the utmost degree.

There are two statements, more than any others, that cement this wellness policy as something of a restrictive force in the life of a high school student. Though one is under the subcategory of "Nutrition Education" and the other under "Nutrition Standards," they are essentially saying the same thing. The purpose of these statements is to advertise healthy nutrition goals both inside and outside the cafeteria, and through school events, such as assemblies or field trips. Apparently, the school is willing to ensure that our habits are healthy using any means.

Could you imagine if, during last year's Rachel's Challenge assembly, someone had popped up at the end and spoke into the microphone, "Don't eat fries for lunch, children." Not only would it have been completely irrelevant, it could have turned everything previously said in the assembly a joke. What about field trips? Instead of relying on the subject matter of the class in question, the administration could choose their location due to the vegetable of the month instead. It's incredible what power the school would receive in our lives as a result of this one document.

Yet again, I reiterate that I am not anti-health. However, all of these measures could very well be taken in a way that isn't quite so demeaning to our student body. The problem with this document, more than anything else, is its condescending tone. You'd think that we'd be considered mature enough in many cases to make our own decisions, especially with respect to our own health. Certainly, if someone is allergic to peanuts, they shouldn't eat them, but he or she should be aware of their personal medical conditions and act accordingly. Also, the new health regulations are somewhat untimely.

Schreiber is at a point where it has many problems that are more pressing than some of the issues proposed in this document, such as changing the ever-growing class sizes. To push this to next year, or the year after, would probably be wise. And it's our job as students to ensure that it stays that way, and that the requirements don't grow until they usurp our personal rights.

Schreiber Speaks

"Students should be able to make their own decisions when it comes to their eating habits. If we're old enough to apply to college, we are responsible enough to make choices about our health."

- Adam Berkowitz, senior

"The wellness policy is a good supplement to the information we learn in health classes about eating right. The policy only helps students make better decisions."

- Christopher Catalano, senior

America's most recent musical ailment

The problem with modern day rap and the uninspired messages it sends

BY Zac Zaremba

Contributing Writer

As I turn on the television and kick back on the sofa, I hope for some good old-fashioned music video entertainment. To my dismay, I flip through MTV, MTV2, and Fuse only to find rap videos and shows that arguably have nothing to do with music. The song "Chain Hang Low" by Jibbs blares from the TV speakers. "Show 'em white gold sorta hold 'em like my Tims/And a chain hang 24 inches like the rims/Diamonds all blown up, yeah sorta' like a pimp," Jibbs eloquently tells us. Wow! What's that in the background? Is that a group of extremely attractive woman dancing? Some tough looking guys leaning up against a tricked out Cadillac, nodding their heads and drinking Cristal or some other expensive champagne? Is that...a club? How original!

I can't help but be a little sarcastic. Popular rap music, at least today, is unoriginal, uninspired, repetitive, mind-numbing tripe. I'm sick of hearing about how much money these rappers spend, what cars they drive, what shoes they wear. It's like a single rapper wrote a song five years ago about all his material possessions and the women he slept with, and then sold that song to a million other rappers who then simply rearranged the words and claimed it as their own innovative song.

The tedious lyrics that rappers

like Jibbs, Young Jeezy, Ludacris and many, many others spout is nothing even remotely notorious, interesting or inspiring. Have they learned anything from the "fathers" of rap? Has G-Unit learned from NWA, Public Enemy, Run DMC or A Tribe Called Quest? Evidently, the young rappers of 2006 have not. Sure, modern rappers have the whole "gangsta" thing down, but there is no real emotion coming from the singles we hear today.

When the Federal Bureau of Investigation first heard the groundbreaking album *Straight Outta Compton*, by N.W.A., they were in an uproar. The lyrics were deemed "highly dangerous", and the FBI sent a letter to NWA's record label, Ruthless Records, notifying them of the government's disapproval of songs such as "[Expletive] Tha Police." NWA was banned from several venues

expressions from the street. Ice Cube, a former member of NWA, was rapping about the struggle to survive on the gang-dominated streets, not a struggle on deciding what sneakers to wear for the day.

Rap in the eighties and early nineties was a revolutionary force. Protest songs like "Fight The Power" by Public Enemy and the jazz-rap fusions from groups like A Tribe Called Quest were a unique breath of fresh air in a hair-metal dominated music industry. But, like anything great, rap lost its power in terms of distinctiveness and lyrical excellence. Yet, in spite of this, rap is actually becoming more and more popular, which is why there is an influx of rap videos on music channels and on the radio.

It's safe to assume that rap is not a fad that will disappear like Tamagotchis or Doc Martens, but

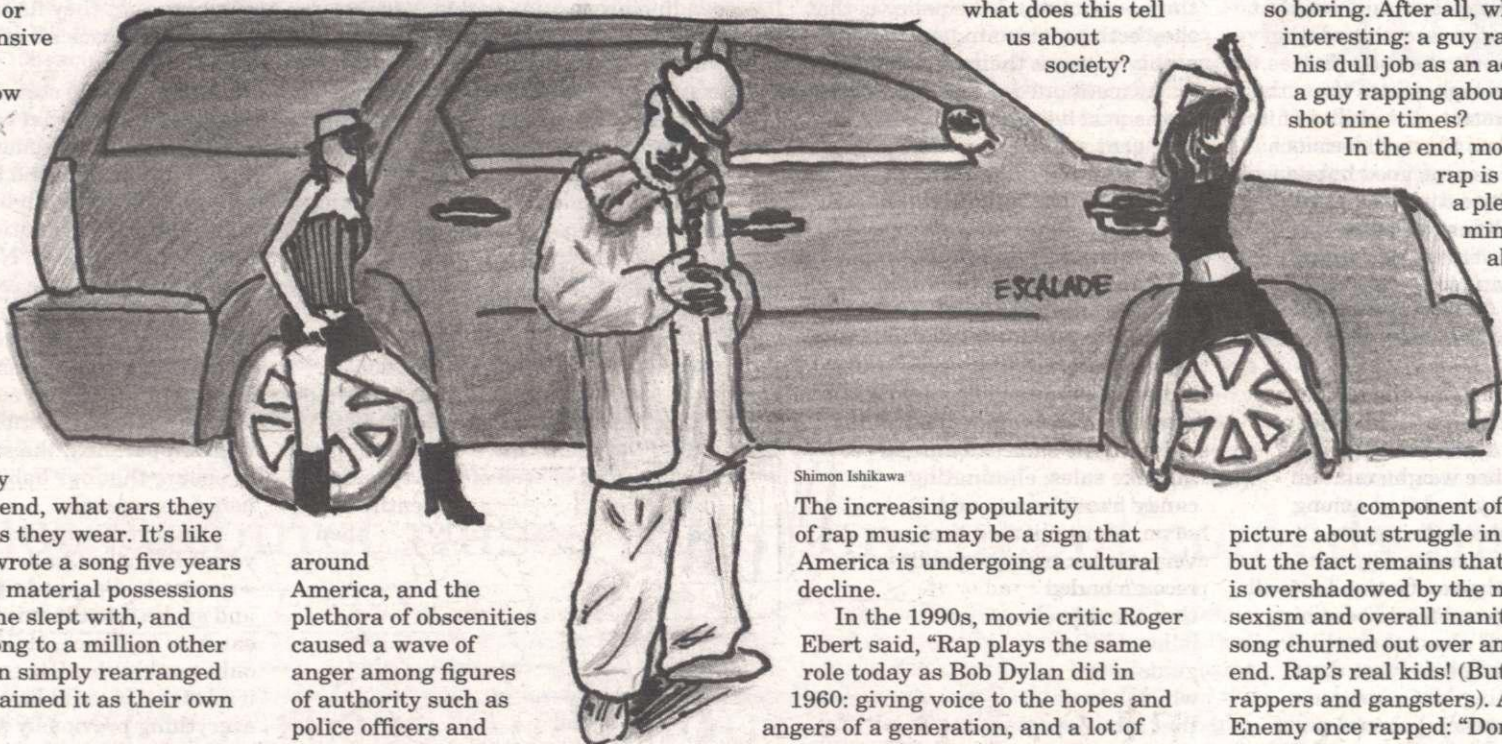
what does this tell us about society?

but this is no longer true. Rap was perceived as "edgy" and as the voice of angry youth, but I find nothing edgy about Timberlands and how many girls (insert generic rapper) brought home from the club.

In a recent interview with *Rolling Stone* magazine, rapper The Game talks about how he's had "more beefs than a [expletive] cattle farm," he likes to rap "real life" and doesn't like giving women, whom he also labels with an expletive, his "money." Why is it that people like The Game are so respected by a considerable portion of the youth of America, especially in the suburbs? Sure, the stories that many rappers tell are real, but the fact remains that they are only real to the rappers themselves. For a wealthy Caucasian teenager from Long Island, tales of gangbanging and expensive possessions are enticing, mostly because rap makes real life seem so boring. After all, what's more interesting: a guy rapping about his dull job as an accountant or a guy rapping about how he was shot nine times?

In the end, modern day rap is nothing but a plethora of mindless lyrics about material possessions, the "gang" life, and clubbing. Sure, many would say that rap is a fundamental

component of a much larger picture about struggle in a harsh world, but the fact remains that this view is overshadowed by the materialism, sexism and overall inanity of the same song churned out over and over without end. Rap's real kids! (But only to the rappers and gangsters). As Public Enemy once rapped: "Don't Believe The Hype!"



Shimon Ishikawa

The increasing popularity of rap music may be a sign that America is undergoing a cultural decline.

In the 1990s, movie critic Roger Ebert said, "Rap plays the same role today as Bob Dylan did in 1960: giving voice to the hopes and angers of a generation, and a lot of rap is powerful writing." Sorry, Roger,

around America, and the plethora of obscenities caused a wave of anger among figures of authority such as police officers and parents. This is real rap:

Where to draw the line when mockery threatens morals

Should conscience or comedy dictate the actions and remarks of celebrities?

BY Melanie Fried

Staff Writer

Recently, celebrities such as movie actor/producer Mel Gibson and TV star Michael Richards have introduced society to an important question: Should we place entertainment above our own morals?

Has entertainment become so necessary that we should compromise our personal convictions to allow for it? Compromising one's own beliefs equates to compromising one's individuality. Are a few laughs during an hour of television really worth it?

Individuals should not simply disregard amoral comments made by famous people whose lives are publicized for the rest of the world to witness. Those who embrace fame are cognizant of the lifestyle they will lead as a result of their fame; thus, any feelings of sympathy for Gibson and Richards are unjustified. It is true that everyone makes mistakes; however, along with non-famous ordinary

people, celebrities should be held accountable for their actions. The consequences of the publicized mistakes of celebrities should be the equivalent of global shunning: a complete lack of support by all fans and populations.

In July 2006, Mel Gibson was arrested on suspicion of drunk driving in Malibu, CA. While detained by the L.A.P.D., Gibson reportedly shouted anti-Semitic and sexist comments. In a similar case on Nov. 17, popular comedian Michael Richards went on a racist rant after an audience member interrupted his comedy act in West Hollywood's Laugh Factory. Although both men apologized for their behavior, they should nevertheless be held accountable for their actions.

We should always do what we can to demonstrate to the world that bigotry is not acceptable, regardless of one's status. In response, it is our moral obligation not to support Gibson, and thus, not buy tickets to see his movies. It is important to note, however, that by damaging the success of his movies, we

"We should always do what we can to demonstrate to the world that bigotry is not acceptable, regardless of one's status."

only mean to hinder his own progress and not that of other individuals involved in the movie's creation. In terms of a movie, actors' contracts are negotiated prior to production; therefore, an actor will earn a certain wage independent of a movie's success level in theaters. In not viewing a Gibson-headlined movie, a person would thus not harm any individuals involved in the film other than Gibson.

In Richards' case, boycotting *Seinfeld* is not necessarily the appropriate action. The success of *Seinfeld* is crucial to the career of

many different individuals because actors' wages eventually depend on a T.V. show's seasonal popularity and ratings. It isn't right to hold the other actors of *Seinfeld* responsible for Richards' actions. In fact, his co-stars could be highly tolerant individuals who are disgusted by the actions of their fellow cast member. Shortly after the incident, Jerry Seinfeld released to the following statement to the press: "I'm sure Michael is also sick over this horrible, horrible mistake. It is so extremely offensive. I feel terrible for all the people who have been hurt." Rather than boycotting *Seinfeld*, it would be more just and sensible to express discontent by boycotting Richards' stand-up comedy acts, which are solo performances.

Nonetheless, it is crucial for people not to tolerate discrimination from any person. Perhaps, if society were to show intolerance to the bigoted acts of Mel Gibson and Michael Richards, people might take a first step to truly address the prejudice that exists in the world.

A return to the good old holiday season spirit

How shedding religious differences and embracing good cheer can make the winter months special

BY Dahlia Hassan

Contributing Writer

Temperatures may be at their lowest during the holiday season, but that doesn't make the season any less heartwarming. Holiday celebrations should be visible and widespread because everyone should be able to enjoy the holiday season. If the holiday season was not as hyped up and celebrated, it would be just like any other time of the year, and there would be nothing to look forward to in the winter besides snow. Some people are offended when a particular holiday, such as Christmas, is celebrated with lavish store window decorations. But that is a way to celebrate; it can spread feelings of good cheer that make the holiday season a special time of year.

What would the winter months be without festive lights and decorations, Christmas trees strung with tinsel, menorahs resting on window sills, candy canes, hot chocolate, carols being sung on street corners and played on every radio station, holiday specials of your favorite TV shows, and the ever-popular mistletoe?

Specific holidays aren't necessarily what give the holiday season that warm and fuzzy feeling; it's the feelings of cheer, giving and love inspired by the holidays that make this time of year so special. In general, people seem to be in a better mood around the holidays. People act much more neighborly and cheerful toward one another. And why wouldn't they? The excitement and good cheer that come along with the holidays can put even the meanest Scrooge in a good mood.

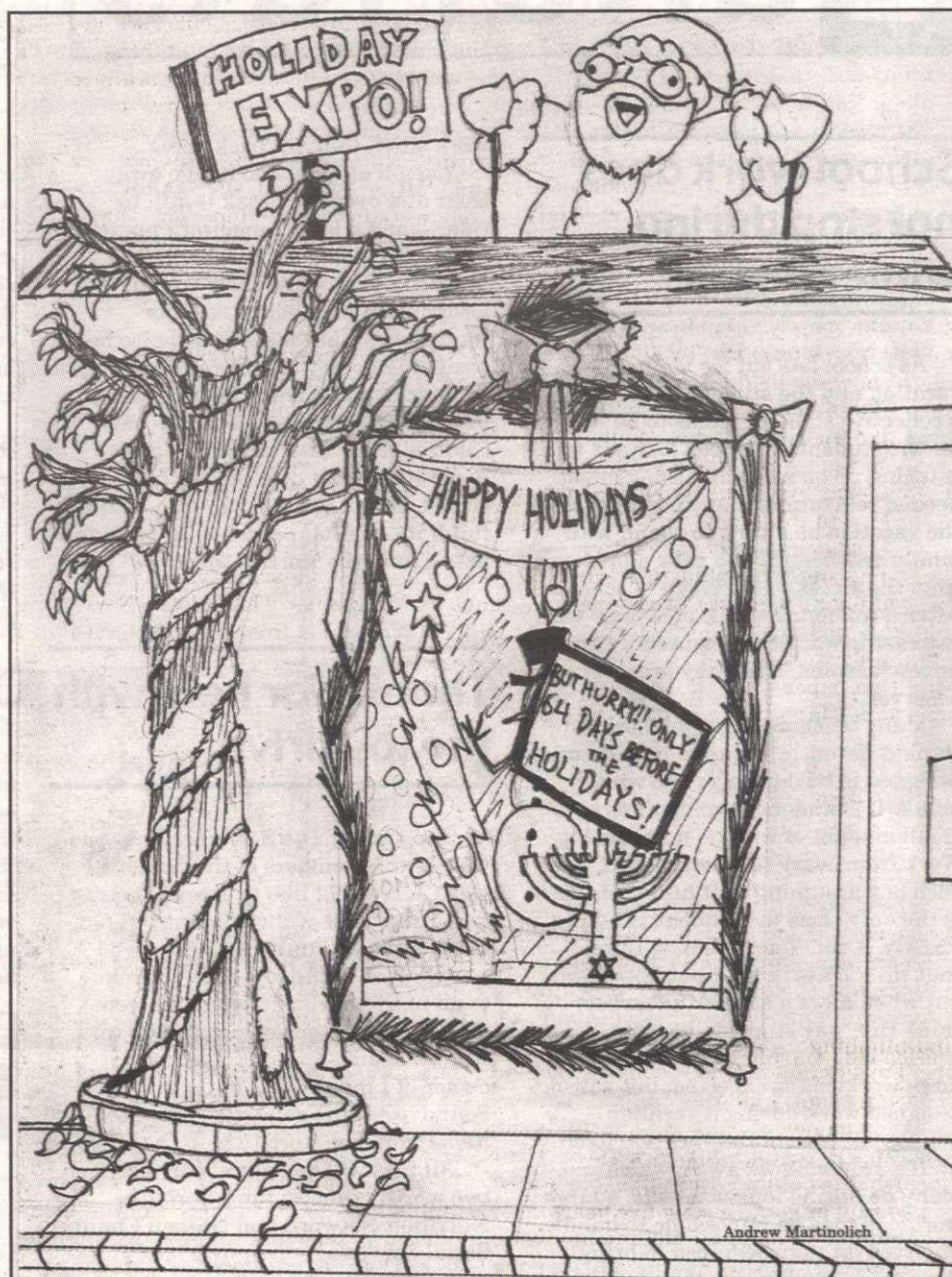
People of any age can enjoy the holiday season. Small children can

look forward to decorating a tree, writing a wish list, laying out cookies and milk for Santa, and receiving presents wrapped with bright wrapping paper and oversized bows. And for those who are past their Santa days, the holiday season certainly doesn't lose any of its luster. I'm sure everyone loves the pre and post holiday sales that come around just once a year.

On a less superficial level, the holiday season is a time for families to take a break from their busy lives, for people to put aside their differences, and spend quality time with loved ones. The holiday season and winter break offer an opportunity for family members to catch up with one another and spend time together. Family unity is an important part of the holiday season. Many families need a reason to come together, and for many, the holiday season is the perfect reason.

Religious or not, anyone can enjoy the holiday season. Yes, there are various religious holidays associated with the holiday season whose religious significance should not be overshadowed. However, the holiday season is not all about observing particular holidays. Religious affiliation doesn't affect one's appreciation of holiday sales or the beauty of the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center. Those who are not religious can enjoy the holiday season in the same way as people who are.

And that's what matters: the holiday season is a time of year that everyone can enjoy, regardless of a person's background or views.



Why are current events a taboo subject in classrooms?

The reasons we should discuss political and social status quo in our history classes

BY Sarah Scheinman

Staff Writer

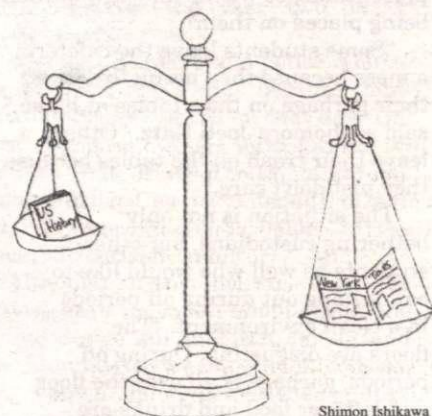
As I sit in my classroom and my history teacher talks about Jacksonian era politics, I can't help but wonder: if we spend so much time learning about the past, why don't we even mention what is happening today? Current events can start great discussions, yet few teachers even "go there" in most classes.

Learning about how the past is relevant to the future is vital to the educational experience. If current problems aren't addressed in social studies, then how can we learn from the past? An understanding of history is important to the maintenance of a just and well-run society. However, without addressing current events there can be no contemporary application of the lessons of history.

Very few classes in the school thoroughly address current events on a regular basis. While Mr. Craig Medico's AP Economics and Mr. Brian Frank's AP Government classes are two notable exceptions, most history classes don't

even allot time for discussion of current events. In my Schreiber career the only classes that have addressed current events are Sociology and Advanced Writing Workshop—and these aren't even social studies classes.

It is understandable that teachers may fear that they will insert their political opinions into discussions of current events, favoring one side and



influencing students. However, just because teachers are afraid to appear biased doesn't mean that they should abandon the entire idea of holding

such discussions. Rather, teachers should address current events from an objective, informative perspective.

Ironically, many teachers see current events as a time-waster. Unquestionably, Schreiber teachers work extremely hard to get through all the material in the year's curriculum. Most classes in the school are required to adhere to strict curriculum requirements in order to help students pass the required New York State Regents exams or standardized Advanced Placement tests. Teachers are often stretched for time, but it is still important to understand the modern application of the history we are taught.

Indeed, current events can be important additions to any class lesson. By teaching current events in an open, tolerant environment there is more fact-learning and less opinion. Students can formulate their own opinions by hearing the arguments of their peers. The truth is that historical lessons are of no value if they are not applied to current events.

"Just as history is important to our understanding of the world today, we

shouldn't ignore current events," said junior Amanda Neilan. "Current events should be taught because they are important, and because many students are often unaware [of what goes on in the world]."

Our generation has been labeled as both politically apathetic and ignorant. By discussing current events in school, political awareness could be improved.

"Current events should be taught in classrooms to counteract the absence of student activism that the world is currently experiencing," said junior Melanie Fried.

The war in Iraq is often compared to the Vietnam War. However, on the home front, a fundamental difference is the presence that the respective wars have had in the classroom. Current events were practically a course during the Vietnam War and exposure to them was highly increased in a scholastic environment. This does not hold true for the current war, even though it should be a regular classroom topic. Current events should be a constant subject in our school and in every school. What is going on around us is far too important to be ignored.

Editorials

School work does not stop during winter break

As school lets out for winter vacation and the student body lets out a collective sigh, all seems to be well for the students who look forward to catching up on sleep and some much-needed relaxation. Many students use the vacation as a time to spend with family and friends and take a break from the stress and anxiety of school. After a full four months of classes with increasing workloads, especially for the upperclassmen, a ten-day break is well-deserved.

Many teachers, however, seem to think differently. Assignments are often assigned to be done over the winter break. If a student is going away, a small amount of work is manageable. Work from every teacher, though, with each one assuming that his or her class is the only class the student is taking, frankly is not. Teachers may think that their class is the most important, but when all of a student's teachers think this way students become overloaded. During the school year, a large workload is expected, but getting assigned work during a vacation defeats the idea of the vacation itself.

If a student goes away, which many do during longer breaks, a large workload may be impossible to handle. The student may be forced to bring their work to wherever they are going, to read a textbook on a plane, to study, perhaps, on the beaches of Florida. Even then, though, they may not have access to a computer, a library or their regular work area, and so will be increasingly pressured to finish their

work when they get back home.

Even if students do not go away, their aim over the break is still to relax—and a lot of homework prevents them from doing so. Teachers need to realize that while their specific assignment may not be so labor-intensive, other teachers will also be assigning homework. Because attempts at inter-department communication are futile on such an issue, the only solution is for teachers not to give homework at all over breaks from school. Only then can vacation actually fulfill its original purpose—to provide a break from the work of the school year.

Thanks for help with the toy drive

The staff of *The Schreiber Times* as well as the members of the Schreiber Key Club would like to extend their gratitude to all of the students, staff, and community members who contributed to the toy drive. Thanks to all of those who donated, we were able to collect approximately 900 toys. Special thanks to Linda Levinger, owner of Linda's Gifts to Go in Soundview, who generously donated items from her store to help the effort.

All toys will be split evenly between two worthy causes: the Interfaith Nutrition Network and Nassau County Social Services.

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

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 editors. 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.

Fictitious college applications from anxious students

College applications: all students must complete them at one point or another, but the application process is undoubtedly a daunting one. The multi-component process, entailing one or more written essays, a secondary school record, teacher recommendations, a financial statement, an extracurricular record and other supplements are all used to help a school develop a sense of an applicant.

However, when students lie on their college applications in an attempt to make themselves sound more desirable, the purpose of college applications is undermined. Moreover, when students have others revise and rewrite their essays, the entire process of personalization is undone.

The sad truth is that students have been known to lie about their extracurricular activities, often putting down clubs and events in which they have not participated. Although the idea of a college admissions officer opening your application to discover that you've participated in the national "Smartest Kids in America!" contest is appealing, it is unfair to advertise yourself under false pretenses. Colleges use applications in an attempt to become familiar with a student's

character. If they are misguided by incorrect information and accept a student based on a false resume, the repercussions are felt not only by the said applicant, but the honest individual whose spot this less-than-student stole.

Another problem is that students will often revise their college essay so many times that their own writing becomes unrecognizable. The college essay is supposed to be the most personal part of the entire application process, as it allows colleges to become better acquainted with applicants on a personal level. It should be meaningful to the individual and reflect their character.

That's not to say that you shouldn't give your essay to a teacher or two to read. In fact, it is usually beneficial to get a second opinion on your essays. But when students hire private tutors to rewrite their essays for them, the true essence of their writing is often lost.

As the college application process continues and the competition increases, students are given the benefit of the doubt with respect to the honesty and integrity that they exhibit in their essays. No one is looking over your shoulder every second and telling you to be honest about what clubs you've participated in or what essay is truly your own, but if you want colleges to understand who you are as a person and judge you based on your true self, it's best to just tell the truth. Hey, maybe honesty really is the best policy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In last issue's article "Has the cafeteria become a 'mess hall?'" a student was quoted as saying, "It doesn't really matter how much trash is on the floor. That's not the point. It's [the janitors'] job to clean up that mess." This quote not only signifies a general laziness among students, but also an overall increase in disrespect for janitors and custodians in Schreiber.

As the "Mess Hall" article stated, cafeteria floors are becoming more and more littered with trash that is left for the custodians who work hard enough to clean up. This is clear evidence of student selfishness and impertinence. It is not that difficult to stand up, walk five or ten steps, and then throw your food away. Custodians work tediously to make Schreiber neat and presentable, so why is an extra burden being placed on them?

"Some students leave the cafeteria a mess because they normally leave their garbage on their tables at home," said sophomore Joeli Katz. "Others leave their trash on the tables because they just don't care."

The situation is not only bothering custodians, but other students as well who would like to eat or hang out during off periods in a clean environment. "The floors are disgusting. During off periods, garbage is all over the floor and leftover food and drinks are everywhere," says freshman Alex Zippo.

The outside lunch area is also becoming dirtier. Students are leaving

their lunches either on the tables or on the floor, or worse, throwing them into the bushes. Announcements are made each morning that clearly ask students to throw away their garbage, but do students seem to take any notice? Not really. Or maybe they do, but they still don't care enough to do anything about it.

It should be noted that an increase in littering is not the only problem arising in our school. The cleanliness of the bathrooms has also taken a turn for the worse. If you walk into any one of the girls bathrooms, you can surely find water overflowing in the sink, paper towels on the floor, and writing on the walls. Again, this shows carelessness and a disregard for the school—this needs to stop.

"This shows complete disrespect for our school property and the custodians who clean up after us," says freshman Christina Vlahos.

Custodians also acknowledge the increase in littering. "Some students make it so much harder for me to complete my job effectively," says custodian John Clements. "The more mess there is, wherever in the school, the harder the work is. Please just throw away your food."

So please, next time you eat lunch, try to remember to throw your food away on your way out of the cafeteria. Custodians, faculty and your fellow students will appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Lauren Effune

Mr. Lewis delivers controversial announcement

BY Erin Szulman
Features Editor

When any school decides to make a public statement, it is the result of careful planning and a weighing of the advantages and consequences. When Principal Jay Lewis decided to make an announcement on the public address system concerning the drunk-driving accident that took place during the early morning hours of Dec. 3, his speech, along with the series of actions that followed, was also the result of a meticulous process.

The speech caught the attention of many students after first period the following Monday morning, and it elicited a variety of student reactions. Some were outraged by the school's decision to acknowledge the accident, while others were thankful that the elephant wasn't sitting in the room anymore.

"Mr. Lewis publicized the events that took place without the girls' permission," said senior Tarryn Fisher. "He made the accident everybody else's business by making the announcement to the Schreiber population, regardless of whether students knew or not."

“Teaching morality is difficult, and drinking is still illegal. Parents make decisions in teaching and guidance of children.”

Other students had a similar negative reaction to the announcement.

"I think that it wasn't the right place," said junior Maddie Mirzoeff. "To announce something like that over the PA system made it impersonal. To say it to the entire school from an office didn't do it justice."

In addition to the announcement, a formal letter was sent home to parents to discuss the in-school announcement, the school health curriculum, and to inform parents of the legal ramifications of allowing drinking. Mr. Lewis warned parents to be more aware of their child's behavior and to promote good judgment. The way the school handled the incident has been disputed, although very few knew what the policy actually is in this type of situation.

The announcement itself addressed informing Schreiber students that the accident had occurred. He also mentioned that his own best friend in high school was killed by a drunk driver. His personal experience caused him to have a more emotional attachment to the announcement.

Mr. Lewis has buried eight students during in his past twenty years as a high school principal and said he felt like a surgeon when the operation is not a success and the patient dies. There were no doubts in his mind as to whether or not the announcement should be made and he had a good sense of what to say. He believed that the announcement didn't necessarily change the perception of the incident or attitudes about it, but it increased the level of conversation.

"I think it's good because Schreiber students need to be aware. The subject

is touchy because alcohol is there, but in the shadows," said junior Aaron Silberstein.

Schreiber has no jurisdiction over events that take place outside of school. They can, however, take disciplinary action for situations that occur off school grounds but still have to do with the education program. For example, it is against athletic policy for a student athlete to drink during the season, regardless of the legality of the situation. In another situation, a fight that started in school and moved to Starbucks was under the jurisdiction of the school.

The car crash, however, was entirely unrelated to the public education system.

"You have to be careful how aggressively the school wants to project itself on the outside lives of students," said Mr. Lewis.

After the accident, the administration, Mr. Lewis in particular, decided to bring back an assembly on drunk driving and destructive decisions that was last held five years ago in response to a previous drunk-driving accident. The speaker, Bobby Petrocelli, began his program after his wife was killed in their home in the middle of the night by a drunk driver. His program, "10 Seconds," discusses drinking and alcohol-related accidents in a more unorthodox manner.

"I take very seriously our educational role in the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs," said Mr. Lewis. "I think we have an obligation to use our available resources to assist students in making good decisions about abusive substances."

Mr. Lewis made the announcement for two primary reasons. The first reason is that he feels it would have been wrong not to acknowledge the accident and wanted to send thoughts and prayers to those injured in the crash. Second, he felt it was a teachable moment of sorts, an opportunity for classes to embrace the dangers of drinking and driving, although he didn't want to belabor the point.

"I think the fact that he made the announcement was a good idea because if he had totally ignored the accident, he would be telling students it wasn't a big deal," said sophomore Lexi Peterson. She agreed with Mr. Lewis' decision to take the opportunity to address drunk driving.

Mr. Lewis heard positive feedback from students, parents and community members through phone calls, visits and emails.

"I felt it was important that he addressed it and that it wasn't just gossip in the halls," said English department chairperson Ms. Joan Lisecki. "It's a consistent concern, especially around holiday and prom season. It happens too often."

Others weren't so ecstatic about the letter that Mr. Lewis sent. Many were unhappy and believed Mr. Lewis overstepped his boundaries. The individuals attacked him for being too aggressive about the situation, and taking the role of parent.

"I clearly stirred up the pot in the community with the letter," said Mr. Lewis, who feels the need to communicate with parents about the incident. It's a matter of balancing the roles between parents and the school and forming a relationship for the betterment of students.

As for the health curriculum, Mr. Lewis has already gone over it multiple times and sat in on the final class for the drinking and driving unit, which is "second to none," said Mr. Lewis. New York State mandates that students must complete one semester of health, but Schreiber requires students to take two semesters, one during freshman year and one during junior or senior year. The maturity difference between freshmen and juniors allows the curriculum to be divided appropriately based upon the situations in which students would find themselves.

The curriculum still applies to society today because of the approach that the teachers take. They look at alcohol from both physiological and social stand points.

"We place appropriate emphasis and time on this issue...It's one of the biggest and most worrisome of teenage health issues," said Mr. Lewis. He believes that there is a need to educate parents and the community at this point. After the accident, Mr. Lewis asked health teachers to do a "special piece" the Monday after the accident.

The larger question at hand is how exactly to balance the role of the parent and the role of the school. On some level, the school has child-rearing responsibilities but there is a line separating parenting from education.

"I understand the need to give [parents] space," said Mr. Lewis. "Teaching morality is difficult, and drinking is still illegal. Parents make decisions in teaching and guidance of children. When the student behavior

begins to affect the life of the institution, then taking action is necessary," said Mr. Lewis.

"School is an educating agent with a social and civic responsibility to help students, parents and the community—a partnership, a social system," said Mr. Lewis. As a message to parents, Mr. Lewis expressed that with incidents like this, the underlying issues cannot be contained in individual homes, but become a community problem. Simply teaching behaviors in the home is no assurance that these rules will be followed once the child leaves the home, so the community in a larger sense should be involved in promoting positive behaviors.

"I thought it was important for Mr. Lewis to express his concern as well as tell the students that it is not the school's responsibility to monitor students' behavior outside of school," said science teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty. "Parents need to take responsibility for their children's behavior and the consequences for their actions."

"I want to take these difficult times and try to make something out of them. It would not be the right thing to carry on and ignore it," said Mr. Lewis.

It is unknown whether this event will set precedent for future incidents, although hopefully such an issue will never have to be addressed again. Students are now aware of what happened and are able to move on with another moral lesson in hand.

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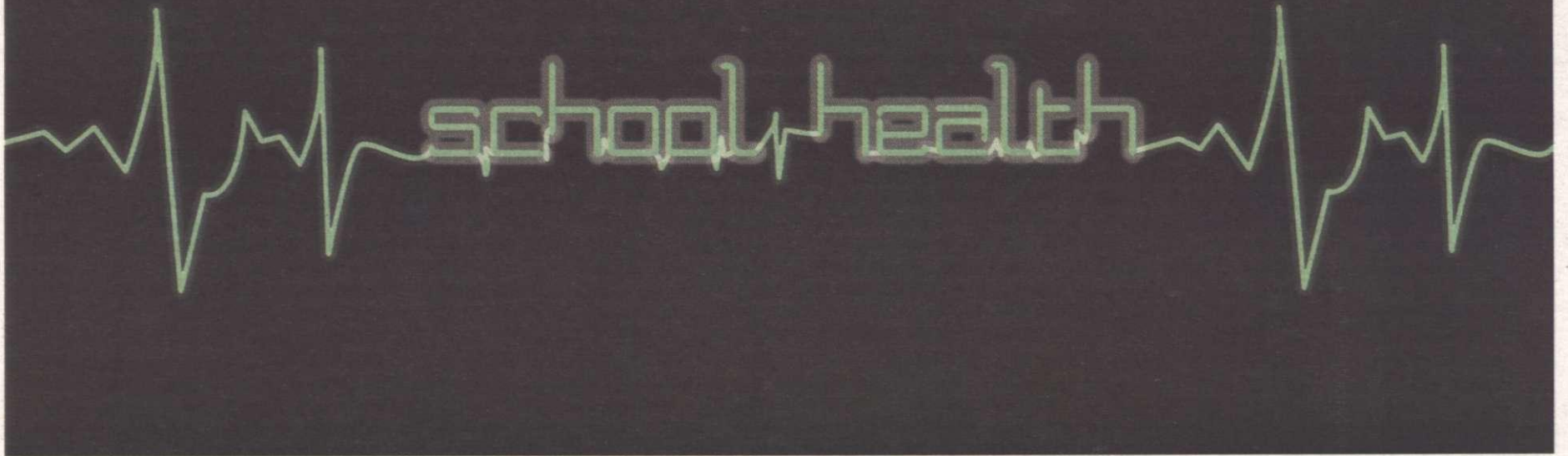
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When concerns become complaints

Administration does its best to alleviate health problems, or sometimes just the worries

BY Sidney Ginsberg

Features Editor

When the art department decided in 2003 that the art rooms needed to be renovated due to their deteriorating conditions, room 206 served as a model for what could go wrong in an art room.

However, out of the five art rooms that were to be refurbished, it was the only one that did not get remodeled. Some may call this an unsafe mistake.

"Room 206 is the oldest room in the building," said art department chairperson Dr. Mark Graham. "It has never been refurbished."

The desks in the room were taken from the science wing when it was renovated in 1964. Ms. Mary Lynn Conte-Lawe, who teaches in the room more than any other teacher, also noticed leaks in the ceiling of room 206.

"They've been there since at least 2003 and I've noticed a not-so-recent growth of mold around the wetness," she said.

Ms. Conte-Lawe said that the mold could potentially be dangerous. The mold in the ceiling can grow in the lungs and cause autoimmune disorders.

Ms. Conte-Lawe complained that she asked the school to fix the leaks in 2003.

"I don't know if the leaks can ever be fixed," said Dr. Graham.

However, they have been repaired several times, most recently in 2005. The mold in the ceiling has been a recurring problem since then.

Out of the five classes taught in the room, two are ceramics classes. The clay used in these classes contains silica, a form of volcanic glass which has been known to scar lungs and cause slow-growing cancer.

The label on the boxes in which the clay is packaged warns that "it is prudent for health and safety reasons to avoid creating dust. All dry clay dusts contain respirable quartz, which can cause long-term health effects."

"The amount of clay dust produced in those two classes is incredible," said Ms. Conte-Lawe. She explained that she needed to dust the bookshelf herself a little over a month ago.

The bookshelf now has thick layers

of clay dust; moving the bookshelf or any of the books on it releases a cloud of dust into the air. Clay dust also coats the computer, which is frequently used by students in AP Art History and other art classes. The floors, chairs, and even windows are lined with dust.

"The room is not cleaned in the appropriate way," said Ms. Conte-Lawe. "Dry clay dust is bad for kids and teachers to breathe in. I'm surprised fixing this isn't a big priority for the school."

Although the room has met or exceeded numerous health standards, contiguous standards are more difficult to maintain and to detect.

"Dust for instance, is a tough one," said Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller. Attempting to clean dry clay dust by sweeping, or even by vacuuming, spreads the particles and redistributes them into the air, making them more available for inhalation.

The label on the clay container states that if clay dust is cleaned with a damp mop, or removed with a special High Efficiency Particulate Air filtered (HEPA) vacuum, it is not toxic.

However, room 206 is not cleaned in this manner. The surfaces in the room are not moistened before cleaning and, therefore, all the dust is not properly removed.

Although the problem with the toxic clay dust can be remedied according to these recommended cleaning methods, there are currently not enough custodians available to devote the requisite time to cleaning the room.

"Rooms have been sanitized in the past," said Mr. Miller. "But we don't have the staff to continually be able to wipe things down everyday."

Clay dust is a serious health concern. However, the issue of asbestos which is seen as a potential health problem by faculty and students, is not as legitimate.

Many faculty and students have brought up concerns over the knowledge that asbestos is present in their daily environment. These people have nothing to fear.

"I've always known that asbestos is a dangerous substance. When I learned that it is everywhere in our school, I was concerned," said senior Emlyn Diakow.

"However, my concerns were eased when I heard that it's safe when it's in the [floor] tiles."

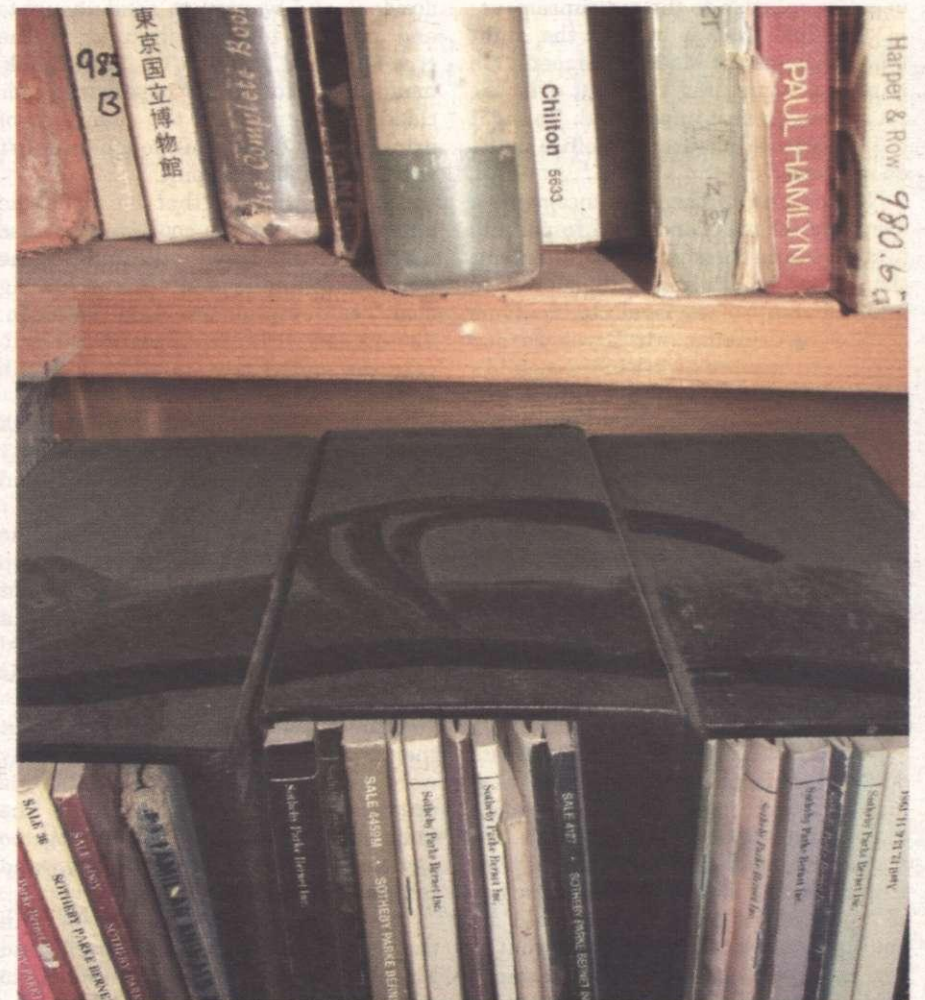
Asbestos is a mineral which causes asbestosis, an illness which results in lung infections and may lead to lung cancer or mesothelioma, a cancer of the membranes that cover the lining of the chest and abdomen. It is also linked to cancers of the larynx and gastrointestinal tract.

The use of asbestos is illegal in twelve countries, including Australia, Chile, and Brazil. In the United States, 171,500 workers have died of asbestos-related cancers in the past

thirty years. In the 1970's, its harmful affects were acknowledged by the United States' government; laws were then formed to limit and control American citizens' exposure to asbestos.

Still, asbestos is present in the materials of the floors and ceilings of many buildings built between 1950 and 1980, and consequentially, it is present in many Schreiber classrooms. Asbestos is only dangerous, however, when it takes the form of a light powder. When it is friable, asbestos is easily integrated into the air and inhaled.

"People should have concerns," said Mr. Miller. He believes that it is



Clay dust is one of the most pressing issues in school health. If not cleaned regularly, the dust can become a health hazard as it easily becomes airborne and can be inhaled. As weeks pass, clay dust accumulates on a bookshelf in the art room.

important that people are conscious of their environment. "When something isn't working we need to be told. Our protocol is always to report any health and safety concerns."

When an asbestos abatement test was done at Schreiber High School in Sept. 2006, it was found that the asbestos level was zero. According to this test, the asbestos present in the buildings at Schreiber is not friable and presents no health hazards. Despite the concerns, asbestos is not a threat to the health of the faculty or student body at Schreiber.

Faculty and students have been outspoken in reporting areas in which they believe maintenance is needed. There have been reported concerns by faculty and staff about cracked tiles in the hallways of older parts of the school and in many of the classrooms that contain asbestos.

"The school and district worked hard to remedy" student and teacher concerns, according to Mr. Miller. Rooms that were labeled as suspected of containing friable asbestos were cleansed and then repaired. The levels were tested again, and once again the rooms were found to be safe.

With the door closed on the asbestos issue, the administration turned its attention to other health issues in the school. New York State mandates that science chemicals must be stored with proper ventilation. Hoods are also mandated to ventilate and remove chemical fumes from the rooms.

When the hoods were first installed there were a couple that were not working properly. They were reported as such and fixed. Recently however, problems with the hoods in some science rooms were also reported. In response, the district health and safety committee, chaired by Mr. Eric Vonderhorst, checked the areas housing the chemicals and deemed that the environment was safe.

The school believes that once the chemicals have been properly stored the issue is remedied. However, it is impossible for the school to monitor the whereabouts of the chemicals and know if they have been taken out of storage.

Once the school decides that an area is safe and the protocol for dealing with potentially toxic chemicals has been determined, problems could easily arise

due to a teacher's failure to comply with the protocol, whether this failure is intentional or accidental. "We do all we can," said Mr. Miller. "Everyone works hard but we cannot meet everyone's standards."

According to Mr. Miller, the problem of chemical exposure could be alleviated by storing the chemicals in a separate room. The structure of art room 206 could have been addressed more directly and designed with safety as a priority. The supply room could have been shut off, and possibly built in a separate area, rather than inside the class room.

In order to improve on current health and safety issues on a more permanent level, some steps may need to be taken. One potential solution that may be considered for the future is the purchase of cabinetry to store chemicals, paints, and even clay to quarantine any fumes that may be toxic.

"There are so many products we're hoping to give attention to, so many things that deserve our help, but a lot of it is dependent on budget," said Mr. Brad Fitzgerald, Assistant Principal in charge of maintenance.

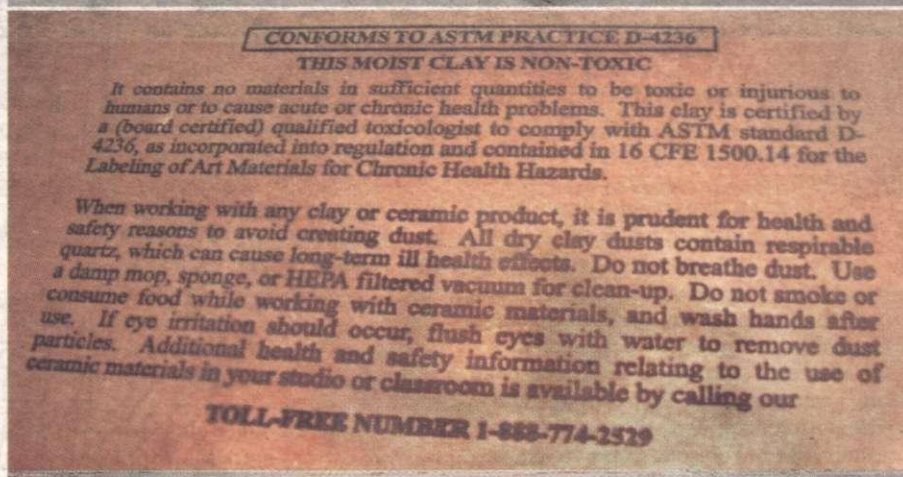
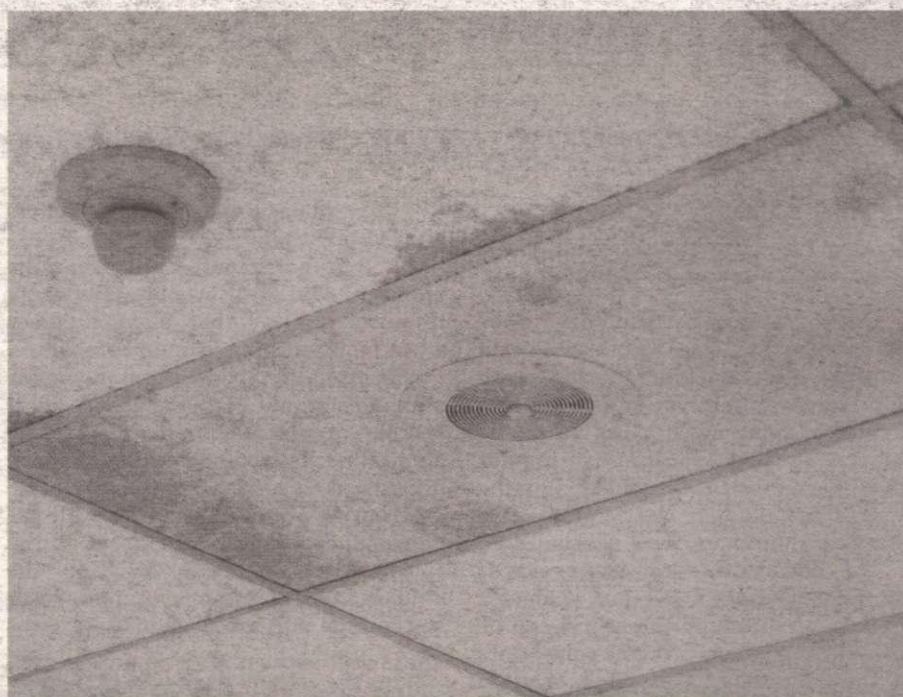
Along with the issue of dust in room 206, and the school-wide concern about asbestos, other, less health-related, issues have also made their way onto the list of things that need to be repaired.

"The building, although being currently maintained, could benefit from some additional resources to improve the facility," said Mr. Fitzgerald. "The roof has leaks, the gym needs work. Some furniture is broken or in need of replacement. The landscaping could benefit from some reworking. The retainer wall in the back of the school needs to be fixed. Also, the auditorium needs to have some seating and curtain repairs."

"We need to continue our hard work. We have lots to do," he said.

Although many issues have been targeted and dealt with, it is very difficult to fully repair anything at a school where so much is constantly going on and in use. Students occupy themselves with sports, clubs, Sports Night practice, or play rehearsal until 8:00 at night on any given day, even on Saturdays.

"It is impossible to take the time and properly clean because the building is never empty," said Mr. Fitzgerald.



Liz Corkett

Above: Mold spores grow in the ceiling of room 206 due to leaks. Below: Clay dust is toxic when dry, warns the label on the clay used in room 206, in which a large amount of clay dust accumulates on computers, tables, and bookshelves.

Hallway floors, for example, cannot be swept to be sufficiently clean because students and faculty are always in need of access to their lockers or practice areas.

"We have a big building with thousands of people and a shortage of staff," said Mr. Miller. "We need to evaluate each issue and work hard to remedy it."

In situations where one's personal health is concerned, people will always report an issue to ensure their safety.

The school administration is aware of the legitimate problems concerning clay dust and mold and has remedied the unfounded claims that asbestos is dangerous. It is acting within its resources to remedy the issues reported by concerned students and faculty.

This article is the first in a two-part series on problems related to the physical status of the school. Next issue will focus on parts of the building included in the 2003 construction bond.

Schreiber Speaks

"I don't feel safe in my art classroom because I'm afraid that the current conditions are a threat to my health."

- Emily Szulman, Freshman

"I noticed that the school is beginning to accumulate dust and other particles, and I never took the time to think about the source and possible problems of the deterioration. But when really thinking about it, I am sure it cannot be a good thing."

- Nicole Botsaris, Sophomore

"I remember freshman year my teacher told us she got sick because of a toxin in the room. I'm not sure what happened, but I think our safety is as important as our education and I don't want to be in danger of getting sick when I go to school."

- Ali Forman, Junior

"I think that the teachers who want their rooms to be changed are making hasty judgements without reviewing all the facts, and if they did they would realize that they are being irrational. Asbestos really isn't that dangerous; it's only harmful if it's friable."

- Jeremy Gurewitz, Junior

"Even though I think our school is very well kept it scares me that a problem like this is not being dealt with. I took ceramics sophomore year and I noticed the clay dust and the teacher warned us about how it can be dangerous, and I want this to be solved for the classes of the future."

- Katrina Fahey, Senior

Freshmen can't stop making fun of math

Ninth graders have become "addicted" to their calculator games

BY Andrew Seo
Contributing Writer

Our graphing calculators have helped us graph lines, plot points and multiply large numbers during math class; however, our calculators are also capable of doing much more. With the right equipment, you can turn your calculator into a handheld gaming device. You can play classic games like Tetris and Mario and even baseball.

This phenomenon is sweeping across the freshman class like an epidemic. Freshmen all around the school can be seen playing games on their calculators in the cafeteria, library and even in their classrooms.

This begs the question of whether the calculator games serve as good clean fun or a detriment to students' learning. Both students and teachers are becoming aware of the new calculator game craze.

"The common department practice is to delete the games, but it is ultimately up to the teacher on what action they take," said Math department chairman Mr. Jeff Lesser. There is no set Math department policy on calculator games.

"Calculator games fall under the same category as disruptive class participation such as text messages and doing other unrelated work in class," added Mr. Lesser.

Math teacher Mr. Mark Reynolds teaches a freshmen honors class and can attest to the calculator craze. He has witnessed students playing games right under his nose during class time.

Mr. Reynolds lets first-time offenders off with a warning.

"If it is persistent, I will clear the memory," said Mr. Reynolds. He wants to make it clear that playing games when he is teaching is unacceptable.

Mr. Anthony Tedesco uses a similar punishment as Mr. Reynolds. If it becomes a problem in his classes, he simply resets their calculator which does the same as clearing the memory.

Clearing the memory erases all the games and anything else stored in the calculator's memory, preventing the student from playing again, unless he or she obtains the games again from a peer.

On the other hand, there are instances when Mr. Reynolds does allow his students to use their calculators for non-mathematical purposes.

"It is okay to play after a test, to keep busy and stay

quiet," said Mr. Reynolds.

Despite the efforts made by teachers to prevent the students from playing games in class, students do so anyway. Dylan Kane is a freshman math honors student who entertains himself with his TI-83+ during class.

When he is caught by a teacher or peer during class, he often says to the teacher, "It's alright...Don't worry about it," and continues playing. Despite the fun he experiences from playing the games, "it is a distraction," said Kane. He also feels that he suffers from a calculator "addiction."

Thomas Jester, another freshman, admits to playing with his calculator during class. Jester, like Kane, also recognizes it as a distraction.

"It disrupts my learning. It is a huge distraction," says Jester.

However, not all teachers witness the problem in their class. "I haven't realized it in my class, but that does not mean that I haven't heard about it from other teachers," said Mr. Joseph Lederer.

The ninth grade honors teachers and the students are both in agreement that calculators have appropriate times of use, but during class, and that overall, they are classroom distractions. Furthermore, students and teachers alike also agree that it would be beneficial if the calculator games situation was put under control.

"If students spent as much time on their math homework as they do playing calculator games in class, they would all be A students and my job would be much easier," said Mr. Joseph Pichkur.

Teachers can only hope that students in our school will learn to play during their off periods and continue to learn during class time.



Andrew Martinolich

Schreiber celebrates the Roman harvest of Saturnalia

There is more to the holiday season besides Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa

BY Nikki Pond
Sports Editor

Four long years of sweating and toiling over the dead and complex Latin language finally paid off for Schreiber Latin seniors, who came out victorious in nearly every contest at the annual Roman feast, Saturnalia. Students came from all over the Aegean and Mediterranean to take part in these competitions. Fortunately, everyone came out alive. Everyone, that is, except for Achilles, who was the target in the contest "Pin the arrow on Achilles."

Latin teacher, Mr. Santoro, was in charge of organizing the Dec. 7 event. That day after school, he and about a dozen freshmen transformed the cafeteria into Ancient Rome. They also focused the decorations on this year's theme: Paris and the Golden Apple. Paris is famous for initiating the Trojan War—the ten-year war that later became the subject of Homer's *Illiad*. (Latin students have never studied this epic poem at Schreiber.)

The night began after the seniors assumed their spots on Mount Olympus.

"When I was a freshman, I envied the seniors at Saturnalia," said senior

Emlyn Diakow. "They got to eat dinner first and lay on top of the tables at the head of the cafeteria. Finally this year was our turn."

Senior Jonah Lovens, the master of ceremonies, took the podium. He announced the first competition "Pin the arrow on Achilles." It derives from "Pin the tail on the donkey," but refers to Achilles' fatal ankle injury in the Trojan War. After the freshmen and juniors failed and the sophomores refused to participate, senior Mallory Beberman stepped up to the plate. After Beberman was blindfolded and placed the designated distance away from the poster of Achilles, the rest of the seniors successfully guided her toward the ankle.

The next contest was Fabula Optima. One by one, a student from each grade came up to the podium to complete a story that Lovens started for them. The storytellers were senior Daniel Stewart, junior Katherine Hughes, sophomore David Becker, and freshmen Sarah Pierce and Johnny Schechner.

"I enjoyed projecting my empowering voice over all of the little freshmen," said Stewart, who won for his tale focused on Mr. Santoro's beauty. "I think the story allowed me to gain a new power as a figure of leadership in the eyes of my

fellow Latin classmates."

Following the Fabula Optima was the traditional Mr. and Mrs. Rome contest. One girl and one boy were selected as candidates by students in each grade. The only exception to this was the ninth grade, who chose to put up a siamese Mr. and Mrs. Rome. Each contestant was asked a question, and the winners were chosen based on the quality of their answers.

"The highlight of this contest was definitely Ben Pierce's answer," said senior Filiz Kipcakli. Lovens asked Pierce, "What does it smell like in here?" Pierce answered, "It smells like updog." With a look of confusion, Lovens replied, "What's 'updog?'" With a chuckle, Pierce said, "Nothing much, you?" Pierce was named Mr. Rome 2006 along with Hughes as Mrs. Rome.

Just before dinner, Disposable Heroes, a school band, played to provide entertainment. The band members consist of juniors Avi Blum, Lawrence Plofer, Aaron Silberstein, and Andy Werle. As the band was wrapping up, several ex-Latin students showed up with one hundred White Castle hamburgers. "We went on an epic journey into the heart of Hempstead to bring tasty burgers to this glorious event," said senior Max Lewin, one of

the adventurers.

One of the most exciting parts of Saturnalia was the costume contest. Most of the students just wore white togas that teacher Dr. Lindemann assembled for them upon their arrival. Four senior girls and one freshman boy thought outside the box and came in theme-based costumes. Freshman William O'Neill even wore his Roman soldier outfit to school to prepare for the big night. He was chosen as male costume contest winner. Seniors Diakow, Michelle Doscas, Kipcakli, and Pond chose to dress as a golden apple, an olive branch, a heart, and wisdom, respectively. These four concepts relate very closely to the theme of Paris and the Golden Apple. The judges were only allowed to choose one female costume contest winner and presented the honor to Diakow.

"We put a lot of work into our costumes," said Doscas. "I wish we all could have won, but I'm glad that it was Emlyn."

After all of the contests were over and winners were announced, the Ancient Romans spent a few minutes shooting the breeze and then returned back to the 21st century. Mount Olympus was disassembled and togas were removed. Saturnalia 2006 had come to an end.

When time is money, money costs less

When it comes to donating, people would rather give money than their time

BY Melis Emre

Assistant Opinions Editor

The holiday season is a time of year that almost everyone enjoys. Beginning with Thanksgiving and ending with New Year's Day, the five weeks that lead up to winter break are usually marked by holiday cheer and charity, not to mention the appearance of certain jolly deities and their friends in store windows. For hundreds of years, people all over the world have joined together and celebrated as one: putting up decorations, baking festive foods, and appreciating each other for just being there. However, recent years have shown a decline in the so-called "holiday spirit" that the month of December has become so famous for.

While it is true that the total amount of donations in 2005 and 2006 has increased by approximately 2.7% since 2004, the majority of these donations were made in response to one of the three natural disasters that occurred during these years, the tsunami in southern Asia, the Gulf Coast hurricanes, and the Pakistan earthquake. These donations, which are clearly very much appreciated by the victims of these tragedies, are not nearly as much as necessary to repair the damage caused to these locations in the aftermath of such enormous natural disasters. In addition, donations within the country to charities such as UNICEF, America's Charities and Oxfam America, have declined in the last year.

Even in Schreiber, there is a need for students and staff to be more generous, particularly around this time of year. Before the holiday break, many of Schreiber's clubs sponsored certain charities or held drives to benefit those in need. Interestingly enough, the reception of these good-will works was somewhat mixed. While charities that asked for students to simply donate money did very well in a relatively short

amount of time, ones that required students to spend some time outside of school took extra effort and constant cajoling in order to produce similar results. Are students more willing to donate money over time?

It would appear that the answer to this question is "yes." In the case of the toy drive, a charity sponsored by both Key Club and The Schreiber Times, students were far more willing to donate money than donate an actual toy.

"I think it's interesting that it took only three days to raise four-hundred dollars, and yet it took almost five weeks to get nine-hundred toys," said senior and newspaper Editor-in-Chief Ben Jaffe.

While it is obvious that donations in any form are appreciated, there is something to be said for student's unwillingness to spend their time helping out someone else. In addition to the constant announcements and the numerous flyers posted around school, students were reminded on a daily basis to donate toys by their teachers. However, in response to their requests, many teachers were asked if those who donated a toy would receive extra credit. Do students really need motivation to help someone in need? Will Schreiber's student body only donate toys if there is something in it for them?

Of course, one could easily argue that no matter how the donation was obtained, it is the fact that it was made that counts. In truth, many members of the staff and student body feel this way.

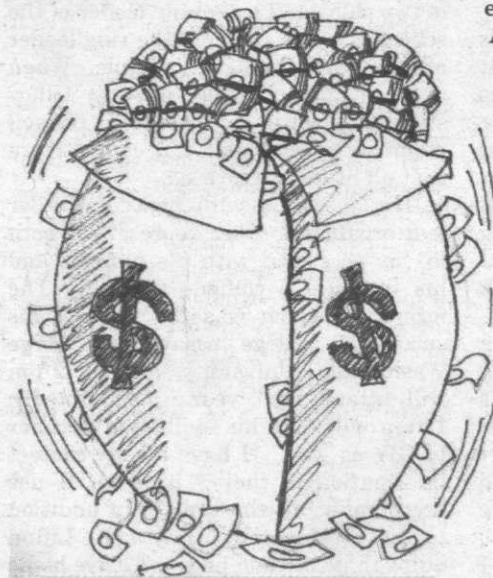
"We're so thankful that teachers supported the toy drive by offering extra credit to encourage generous donations," said health teacher Mrs. Kalinowski. "It was amazing that we got so many toys."

Others who were affiliated with the drive are of a similar opinion.

"It was beyond incredible that we got almost nine-hundred toys," said senior and Key Club President Jason Lifton.

"That's nine-hundred kids who wouldn't have had any presents for Christmas who now have a gift for the holidays."

Still, despite the donations that were made to the Toy Drive, it is difficult not to comment on the lack of charitable spirit in Schreiber. Part of the reason it so bewildering is that many who attend Schreiber live relatively comfortable



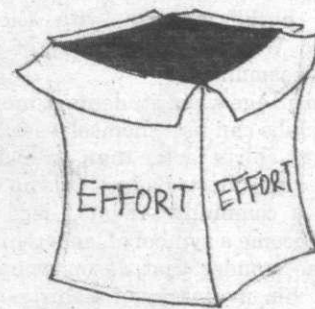
lives. We live in a very good community and are reasonably at ease. So why is it that we are "scrooging" charities?

One man who would be desperately opposed to the decrease in donations is Peter Singer. An Australian philosopher who has been both widely praised and disputed, Singer argues that there is a "charitable burden" placed on the ordinary American. For example, the average American spends one third of their income on items of completely unnecessary value. This money, which, keep in mind, is benefiting the individual who spent it in the most materialistic way, could easily be given to a charity aids impoverished children.

Since this is true, why is it that more people aren't offering a helping

hand to those in need? Why are they not upholding their burden? You could argue that people are not living up to Singer's moral expectations due to the fact that they are unsure of how much to actually donate.

Here is the solution. According to the Conference Board (a nonprofit organization that researches the economics of our country), the average American household with an income of 50,000 dollars spend approximately 30,000 dollars annually on essentials. Therefore, donations made by this family should be as high as 20,000 dollars.



Realistically, Singer acknowledges the unlikelihood of the full 20,000 being donated, however he argues that as much as possible be given away. The formula is the same for households with higher income; any money that is not being spent on necessities should be donated.

Just for a second, consider the possibilities that this theory explores. Imagine if, for just one year, every single household in America donated its "luxury money" to charity. Imagine if every single household in Port Washington donated its "luxury money" to charity; without any motivation whatsoever. Can you even begin to think about the number of lives you could change for the better? The number of lives you could save?

Is Black Friday bringing in as much green as it claims?

Does Black Friday and Cyber Monday live up to their media hype, or are they simply hype?

BY Meghan Doyle

Staff Writer

As the holiday season is fast approaching Americans have become accustomed to the bombardment of advertisements during late Dec. Whether they come from newspapers, the radio or television, it is hard to ignore the media's obsession with the holiday season, the most profitable time of the year. In fact, nine out of the top ten busiest shopping days in the United States occur in Dec.

One of these busy shopping days is the Friday after Thanksgiving, also known as Black Friday. In reality, Black Friday is not a natural, intuitive phenomenon. People, after stuffing themselves with turkey and watching football games all afternoon, do not naturally want to get up and go holiday shopping in the middle of the night or extremely early the next morning.

Black Friday is, in all actuality, a manufactured event created by the

many marketing gurus in America. In the marketing madness found throughout the United States between Thanksgiving and Christmas the media has created this urban legend known as Black Friday. Many contribute this to the potential to maximize the shopping retail between the last two major holidays of the year.

Many bus drivers and police refer to the day as Black Friday because there is usually heavy traffic on that day. The most recent use of the term focuses on the idea that "Black Friday" is the day when retailers go from being "in the red," or unprofitable, to being "in the black," financially stable.

Although many believe that the busiest days for retail shopping in the United States fall on Black Friday, and the Monday following Black Friday, also known as Cyber Monday, they are actually inaccurate. Although the two days rake in an extremely large profit for most retailers, they are not as profitable as the days in the week before Christmas. If this is the case, then why

is there so much "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday" promotions found in American media around this time of year?

It is due to the stressful and hectic nature of the day, whether it be the traffic, customer demands or large crowds, that causes media has dubbed the Friday after Thanksgiving "Black Friday." The day is in fact its own self-fulfilling prophecy.

"Cyber Monday," a term invented in November of 2005 by the National Retail Federation's Shop.org, is similar to Black Friday but refers to the online shopping experience of the holidays. It symbolizes yet another busy shopping day for Americans. The idea of Cyber Monday appeals to many because people are able to skip the long lines, frustrating traffic, and physical stress of Black Friday. They can shop while at work or at times when many stores are closed.

Cyber Monday is constantly stated by the media as the "biggest online shopping day of the year" in the United

States but in 2005, this day was actually on Dec. 12. While an eHoliday survey released last year stated that 77 percent of online retailers said that their sales increased dramatically on the Monday after Thanksgiving, also known as Cyber Monday, the day only ranks as the twelfth biggest online shopping day of the year.

The Shop.org retailers who came up with the idea only suggested it to "give people something different". The truth is that Shop.org "didn't notice anything special" about the Monday after Thanksgiving but now with the media constantly promoting the idea of "Cyber Monday Blowouts" to Americans in the past few years, it is fulfilling its own marketing hype.

Perhaps the question here is: Is the tail wagging the dog or the dog wagging the tail? In other words, is the media hype causing Americans to go out on these buying binges, whether at stores or online, or do we truly need to make such tremendous purchases so early in the holiday season.

Student Feature Jason Lifton: man of many shirts

BY David Becker

Assistant News Editor

You would never guess that senior Jason Lifton owns more eye-catching, labeled T-shirts than either Olsen twin. It may not be Dolce or de La Renta, but Lifton has been bringing in T-shirts from his various causes and pet projects, from all the way back to his self-proclaimed overcommitted phase in seventh grade to the Dec. 9 dodgeball tournament.

Like the Olsens, Lifton is overexposed—not physically, that is—due to the fact that he could dress a small military unit in cause couture alone. Almost every Schreiber student knows who he is and is involved in or attends at least one of his pursuits. We've all seen the noble "We're bringing sexy back!" t-shirts with the post-World War II-style artistry of a slick businessman.

In an age when students in more than two clubs can find themselves collecting event t-shirts faster than an avaricious girl scout collects badges, it is no wonder that a community-themed logo t-shirt has become a symbol of leadership. And it's no wonder that Jason would have built his mountain of t-shirts next to his leadership empire. "People say I do two thousand clubs," said a laughing Lifton. "I mean I don't like to sit on the sidelines, but I haven't really been that modern definition of 'overcommitted' in a long time."

In reality, Lifton's plethora of shirts is owed entirely to the domino effect. "Well I was home base representative for the student council in 6th grade, then ran for Vice President and started to get very involved. Then in Schreiber, I had a reputation for being involved, so I was put on the student advisory board for Dr. Banta." Since then, Lifton has been a member of the Student Government and has participated in school-based committees like the Rachel's Challenge and nutrition committees. Most recently, he's been involved with the New Student Welcome and Middle States assessment.

Still Jason Lifton maintains that he's not the power-hungry, college-obsessed dictator his resume would frame him as. "I only do the things I really care about," said Lifton. "If I was locked in a situation where my clubs didn't match my interests, I probably would not be as involved in them. Or I would have to work harder to make them work for me."

He does acknowledge the role of students who try as hard as possible to look like they are involved in order to impress colleges. "You have to respect the work of students who show up to do manual labor and do the work for the club," he said. "They may not love it, but they do their share." Lifton likens this kind of student to one who takes honors and AP classes for the G.P.A. boost, saying that these students have made the course-load their own, even if they are not passionate about it.

And Lifton truly would be one to acknowledge the presence of the "sign-in-ers," who only come to clubs to look good. As the co-president of both Student Council and the Key Club, he's had to work with students who did not share his same love to please. In describing coordination nightmares, Lifton cites times when he has had to make "a million calls on my cell phone

at once" in order to round up Student Council and Key Club members for an event.

"It can be a real disaster if no one makes the work of the team their own undertaking," said Lifton. "And I hate disasters. I hate to disappoint people."

Lifton maintains that he is not the leader during social situations, insisting that usually it's his female friends who will coordinate birthdays, parties and dinners. When someone's the president of two clubs and a genuine leader of the school, how are they not the ring leader of their peers, you ask? Simple. When those female friends include fellow student government executive council member Nikki Pond, you can be sure that all bases are covered.

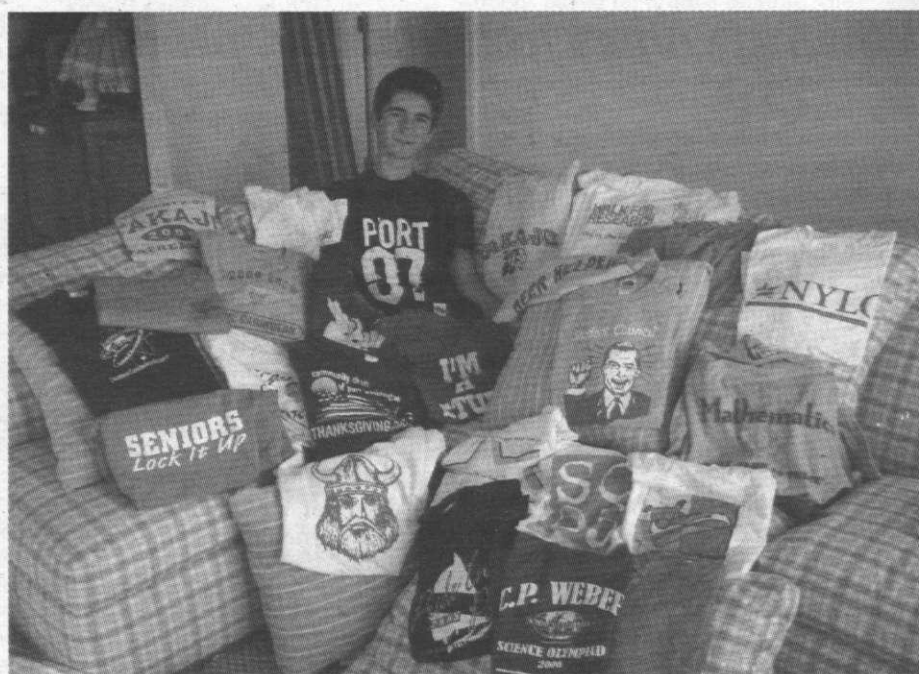
His obsession with neatness, order and organization are represented both by his obsession with his planner and his impeccable coiffed red hair. The former of which was the topic of his successful college essay for George Washington University, which Lifton will attend next year. Undoubtedly, Lifton will take his skills and planner to GW as well. "I have all my contact information in there," he said, "I use my planner all the time." In addition to his presidential utility belt, Lifton quips that the item he won't leave home without is his Jeep.

One can be prepared and still have nightmares of being unprepared, explains Lifton. "I would say that my biggest nightmare is if an out-of-town event is cancelled and there's no way to inform anyone." The Pride in Port carnival, just a dream of Assistant Principal Mr. Brad Fitzgerald, was fast becoming a nightmare before he spoke to Lifton who micromanaged every aspect of the show beforehand. "The whole event was planned in a week and a half. I spent hours of the phone ordering inflatable rides and the Viking costume," laughs Lifton who co-managed the event with junior Amanda Schiff.

Schreiber festivities are never enough for Lifton, who often travels out of town for conferences, so it's not just the Port Washington community that's heard of Lifton's leadership legend. The image as an icon has followed Jason Lifton throughout the leadership community. While he has insisted that he's merely interested in local politics, Lifton has attended conferences for the National Youth Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. Jason has also been invited to the Congressional Youth and Student Leadership Conferences. He was also nominated to be a keynote speaker on one occasion.

It's not just his leadership interests that take him out of state. Lifton is a certified rescue diver and this ambition has taken him to Hawaii, the British Virgin Islands, Punta Mita Mexico, the Cayman Islands and Nevis. He has participated in various events with the Professional Association of Diving Instructors and has even been certified as an emergency FIRST responder.

Lifton coolly names the titles of events and places he's been, a truly world-worn senior who's seen it all and isn't bragging. His tone is casual as he tosses off the names of his committees and clubs. The only time when he puts heavy emphasis on the words is when he's describing the magnitude of an event. If it wasn't for his two page extracurricular sheet that he sent to colleges early on, I would have no idea



Liz Corkett

Senior Jason Lifton has collected t-shirts from such clubs as Student Council, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Olympiad, and Peer Helpers.

that his talents were so varied, and his involvement so strong. In those two pages, you'll find enough for a short biography—notably the fact that Lifton started his own business creating photographic montages (an important skill for a leader, one might say) at an early age.

So this coming semester, when charity drives and events are as hyped

up as celebrity galas, you can be sure it's the doing of Lifton. You can count on him to be the one with the walkie-talkie, fanny pack, calculator, and planner as the events of the coming months flow smoothly under his watchful eye. And you can bet that, like the Olsens, he'll be wearing just the cutest t-shirt ever.

Fashion File

Warm patterns for an otherwise frigid season

BY Amanda Schiff

News Editor

Forget that schoolgirl image you have imprinted in your mind when you think about plaid. Erase the thought of your grandma's old couch and instead, think of high style and of European designers at their best. This winter, menswear prints like houndstooth, plaids, checks, and pinstripes, are perennial fashion favorites. This season, designers took a big step, however, by creating oversized patterns on fabrics and mixing the already bold prints.

Although on the runway the size zero, 5'9" models might look fabulous in a red and black polkadotted overcoat and pinstriped leggings, in real life, you may want to opt for a more subtle look and concentrate on wearing one bold menswear pattern. Even if you don't feel comfortable dressing in such a noticeable article of clothing, small accessories can do the trick. By adding a bold fabric to your outfit in small doses, you can display your fashionable appeal while remaining true to your own sense of style that may or may not be inclusive of such attention-grabbing garb. Pick up a plaid headband from Delias for only \$12, or try houndstooth rain boots from Target for \$20.

Fall will also be the time to experiment with soft pieces like a draped skirt in menswear patterns. Normally, pencil skirts and a line dresses come in pinstriped and solid, darker hues;

however, feminine articles of clothing are being created in menswear prints this year. Designers such as Diane von Furstenberg and Ralph Lauren modeled their entire collection this winter on the use of mens prints on women's clothing.

In addition to becoming more easily accessible to the public after a hug walk down the runway at the end of last year, these bold patterns continue to add pizzazz and versatility to everyday outfits.

"In the past, a lot of jackets only came in solid colors," said junior Melanie Fried. "In the past year or two, more jackets consist of a plaid pattern, which definitely makes jackets look less lackluster and more bold."

The boldness of each pattern—although shocking at first—can be toned down when worn in softer colors. Grays and blacks are dominating the houndstooth accessories whereas reds and greens took over in plaid.

"Houndstooth is great for the winter and fall because its warm and fun," said junior Sarah Scheinman. "It has a unique appeal of being available to both men and woman."

The vibrant patterns that dominate the stores warm up the days of freezing shoppers longing for that mercury to start rising. Although their plaid jacket might be perfect for a day in the snow, the bright colors remind us of warmer times.

arts & entertainment

Tenacious D's stubborn journey to the top *Two comedians revel in the glory of a feature film and sold-out night at MSG*

BY Andy Werle
A&E Editor

Who would have thought that a band created for two short funny scenes on HBO would one day sell out Madison Square Garden? Tenacious D, a band composed of Jack Black and Kyle Gass, did just that on Friday, Dec. 1, to tumultuous applause from the packed arena. The show was based on their film, *Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny*, and they played songs from both their self-titled debut album and the soundtrack to the film.

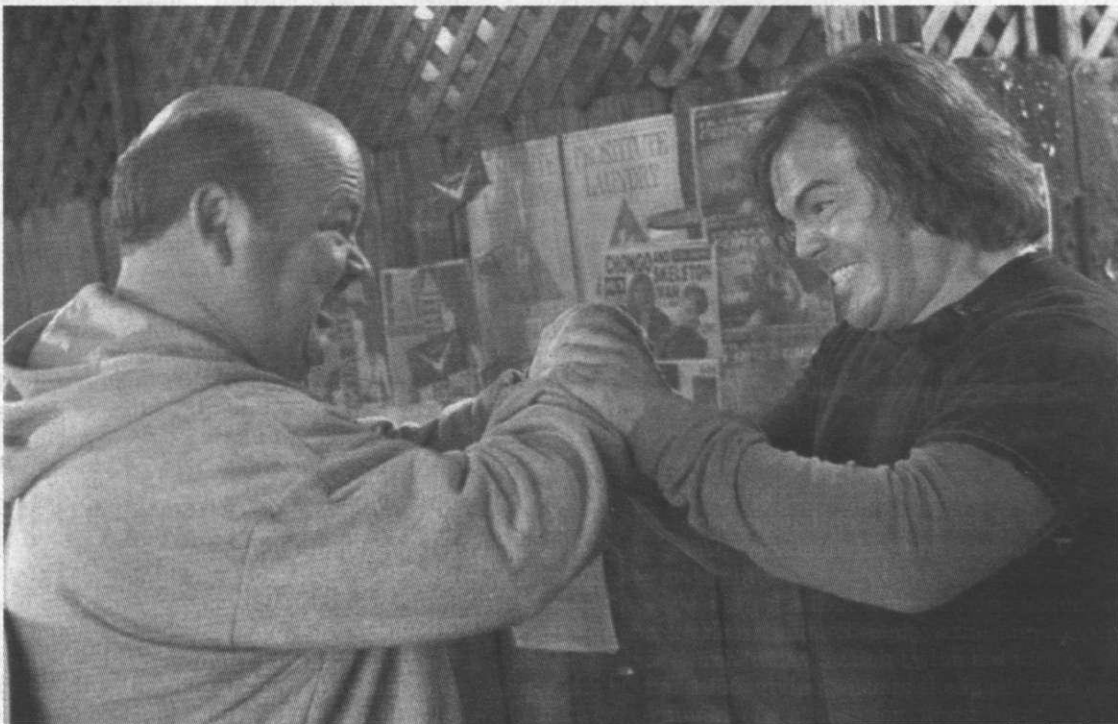
They opened with fan-favorite "Kielbasa," and the audience sang along loudly to every word. The unique mix of classic rock, heavy metal and heavy satire brought in a variety of different people to the show. While some were rather overzealous in their approach to relaxation and enjoyment, most were overjoyed to see the two stars sing some of their own favorite songs. The show even included characters ranging from Lee, the "D's" biggest fan, Colonel Sanders on drums, and Satan, the band's ultimate foe.

The film, which unfortunately tanked at the box office despite the band's run through media programs, such as appearing on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, was hilarious and filled with celebrity cameos. It starts off with a young Jack Black, known as JB or Jables, rebelling

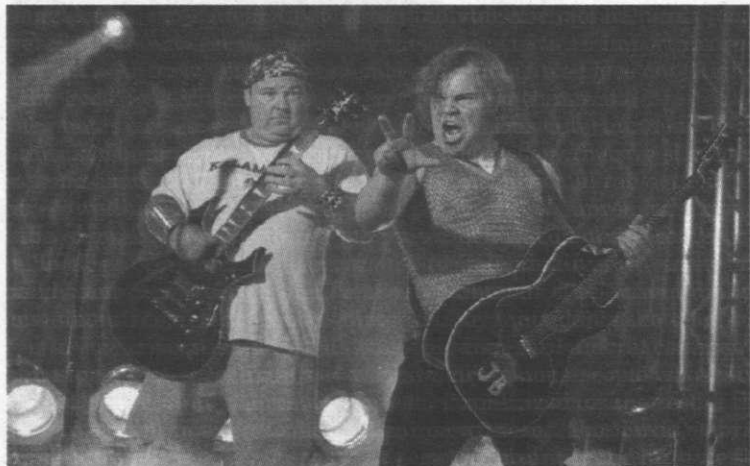
against his father, played by Meat Loaf. After journeying to Hollywood, he meets up with Kyle Gass, known to JB as KG or Rage Kage. KG leads JB to believe that he is a well-known song writer who has worked with metal legend Ronnie James Dio and Black Sabbath, but JB soon discovers that this is just a hoax.

Now on equal footing, the two form a band in an attempt to write an opus, but they find that they have little to no appeal at open mic nights. While at a guitar store, the two consult a guitar freak, played by Ben Stiller, who tells them the story of the Pick of Destiny, which is the reason that bands like AC/DC, The Who and Van Halen rock so supremely.

The two bandmates leave on a journey to find this sought-after pick—a piece of Satan's tooth—that would enable them to win the open mic competition. After encountering a creepy old man who once tried to steal the pick (Tim Robbins) and



Kyle Gass and Jack Black form Tenacious D, the self-proclaimed greatest band in the world. Their film, *Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny*, did poorly at the box office and received poor critical reviews, but was very funny for fans of the band.



Tenacious D perform the song "Master Exploder" in the film *Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny*. The song was played at Madison Square Garden, but Jack Black's vocals were obviously overdubbed.

surviving a brief band break-up, the two finally make it to the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, where the pick is kept. The pick is contained in a room filled with lasers that move randomly, forcing Black to imitate the scene in *Ocean's 12* in the laser room to retrieve

the pick.

After stealing it and surviving a car chase back to the open mic contest, Satan emerges from the parking lot to demand his tooth back. After an intense rock-off, Satan loses his horn and is banished back to hell. The two head back to KG's apartment to write their masterpiece.

The film was only a hit among fans of the band, and those very fans were present at the show to witness what was undoubtedly one of their favorite bands reenact the film in front of their eyes. To allow the older songs to be played within the context of the show, there were slight plot twists.

The concert's two opening acts, a phony rap group and comedian Neil Hamburger, were moderately entertaining. They were both booed off the stage in favor of the "D," who obliged quickly. It was an interesting experience to see Jack Black, a famous movie star and comedian, walk on the stage and greet the audience. He had a commanding stage presence, and his voice was especially potent, hitting most of the notes, especially in songs like "Dude, I Totally Miss You" and "Explosivo," in which the notes are odd

and off tempo.

Fortunately, the band was not above performing its old hits, but also treated newer fans to almost all the songs from the new album. The whole show, though, paled in comparison to the encore. The band took the stage after waves of applause and chants of "D! D! D!" and went right into one of its most popular, if vulgarly-named, tunes. The singalong was so loud that it overpowered the band at times.

Right after, as if to please the gods, Tenacious D hit the opening notes of "Tribute," a tribute to the self-proclaimed "greatest and best song in the world." They performed it so well that most of the people after the show were still in awe of its majesty. To close an almost flawless show, the band went into a medley from The Who's album *Tommy*.

Most of the audience did not expect a masterpiece, and in turn, they did not receive one. But Tenacious D were lively and exuberant rock stars, something they undoubtedly have always wanted to be. Audience members left with a deeper respect for their cleverness and love for classic rock.



Music teacher Anthony Pinelli conducted the Symphonic Orchestra with gusto and vigor as they played pieces of several different musical styles. Lizz Predmore

Winter concert has fewer groups but more music

BY Andy Werle

A&E Editor

Schreiber's music department has taken a step in a new direction, and one that many hope will continue. Instead of fitting all of the school groups as well as the extracurricular groups into one concert, the first Winter Concert of 2006 involved only groups included in the school curriculum. This new system keeps the concerts to a manageable hour and fifteen minutes instead of two hours.

On Dec. 13, this new system was put into effect, as the Symphonic Orchestra, the Schreiber Choir, and the Concert Band kept the concert from dragging with exciting performances and selections. Starting with an address from Mr. John Lewis and new Director of the Creative Arts Marc Greene, the concert was meant to highlight the

dedication of the music department's students and staff.

The Symphonic Orchestra, directed by the great Mr. Anthony Pinelli, started the performances with a resounding rendition of the National Anthem, conducted by senior Alison Schenkler. They then began their tunes with "Fugue" from Concerto Grosso by Ernest Bloch, a piece that let each section of the orchestra show off its talent, including complex cello and first violin parts. Next, the "Romanze in C Op. 42" by Jean Sibelius exemplified the power of the orchestra acting as a whole, although the basses managed to come through as the standout section. The orchestra's last song was "Front Porch Jam," a unique mix of classical styles and bluegrass themes composed by Dean Marshall.

The Schreiber Choir, directed by the animated Mr. Phillip Glover, performed

four tunes, the most by any single group of the night. The "Song of Peace (V' chit tu)" was first. Ezra Gabay's arrangement of rounds in Hebrew was performed wonderfully by the choir, especially the hard-to-pronounce Hebrew lyrics. The Italian "Va, Pensiero," arranged by Giuseppe Verdi, showcased the choir's ability to change dynamics, which added an interesting layer to an otherwise standard tune.

The first song in English was "Bendemeer's Stream (Irish Melody)," arranged by Jerry W. Harris, which included a call-and-response between the lower and higher register singers. The final tune, which included solos from junior tenor Aaron Schweitzer and sophomore bass Jeremy Geller, was "Daniel, Daniel Servant of the Lord" by Urdine S. Moore. Geller's performance was especially engaging. He sang exceptionally low notes while still

retaining the rhythm of the song.

The last act of the night was the Schreiber Concert Band, which played three songs under the direction of Mr. Mark Brenner. Their first song was the epic "Spirit of the Falcon" by Richard Saucedo, which showed off the talent of the band as a whole. The second tune was "Buckaroo Holiday (from Rodeo)" by Aaron Copland which featured an interesting interplay between many sections of the band, although the drum section was mainly silent. The final piece of the concert was the exhilarating "Abram's Pursuit" by David R. Holsinger. The drummers were put on display in this song, which featured rapid bell playing, deafening cymbal crashes, and a constantly thumping bass drum.

Mr. Mark Brenner took pride in the eclectic selection of the music chosen for the band commenting, "It is a chance for me to grow along with the students."

Racist outburst raises questions about comedy industry

BY Max Lewin

Assistant A&E Editor

Cosmo Kramer, one of the most beloved sitcom characters of the 1990s, is a racist. As one of the main characters of the long-running and currently syndicated show *Seinfeld*, the image of Kramer as the wacky, overbearing neighbor to Jerry Seinfeld was forever shattered when, on Nov. 17, Michael Richards (the actor behind the coif) launched into a racially-charged diatribe in response to hecklers while doing his standup act at the Laugh Factory in Los Angeles. Reportedly, the two black men with whom Richards exchanged words were simply trying to order their drinks when he made an offhand comment about them, which led to a response and an escalation of the situation.

Over the course of the incident, which was captured on a camera phone, Richards proceeded to make direct references to lynching and to repeatedly assault the men with racial slurs. He eventually left the stage, and after performing the next night at the club without incident, he was banned from the Laugh Factory, as was the use of the "n-word."

In the wake of the incident, many questions about the nature of comedy have been raised by people in and out of the comedy industry. Some have praised the Laugh Factory's banning of the word, saying that its use in comedy routines is unconditionally detrimental to African Americans, whether it is an

African American using it or not. Others, like the black comedian Damon Wayans, have spoken out against the measure. In a recent performance at the Laugh Factory, Wayans repeatedly used the word in defiance of the club manager, and was fined and temporarily banned from the venue as a result. Afterwards, he reportedly commented: "I'll be damned if the white man uses that word last...This is part of our culture now...don't take that from us."

It is difficult to gauge the sincerity of Richards' outburst. He claims that the incident was a failed attempt at absurd humor, a ridiculous exercise in hyperbole fueled by anger and a humorist's instinctual attempt to outdo his supposed hecklers. That it was ill-advised, inappropriate, and offensive is obvious; however, the underlying nature of the issue is very telling about the state of the comedy industry today. The matter of Richards' personal beliefs, in fact, takes a back seat to larger implications.

In recent years, racially charged humor has become one of the most popular sub-genres in the comedy industry. Shows like "Chappelle's Show" and "Mind of Mencia," both on Comedy Central, are based almost entirely upon the views of their stars (Dave Chappelle and Carlos Mencia, respectively) on race. There seems to exist a standard among comedians and Americans in general that people who are not Caucasian are allowed to make fun of people of all races in their comedy. From the legendary black comedian Richard

Pryor to the likes of current Canadian-Indian standup comic Russell Peters, non-white comedians have been using race as their primary material, and the practice does not seem likely to change anytime soon.

Originally, racially-charged humor was born as a reaction to the still prevalent racism in American society. Black comics would make jokes about white people as a way of expressing their anger toward their own socioeconomic oppression. Racial slurs were turned around and given a humorous or fraternal connotation, and in that way, the power of the slurs was taken from the offenders.

While there is still undoubtedly no shortage of racism in America today, it has been somewhat submerged, taken off the streets and out of the shops in most places. But why then do we still find racially-based comedy so appealing? If you walk around the halls of Schreiber long enough, you will undoubtedly hear a white student repeating a line from a "Chappelle's Show" sketch poking fun at white corporate board members, or an Asian student reciting a segment of a Russell Peters' standup act about a stingy Chinese shopkeeper. It seems that modern comics make jokes about race less as an expression of defiance than as a way to pay the bills.

So was Michael Richards trying to jump on the bandwagon with his outburst? Did he think people would find the scene funny, a white man screaming at the top of his lungs without a drop of humor in his voice, like he was at a KKK

rally? These questions are relatively unimportant; Michael Richards' career in the public is probably over, and while we will continue to laugh as Kramer bursts crazily into Jerry's apartment at 7:30 every weekday night, the character and the actor will never be the same entity.

The more important question is this: Who has gone too far: the comedy industry in its profitable marriage to race-based humor, or those who would have this type of humor toned-down or even eliminated?



An artist's rendition of Michael Richards as Cosmo Kramer, his character from *Seinfeld*. www.lowcostprints.com

Daniel Craig proves that he can be a believable Bond

Rivetting new Bond film recognizes the power of superior acting over good looks alone

BY Nick Pray
Staff Writer

Aston Martins, beautiful girls, nasty villains and, of course, non-stop action took on a new meaning in Ian Fleming's very first novel, published in 1953, which depicts James Bond in *Casino Royale*. The story of James Bond's first mission as a double agent takes us to exotic locales like Prague, London, Miami and the Bahamas, climaxing in the canals of Venice. *Casino Royale* provides a new perspective on 007: a bumbling secret-agent man, lacking polish, vulnerable to violence and helplessly lost in love.

James Bond, played by the thirty-eight-year-old Brit Daniel Craig (*Munich* and *Layer Cake*), is the first Bond to be blonde and blue eyed, but he is still physically intimidating. Some said that Daniel Craig and the film as a whole would not live up to the originals, but once you see it, you will say that there is one whopper of a reason why *Casino Royale* is the hippest, highest-octane Bond film in ages. His name is Daniel Craig.

Casino Royale follows the first mission of James Bond, given to him by his ever-loving boss "M," played by the rivetting Judi Dench. In *Casino Royale*, Bond is sent to track down a money launderer and arms supplier for the world's terrorists. Yes, the villain is finally revealed. He is Le Chiffre, played by the Swedish actor Mads Mikkelsen, who miraculously paints the picture of a villain with an asthma problem and bloody tears.

As for the girl, French actress Eva Green plays Vesper Lynd, a British treasury operative sent to stake Bond at the poker tables. Oscar winner Paul

Haggis (*Crash*) contributes a sly, sexy and often comical screenplay, giving Craig and Green terrific on-screen chemistry, especially in a scene in which Bond and Vesper attempt to guess each other's past histories with much comedic zing.

The film, written by Haggis and Robert Wade and directed by the talented Martin Campbell (*Goldeneye*), portrays the story of the origin of James Bond, the man who he was and the story of how he achieved "double 0" status. Through the character-driven plot, we are sucked into the action, emotion and tension that only a James Bond film can provide.

The film opens first with an excellent bathroom fight in Prague, during which Bond makes his first kill. Shot in black and white—which dissolves into the famous gun and blood affect—the scene introduces the theme song "You Only Know My Name," performed by Audioslave front man Chris Cornell.

From there, we are thrown into an epic heart-pounding chase scene in Africa through an active construction site between a free-running bomb maker and Bond.

As the film evolves, we are thrust into another action scene at the Miami Airport where Bond uses not gadgets or guns but his brute strength and muscle to fight off yet another bomber. For the first time, we see our protagonist actually sweat and bleed and panic, clearly setting new standards for James Bond films.

From there, Bond and Vesper Lynd are sent to Montenegro for the Casino Royale poker match to win back the money that Le Chiffre is using to gain profits from the terrorists of the world.



www.worstpreviews.com

Daniel Craig dispelled doubts at his ability to play the new James Bond in *Casino Royale*. His intense presence could be felt in every scene of the movie.

With millions at stake, Le Chiffre and other millionaires, including a CIA agent, played by the clever Jeffrey Wright (*Syriana*), play for the money. It is in this section of the film that the relationship between Bond and Vesper begins, which climaxes in Bond's near death experience.

The most emotional and stressful part, however, is the huge Aston Martin crash that occurs after Le Chiffre captures Vesper, which then leads to a torture scene. This scene will make every man shriek and hold on tight to his seat from the suffering that Craig displays on the screen. Once the suffering ends, the twist and turns of the film begin.

All in all, *Casino Royale* lives up to its hype. It soars into unknown

boundaries for the Bond franchise and gives the character an epic makeover with an enthralling performance by Daniel Craig.

However, the film did run a little too long and the love plot between Vesper and Bond seemed to be just a run-on of scenes that could have been cut down while retaining the same effect. The action, even with its mind-blowing quality, was uneven, and diminished from the emotional flow of the movie.

Besides the minor faults, the film featured a terrific supporting cast, cuts and bruises, sexy love scenes, and unforgettable action. It is safe to say that Daniel Craig is the new James Bond. *Casino Royale* brings us the best Bond film in over a decade and is definitely a must-see.

Stranger Than Fiction is a cliché film with a twist

BY Christina Vlahos
Staff Writer

"This is a story about a man named Harold Crick. And his wristwatch," begins the narrative of the life of Harold Crick (played by the surprisingly talented Will Ferrell), a lonely, single, ostensibly obsessive compulsive I.R.S. agent who doesn't have a life outside of work.

"Little does he know," that one Wednesday morning, his life would be changed. When he wakes up and proceeds to count how many brush strokes he uses while brushing his teeth, he realizes that someone is giving a "play-by-play" of everything he does.

Throughout the day, just before Harold is about to perform an action, the narrator states what he's going to do and exactly what his purpose and intentions are.

"I'm being followed by a woman's voice. She's narrating," Harold tells a co-worker.

While performing his mundane duties, he finds himself distracted and frustrated by the incessant chronicler and the fact that he is the only one who can hear her. On this day, Harold meets one of his audit-ees, Ana Pascal (played by Maggie Gyllenhaal), an intelligent and rebellious baker to whom Harold is strongly attracted. Harold shouts up at the sky in vain asking for the narrative to cease, but his wishes go unanswered.

At this point, we meet Karen Eiffel (played by Emma Thompson), an eccentric, chain-smoking, suicidal author renowned for her tragic novels, which always result in her protagonists' deaths. Her idiosyncrasies are prevalent in her writing, and she goes to hospitals to watch people die and dreams about jumping off buildings.

"When he discovers that he's about to die, he regrets never actually 'living.'"

In her first book in ten years—her best one at that—the main character is a lonely, single, ostensibly obsessive compulsive disorder I.R.S. agent who doesn't have a life besides work, named Harold Crick. "Little does she know" everything she writes in her novel is happening to the real-life Harold Crick.

While waiting at a crosswalk, the voice booms, "little did he know that events had been set in motion that would lead to his imminent death." Upon hearing this, Harold immediately sets off to get help, trying to find a way to save his life. On his search for help, his sanity is frequently questioned, but Harold refuses to believe that he's

schizophrenic.

Harold contacts a literature professor, Dr. Jules Hilbert (played by Dustin Hoffman), in an attempt to understand what is happening to him and how he can stop his imminent demise. It is during this time that Harold learns to "live" and he takes a break from his I.R.S. work; he learns to play the guitar, moves in with a friend, and develops a relationship with Ana. The movie concludes with Karen Eiffel ending her book in an ironic and unexpected manner.

This movie surprised me in several ways. First of all, upon hearing that Will Ferrell was in it, I immediately assumed that it would be a comedy, but much of the movie was actually sad and depressing.

Rather than laughing hysterically—as one would usually do during a traditional Will Ferrell movie—don't be surprised when you find yourself on the verge of tears. I was amazed that Ferrell was capable of portraying this serious, controlled man.

Looking back at his past stints as eccentric characters, such as the 30-something year-old reliving his college days in *Old School* or a man who was raised in the North Pole as an elf only to find out he's actually human in *Elf*, it isn't too surprising that Ferrell has chosen such an odd character to play.

Emma Thompson is wonderful as the disturbed author suffering from

writer's block; she truly expresses the personality of this estranged author. Her sarcastic, witty comments were delivered perfectly, but she was still able to convey Eiffel's torment.

Gyllenhaal adds to the gloomy mood because of her blossoming romance with Harold; she knew that it would all be lost when his death finally came. Dustin Hoffman was very suited to the role of Jules Hilbert and the "quiz" he gave Harold was one of the few amusing aspects of this overall tragic film.

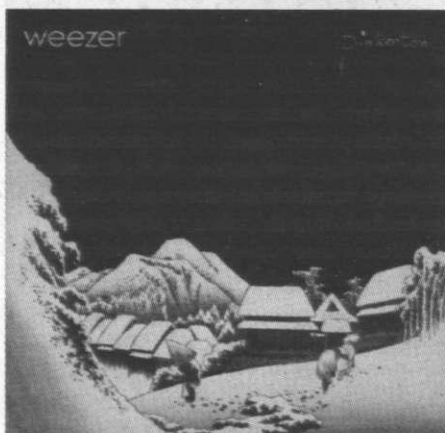
The message sent in this movie is basically about how fate and the actions of others are intertwined, and how death is both spontaneous and inevitable. Throughout the film, Harold cries in vain, "It's not a story to me—it's my life! I want to live!"

He has spent his life paying meticulous attention to details, counting his steps, his brushstrokes, and keeping to a perfectly timed schedule. But when he discovers that he's about to die, he regrets never actually "living." This theme is effectively portrayed by Ferrell, Gyllenhaal, Thompson, and Hoffman, who all did an amazing job.

I highly recommend this movie, and I find it very appropriate for the holiday season, because it's all about appreciating life and living to the fullest. Though the theme is cliché, it finds a new light in *Stranger Than Fiction* that is definitely worth viewing.

Music Box

CLASSIC ALBUM - Weezer: *Pinkerton*



BY Jordan Lewis
A&E Editor

In the age of over-produced alt/pop, one album stands out as a reminder of the genre's unpolished beginnings. Weezer's *Pinkerton* represents a pivotal sophomore release for the Los Angeles rock quartet. Following their first and likely best-received release *Weezer (Blue)*, the band abandoned its pop roots and introduced an album which would completely refine its style.

Written exclusively by front-man, Rivers Cuomo, the 1996 release explores Cuomo's growing sexual frustration and depression. Beginning with the profound "Tired of Sex," the band builds on its bass driven opening riff and eventually ends in a cacophony of power/pop exaltation. The song effectively establishes Weezer's new style heard exclusively on *Pinkerton*—the extremely abrasive use of overridden guitar and bass layered over a pounding rhythm

track provided by drummer Patrick Wilson.

Cuomo, who has recently attracted media attention in 2006 after his declaration of celibacy, bears his deepest emotions on *Pinkerton*, so much so, that after the the album's disappointing initial sales, Rivers said, "It's a hideous record... It was such a hugely painful mistake that happened in front of hundreds of thousands of people and continues to happen on a grander and grander scale and just won't go away. It's like getting really drunk at a party and spilling your guts in front of everyone and feeling incredibly great and cathartic about it, and then waking up the next morning and realizing what a complete fool you made of yourself."

However insecure Cuomo felt, his songs about personal frustrations contribute to the genius of the album. "Pink Traingle," the album's most playful track, tells the story of Rivers' initial shock after finding out that the woman he thought he loved was a lesbian. The chorus of the song is reminiscent of the repetitive, yet catchy nature of Weezer on *Blue Album*; "I'm dumb she's a lesbian. I thought I had found the one. We were good as married in my mind, but married in my minds' no good."

Although the plan was trashed, the album was written as an "alternative rock-opera," reminiscent of The Who's legendary (and pretentious) *Tommy*. In writing the tracks, Cuomo mirrored the plot of Puccini's classic opera, *Madame Butterfly*. The opera, which premiered in 1904, tells the story of

an American sailor's love affair with a Japanese geisha stationed in Japan in the early nineteenth century. As the plot thickens, and the American sailor is relocated, Butterfly falls in love with another American sailor. Upon his glorious return to Japan, the heartbroken husband of Butterfly pleads with her to take him back, insisting that his feelings for her salvaged his life during his darkest moments in battle. Forced to make an impossible decision, Madame Butterfly takes her own life as the third act commences.

River's concept, which he entitled *Songs from the Black Hole*, was scrapped when he experienced "artistic difficulties;" however, *Pinkerton* still loosely resembles Puccini's classic, riddled with Japanese references and motifs of lost love.

"Across the Sea," a song about Rivers' correspondence with a Japanese pen-pal during his six year education at Harvard University, mirrors the idea of distant love, a theme carried throughout *Madame Butterfly*.

The extremely profound final track, "Butterfly" is simply an acoustic jewel. Like so many other tracks on the album, Rivers strains to hit almost every note; however, his ability to control the dynamics of his voice over the music makes it sound as if there were no other way to sing it. When all 35 minutes of the album are said and done, the listener has gone through hell. From sexual frustrations to loneliness, *Pinkerton* is an emotional roller-coaster that the alternative music scene has simply not managed to re-create.

From music to history:
Musical family plays auditorium

BY Melis Emre
Assistant Opinions Editor

I have been taking lessons from Yelena and Vladimir Polezhayev since my tenth birthday. For almost five years I have gone to their beautiful house in Seacliff and spent an hour of my Thursdays learning to play piano from two of the greatest concert pianists you will ever know. So you would think that after all these years, listening to them play and perform would be routine. In actuality, it is anything but ordinary, because listening to Yelena and Vladimir play is like nothing you've ever heard before.

In celebration of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 250th birthday, Schreiber played host to two world-class pianists and one awe-inspiring violinist on the first weekend in December. "The Long Island Piano Duo" amazed the audience with its brilliant performance. Accompanied at various points in the program by their son Anton, a spectacular violinist, the talented trio filled the halls of Schreiber with enrapturing music.

The concert, "From Mozart to Gershwin to Bernstein," consisted of a variety of wonderful pieces. From the light and whimsical "Rondo in C-major" to the stirring "Radetzky March," Yelena and Vladimir had the audience riveted. In fact, members of the audience were so caught up in the music that many who knew the notes taped their fingers or hummed in time to the music. Whether they played four-hands together or apart, the duo never failed to grace listeners' ears with tremendous music. In addition to crowd favorites like "Allegretto" and "Dark Eyes," (both of which were arranged specially by Vladimir for this concert), the program also featured three pieces composed by Vladimir himself: "Smile," "Psalm 23," and "Hallelujah." Perfectly organized and performed, the pieces received nothing but praise.

Anton was just as spectacular as the duo. For almost two hours, his undeniable musical ability captivated the audience. When performing solo, Anton's violin filled the auditorium with both tender and lively music. Accompanied by his parents, Anton played numerous pieces of different character; moving from docile and tender to lively and energetic in a matter of seconds. The many eager listeners in the auditorium were thrilled with his performance.

In the concert's final three pieces, the Community Synagogue's choir joined the trio for "Chichester Psalm," "Psalm 23," and "Hallelujah." Members of the choir were thrilled to have the opportunity to perform with Yelena, Vladimir, and Anton. "You have to understand," said a friend of the performers, "Vladimir is a world class pianist and composer. His talent is unlimited. Yelena too is the best concert pianist I've ever seen. The two of them together produce music that is unbelievable." The performers were met with a well-deserved standing ovation and shouts of 'encore' from the crowd.

Brand New: *The Devil and God are Raging Inside Me*



BY Alex Hohausner
Staff Writer

It has been a long wait. Ever since 2003's *Deja Entendu*—a complicated yet wholly excellent mess of egocentric ramblings and concept songs about rape and shipwrecked lovers—fans have wanted more.

The demos that leaked online last year didn't help the matter much. Finally, three years later, it's here, but *The Devil and God are Raging Inside Me*, the new album, doesn't quite live up to its lofty expectations.

Brand New has gained a certain maturity since its first release of purely angry pop-punk songs in 2001. Back then, singer Jesse Lacey wished a friend to "Have another drink and

drive yourself home/I hope there's ice on all the roads/and you can think of me when you forget your seatbelt/and again when your head goes through the windshield."

The band has experienced a clear change in *Devil and God*, and it's mind boggling. As a possible sign of apologetic remorse for the band's previous bitterness, the first line of the album is "Was losing all my friends/Was losing them to drinking and to driving." This could be considered a positive change, since the band was highly criticized for its inaccessibility in *Deja Entendu*. Unfortunately, the band's mix with the minimalist musical style they now seem to favor falls flat.

Brand New has never had enough 'screaming' to be branded as 'screamo' (to consider them 'emo' would be incorrect as well). Each new song is very formulaic, involving one simple, repetitive guitar line which continues throughout the piece. The next thing added is the drums and then finally the sudden outbursts of rage through heavy guitars.

Although Brand New has used this style on other albums, its use on *Devil and God* becomes increasingly repetitive. Overlapping phrases in "Archers" and "Limousin" add to the overall disappointment of the album and make it sound disjointed and sloppy.

Instead of being showcased, Lacey's soaring voice has been reduced to a mere murmur in nearly all of the songs; the previously intricate harmonies have been replaced with monotonous voice doublings.

“Lacey’s soaring voice has been reduced to a mere murmur in nearly all of the songs.”

As a band, Brand New's progression has been admirable. In their three-album career, they have managed to leap from generic to unique to generic again—a difficult feat in and of itself. This album most likely marks the beginning of the age of religious comparisons; an album title like *The Devil and God are Raging Inside Me* and songs like "Jesus Christ" won't go unnoticed. All in all, the album can only be described as polarizing: some hail it as the band's best yet while others see it as worse than dismal. Both viewpoints, however, can all agree that the album is certainly a departure from their previous work.

Athletes of the Month

Travis Baugher

Sam Reichenbach

BY Ari Malekan
Business Manager

Senior Travis Baugher, a second year captain of the Vikings wrestling team, has been an asset to the varsity team since his freshman year at Schreiber. As a senior and a junior, Baugher has served as a strong competitor and a team leader.

As a junior, Baugher wrestled in the 112 pound weight class and was dominant last year with an overall record of 37-4, including eighteen pins. His impressive record was among the best on the team last year.

"The team has improved a lot since the beginning of the season," said Baugher. "The holes in our lineup are gone this year, which means that we don't have to lose points because of forfeits. This year we have a strong group of wrestlers. When these guys go onto the mat, a pin is almost expected."

This year has been very strong for Baugher, as well as for the entire Viking squad. The team is undefeated in head to head matches, and Baugher, wrestling in the 119 pound weight class and occasionally in higher classes, has had a strong beginning to his season.

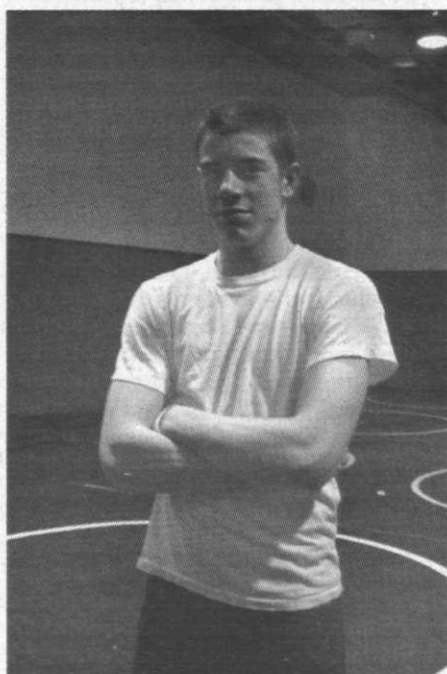
Thus far, Baugher has an individual record of 8-1 with six pins, and he is hoping to end the season with only one loss on his record. Baugher remains undefeated in Nassau County competition, with only one defeat to a Suffolk County wrestler. Baugher is among the top of the standings in his weight class.

Baugher's success in wrestling is a testament to his hard work and

dedication to the sport. It is clear that Baugher has been putting a lot of effort into preparing himself physically, adding to the mental fortitude he has displayed throughout his career with the Vikings.

"I have been working hard with head coach Schettino and Assistant Coach Walsh to perfect my technique," said Baugher. "I have also been running two miles every night, and eating healthy helps."

Depending on where he attends college in the fall and if the school has a program, Baugher could be wrestling next year in college.



Liz Corkett

Baugher is in his second year as the varsity wrestling team captain.

BY Katrina Fahey
Staff Writer

When Sam Reichenbach was a mere third grader attempting to dribble down a basketball court for the first time, she decided that all she really wanted was to have her name on the board in the Schreiber gym. It was her goal...and she achieved it.

Reichenbach's passion for the game began as a child, playing PYA basketball through seventh grade. On top of that, she played for CYO teams from fifth to ninth grade, preparing her for her future career in basketball. In ninth grade, Reichenbach began playing for AAU (LI Extreme for 11), while playing on the junior varsity team at Schreiber. Finally, in tenth grade, Reichenbach's skills and drive for the sport earned her a spot on the varsity basketball team at Schreiber.

While on varsity, Reichenbach has excelled, versatile in the post as a forward and center. As a senior she is excited to lead the team as one of three captains.

"We're doing really well this year and working hard," said Reichenbach. "There are a lot of seniors on the team and, therefore, a lot of experience. Winning is great, but my favorite part about playing with the team is the camaraderie. We're all close and have so much fun getting pumped up before a game."

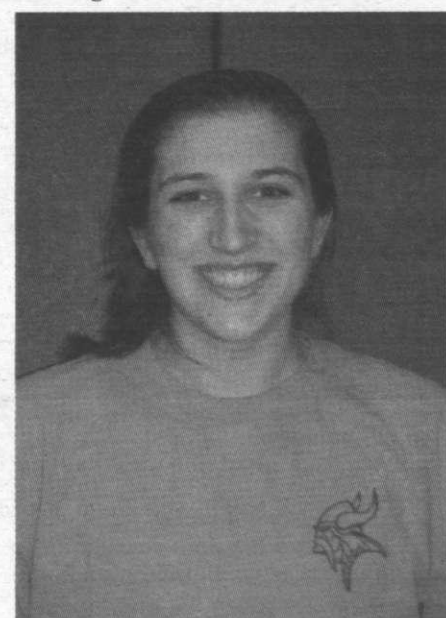
Playing on various teams, Reichenbach has been able to travel to a number of different places. Aside from a series of tournaments at Penn State this past summer, she has also traveled

to Washington D.C. to compete in the Junior Nationals.

"These tournaments brought the amount of competition to a much higher level than I've ever experienced before," she said.

Though Reichenbach has not yet decided if she will play college basketball, she is looking into the possibility of playing at Kenyon or Union. She is also interested in Vanderbilt and Richmond.

Reichenbach has always been highly motivated, a good student and a tremendous athlete. Just as she managed to reach her third grade dreams, you can bet she'll reach her future goals.



David Baer

Reichenbach is a three-sport varsity athlete at Schreiber High School.

Out of Bounds and having a Bonannz-a with Rose

BY David Becker
Assistant News Editor

Dear Mrs. Rose Bonanno:

I'm not sure if you read Out of Bounds. Maybe you do. Maybe it's been waved in your face by disappointed coaches, athletes and colleagues. Maybe you've deliberately been trying to avoid it. I feel that many people do try to avoid Out of Bounds. Still, I know our relationship is strained. At times, I could see the contempt in your eye as I called you "Bonannz." It's okay. I forgive you.

It's the holiday season. Holidays are the time when gifts are sold in sets so that the recipient can feel the "Look! There are even enough marshmallows to last me a month in the arctic!" Effect. A Burt's Bees beginner's set. Golf clubs in a caddy. A rock polishing start-up kit. The Ann Coulter Trilogy. I felt the need to immerse you in the spirit of Out of Bounds with this kind of "beginner's set," if you will.

Anyhow, I want you to know that I'm fine. Attached is the primitive recording of my coming album, *David Becker sings*

Carol Channing singing the Kristin Chenoweth Songbook. Think "Il Divo" meets a raspy Auntie Mame-ish kind of Kylie Minogue. I hope you're doing fine.

Some very unkind people have suggested that I write too much about Nikki Pond, which is hardly the truth. You cannot write "too much" about the great NLP. Can one write "too much" about Michael Jordan? Aristotle? Moses? Those people apparently cannot understand what I always thought to be a basic concept. I mean, it's not her fault that she was born with the genes of Irene and Greg, both good people. Solid. Solid.

By the way, the Main Office has a coffeemaker now. We miss you.

So not much is happening this sporting season. Except for the Turkey Trot. By the way, how was your Thanksgiving? Was it marv? Mine was. We retired for the night by watching *Grey's Anatomy* in High Definition. You really can see the pores in their sweaty, unhappy faces. Then we played a round of "I love the Nineties" Trivial Pursuit. Note: If you buy it, the answer is Kate Moss to every Orange Question and Monica Lewinsky to every third Blue

one. Interesting. The nineties really was a time for strong, business-oriented women.

The girls of the JV basketball team are really quite excellent. I went to one of their games yesterday and was really hypnotized by the fact that they were so well coordinated and really quite brill. I was never much of a sports person. I prefer bowling. Still, freshman Jillian Mezzetta was all up that in that "grill." In fact, many players were rather short. Like Snow Hutchinson and the Seven Point Guards.

Boys wrestling seemed to be off to a great start yesterday. You know how those things go with parents who get as rowdy as the players. I really do think it's a healthy release for them, though. While other fans cheer and scream like it's a gladiatorial game, I like to scream, "LET IT ALL OUT CORBO! EXPRESS YOUR DISCONTENT."

In this tournament, Port owned. Westbury fought their hardest (cough, 54-21, end cough) but fell just a bit short at the end of the match. Anthony Corbo ate his opponent alive, typical to form. When senior Travis Baugher had to be replaced, sophomore T.R. Wolfe

stepped in and pinned his opponent in thirty-eight seconds. Which was as long as it took for me to go get a soda and then return confused to aforementioned crowd. Senior Mike "Hooves" Horvilleur pinned his opponent in a mere forty seconds. Senior Silvio Dilucia's opponent put up a good fight (cough, a thirty-six second pin, end cough), but Dilucia prevailed. Team of all time, anyone?

Speaking of the great diversity of weight classes mentioned in this article, as we have scaled the charts (pun intended), I've stayed indoors. Not exercising. Not burning calories. Baking, actually. In the words of Joan Lisecki, "I'm a devout coward." I'm anticipating a "These sweatpants are all that fits me right now"-style breakdown come spring. Speaking of Mean Girls, do you know where I can find Kalteen bars? Not that I need them for revenge. Or anything.

Hope your holiday season is full of love, gifts, start-up sets and dotcom stock certificates. Sorry for all the coughing on you.

Love,
David Becker

Girls off to running start

Track competes at city and local meets

BY Myles Potters

Assistant Sports Editor

The girls winter track team started off the season with competitive results, earning high finishes against strong opponents at its first two meets. Under the coaching of Mr. Mark Goodman, the girls are steadily improving and gaining traction in an extremely competitive division.

In the first meet of the season, held at the Armory in New York City, the girls ran in several events. Up against strong competition, several girls placed toward the top of their events.

In the 55 meter dash, senior Victoria Kasselmann finished in fourth place in her heat with a time of 10.3 seconds. Senior Ogechi Abara finished third place in her heat with an 8.1 second time.

The younger members of the team contributed as well. Several underclassmen placed in the top three of their races, including freshman Elise Ressa, who finished third in her heat, coming in with a time of 10.3 seconds.

The fact that several freshmen on the team are stepping up and finishing with high results for Port is impressive, yet not surprising, according to senior Tarryn Fisher.

"The younger girls who are finishing strong are going to be the future leaders of this team," said Fisher. "Even though I won't be with the team next year, it is both impressive and promising that these elite girls are competing so well and will improve."

In the high jump, the girls had one strong finisher, senior Lianna Gordon, who jumped 4 feet 4 inches for a fourth place finish, in what some consider to be one of the true tests of athleticism in the field events.

The long jump relay team, comprised of senior Ogechi Abara, freshman Stephanie Mejia, and freshman Janaiya Thomas, came in second place with a combined jump of 36 feet and

9.75 inches.

The 4 x 200 meter freshman relay team finished first in its round A sprint. Mejia, Thomas, and freshman Eliza Feldman and Mia Jones finished with a time of 2:00.6.

"We competed well at the Armory," said junior Julia Catalano. "Because it was our first meet of the season, we were a bit rusty, but we still came out strong to prove to our coach, other teams, and ourselves that the Vikings are for real."

Port's next meet was held at Suffolk County Community College. Coming off of the meet at the Armory, the girls came out with added fire and improved results.

Senior Marissa Fox finished ninth overall in the 1500 meter race with a time of 5 minutes and 27.4 seconds.

In the race-walk category, freshman Maria Martinolich finished 1500 meters (one hundred meters short of one mile) in 9 minutes and 30.2 seconds.

"Race-walking is much more intense than most people think," said junior Rachel Merker, who also competes in this event. "Many people do not realize the competitive nature involved with walking. Kids who aren't on the team don't understand that not only is it an Olympic sport, but it is one of the most hotly contested events in the girls' meets."

Representing Schreiber in the freshman 55 meter dash event were freshmen Jenny Park and Elise Ressa, who finished with times of 10.6 seconds and 10 seconds, respectively. Rounding off the list of top finishers was, again, Abara with a long jump of 15 feet and 6.75 inches.

"Strong practices mixed with the adrenaline of the meet makes for strong results for us," said senior Lianna Gordon. "We have been working extra-hard at practice in preparation for the next meet, and as such I am expecting faster finishes from our team. The extra attention to detail should pay off."

Bowling strikes a victory

Vikings shut out Roslyn Bulldogs 11-0

BY Lane Mergler AND Adam Cole

Staff Assistant and Staff Writer

Finishing off the first half of the bowling season, the Vikings shut out the Roslyn Bulldogs 11-0 in their fifth match of the season. They entered the match hoping for an "800 game," in which the four bowlers average a score of 200.

Although the team did not accomplish its main goal, knocking down only 726 pins in their first game win, they were still very pleased with the result. The bowling scoring system works in an interesting manner. Three games are played, each of which are worth three points, with another point distributed for the team with the best game, and a final eleventh point for the aggregate score.

Sophomore Max Cohen led the team in the 726-657 victory, knocking down 223 pins, while marking an impressive seven strikes, five of which came consecutively.

Port will enter the first round of position matches ranked first in the division, and will have to defeat Garden City in order to maintain a position atop the division.

Entering the game, Port's top bowler was Cohen, who averages 183 pins per game. However, Fernandez had the highest score, knocking down 244 pins late in the season.

Juniors Tyler "The Beast" Fernandez, and Colin Kerr and sophomore Chris Solomita, are the other three members of the team.

Kerr and Fernandez are a close second and third. Kerr averages 167 pins per game, and Fernandez 165.

The team, led by Coach Alan Hagel, is currently in first place and has lost only one game, 6-5, to division rival Garden City. Outside of the loss to Garden City, Port has shut out every other opponent, bringing them to 49-6 in total games

through five matches.

The standings will be reset after the position match against Garden City, when they will have a chance to avenge their loss, commencing the second half of the season.

In the second game, Port Washington won 700-639. Cohen was very happy with the match and was also pleased with the way the team played.

"We put up a great effort," said Cohen. "[Coach Hagel] has trained us very well, and it's showing."

At the beginning of the second game, Kerr got a nine and spared to start the Vikings out with a bang. He went on to lead the team, earning a score of 210, bowling a total of five strikes in the game.

The third game, unlike the others, was very close. Despite an initial scare, however, Port scratched out a 692-673 nail-biting win.

Although Roslyn's sophomore Andrew Kim began the game with a turkey (three consecutive strikes), Port was able to come back from Kim's strong start and win.

Roslyn held the lead for most of the game until it was Cohen's turn to bowl in the tenth frame.

Cohen knocked down his own turkey to counter Kim's.

Fernandez followed Cohen with two strikes and knocked down six pins in his third throw, closing out the game and sealing the victory.

Kerr led the team to victory with 207 pins at the end of the game and had only one frame without a mark.

"We came through in the clutch and our team performed amazingly today," said Fernandez on their impressive victory.

"We're going to Disney World," said a gleeful Kerr because of the magnitude of this victory and the excitement aroused by the team's performance.

Conference change for Vikings

BY Harrison Remler

Assistant Business Manager

After several years under a three-conference system, the Nassau County Basketball Coaches Association (NCBCA) has instituted a new ranking system for boys varsity basketball. During the off season, the NCBCA decided to organize conferences based on past performance rather than school size. The NCBCA proposed this new system to the Athletic Council during the off season.

In this new ranking system, teams were realigned based on cumulative records over the past several years. The goal of the new setup was to allow the county to configure new conference alignments that would create fair match-ups and balanced competition.

For years past, Port Washington played in Class AA, conference I out of III. Schreiber was placed in this conference because of its large student body.

Port's schedule featured powerhouses such as Elmont, Hempstead and Baldwin. Port Washington has been placed in the new Class AA, the third

best conference in the new four-conference set up.

"The conference will give us more competitive games but it won't be as great of a challenge," said Coach Sean Dooley. Joining Port Washington in Conference III will be Long Beach, Calhoun, Plainview JFK, and Syosset.

The Vikings will most likely benefit from this new, less competitive division. The team is young this year, featuring only two returning seniors, Brian Miller and Justin Sze, eight juniors, two sophomores, and one freshman.

Before playing against new Conference III opponents, the Vikings tipped off their season at the Fritz Mueller/Arnie Sims Booster Club Tournament at Manhasset High School. Despite a strong effort led by junior Chris Ryder (19 points), Great Neck South prevailed in the first round. In the consolation round, the Viking attack was led by Ryder (14 points, 8 rebounds) and Miller (11 points, 8 rebounds) as the Vikings beat Manhasset in the consolation round. Port Washington took home third place in this first tournament of the season.



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Calling The Shots

All I want for Christmas is my job back

Wave of young and mobile quarterbacks replace once-prized veterans

BY David Baer

Senior Sports Editor

At one time, way back in the day, Kurt Warner won a Super Bowl and a regular season MVP award; Mark Brunell was a Pro-Bowler, and Drew Bledsoe was a franchise-player who got his team to a Super Bowl. I know, these times are way gone, and generation "young and mobile" has arrived. Since the 2006-2007 NFL season began, seven starting quarterbacks have found a new job: bench warmer. Whatever happened to "respect your elders?" Clearly, this mindset has come and gone faster than Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young and his legion of speedy, young QB's.

Don't let his 4-9 record fool you: Arizona Cardinals' rookie quarterback Matt Leinart is beginning to break out as the standout player from the University of Southern California (USC) that the American public had expected him to be. Although he's not exactly the epitome of "mobile quarterback," he has two rushing touchdowns in his first ten games (nine starts).

When Leinart saw his first action in a loss at the hands of the Atlanta Falcons, he finished 5-8, passing for forty-nine yards and one interception. He was sacked only once. However, Kurt Warner's interception and three sacks showed Arizona fans exactly why Leinart's time had come.

Unlike some of the other golden-oldies of the NFL, Drew Bledsoe, now with the Dallas Cowboys, has lost his job to a young gun-slinger three times in his career. The first time Bledsoe was handed the clipboard was after an injury knocked him out of the New England Patriots starting lineup. Although Bledsoe could have been ready by the end of the 2001 season, his backup was doing just fine.

Three-time Super Bowl winner Tom Brady, who now lines up behind center for the Pats, was drafted in the sixth round of the 2000 draft (number 199 overall). He is currently one of the most feared QB's in the NFL. After Drew Bledsoe was knocked out (literally) of a game against the Patriots' arch-foes the New York Jets, Brady stepped in to fill the void. Not only did he solve the Patriots' quarterback problem, but he led his team all the way to a Super Bowl victory.

After evidently (and deservingly) losing his starting job, Bledsoe moved to Buffalo where he played three full seasons as the Bills' starting quarterback. In his first year, 2002, he bounced back from his injury and put together excellent numbers. His outstanding play earned him a spot in the Pro Bowl.

However, after three years at the helm of the Bills' offense, Buffalo let Bledsoe go to make room for J.P. Losman, who had spent all of 2004 learning under Bledsoe as backup



Tennessee Titans' rookie quarterback Vince Young (10) has used his feet to scramble away from defenders. Young has already been considered one of the NFL's most "mobile" quarterbacks.

quarterback.

Bledsoe found himself a home "deep in the heart of Texas," playing for America's team: the Dallas Cowboys. After an above-average season in which he led the 'Boys to a 9-7 record and finished with more touchdown passes than picks, Bledsoe entered this season as the starter.

After beginning the season 3-3, Bledsoe was once again yanked from his starting role. To take his place, the young Tony Romo stepped in and saved the Cowboys' season. He has gone 6-2 as a starter this year, has a 98.4 quarterback rating, and has been ranked at the top of the charts in passing percentage. Not to mention, he's been talked about as potential Pro Bowl material, just like his mentor, Bledsoe, who earned the honor three times in his career.

Speaking of young studs stepping into the starting role, the Tennessee Titans benched their veteran starter Kerry Collins in favor of third-overall pick Vince Young. Young has calmly stepped right into the NFL and is very similar to Michael Vick of the Atlanta Falcons and Daunte Culpepper of the Miami Dolphins (also known as the men who revolutionized the quarterback position).

Young's numbers this year are not exactly Pro Bowl worthy, like Romo's are, but considering the circumstances surrounding him, one can really make a case to make him a Pro Bowler (he's already locked up Rookie of the Year

honors). However, despite losing his first start to the Indianapolis Colts 14-13 and inheriting the 0-5 Titans, Young fought to defy the public's expectations, just like he did in the Rose Bowl, while playing for the University of Texas.

Vince Young has almost single-handedly turned the Titans' season (and franchise) around, posting a 7-2 record since the loss to the Colts.

Young, who has ten passing touchdowns thus far, has already scampered for five touchdowns and a total of 462 yards, which is almost as many as Culpepper has in the past three seasons combined.

The next stop on the rookie express is in Denver, Colorado, where Jay Cutler has recently replaced Jake "The Snake" Plummer (who was never actually considered a rushing quarterback, despite his nickname). Through nine games, the Broncos were 7-2 and playing like a Super Bowl hungry team. However, after their league-leading defense was lit-up by the San Diego Chargers for thirty-five points, (well, actually, really it was just LaDanian Tomlinson's four TD's), the Broncos gave Plummer one more chance to prove himself a winner.

He failed.

The following week, the rookie out of Vanderbilt University, Jay Cutler, stepped into the starting role and showed his true (rookie) colors in a Sunday Night showdown with the Seattle Seahawks. On a play where he was getting sacked, Cutler made the

worst rookie mistake possible: lobbing the ball straight up into the air (note to Jay: you're not in Nashville anymore; you can't click your heels together and make everything all better). The lob was intercepted by a Seahawk lineman and returned for a touchdown. The Broncos only lost by three, with the interception for touchdown providing the difference.

"Must-play-a-young-QB-itis" has been plaguing NFL teams throughout the year. In Washington, the Redskins have benched three-time Pro Bowler (and one time Pro Bowl MVP) Mark Brunell in favor of Jason Campbell, the second year quarterback out of Auburn University.

In addition, long-time New Orleans quarterback, Aaron

Brooks, who was more known for his mobility than his accuracy, landed in Oakland at the beginning of the season.

Midway through the season, he has landed on the bench.

In his seven games as the Raiders' quarterback (and Brooks' replacement), second-year player Andrew Walter hasn't done much better (well... since Oakland is doing so poorly right now, Raider Nation might think that three touchdowns and eleven picks is good). The Raiders currently have the league's worst record at 2-12. Andrew Walter's job in Oakland is most likely done due to the fact that the Raiders won't be dumb enough to pass on Heisman Trophy winner quarterback Troy Smith of Ohio State University, and Heisman finalist quarterback Brady Quinn from Notre Dame.

It doesn't matter how or why this trend is occurring in the NFL. The influx of youth in all of the four major sports (baseball, basketball, football, and hockey), is absolutely incredible- not to mention the fact that NFL quarterbacks (remember, there are only thirty-two starters in the entire league) seem to be at the highest risk of replacement.

However, don't try and convince the Green Bay Packers of this trend. Brett Favre could quarterback the Packers to a 4-12 season, and no matter what, would return the following season with his job perfectly intact. (Aaron Rodgers, do you really want to be the reason Brett Favre retires?)

VIKING SPORTS

Port starts 4-0; Joannon wins 300th *Lady Vikings rebound from 3-9 season with hot start*

BY David Baer
Senior Sports Editor

What type of results can a team expect when it graduates thirty percent of its roster, and finishes the season with a 3-9 record in league play? Whatever the expectations may have been, this year's girls varsity basketball team has defied the odds, finishing the non-league portion of its schedule with a record of 4-0. Led by the experience of the team's seven seniors and Coach Stephanie Joannon, the Lady Vikings are, according to senior captain Angela Matinale, "flowing really well right now."

Port has not had a winning record since they finished 13-7 in 2002-2003; however, Coach Joannon is no stranger to success. She led the Lady Vikings to the playoffs in each of her first twenty-one years with Port Washington. On top of that, teams coached by Ms. Joannon, or "Jo" as she is known by players, students, and colleagues, have finished a season with a winning record in twenty of her twenty-five years as a high school coach.

"I wasn't really thinking about 300...I was just really happy about winning the game, because starting off 4-0 was more exciting."

Led by strong efforts by senior captains Christina "C.C." Carrington, Samantha Reichenbach, and Matinale, who combined to score over sixty percent of Port's points, the Lady Vikings notched a 46-28 victory over the Oyster Bay Baymen on Dec. 12. With the win, Joannon became the first female coach of a Nassau County public school girls basketball team to reach the 300 win plateau.

However, toward the end of the game, Coach Joannon did not have 300 on her mind. Rather, the number she was thinking of was four.

"I wasn't really thinking about 300," said Joannon. "I was just really happy about winning the game, because starting off 4-0 was more exciting."

This feeling soon wore off, however.

"After the game, C.C. gave me a hug and a punch, and it was then that I realized that this win was special," said Joannon.

In addition, Port's offensive attack has caught fire. Half of the Lady Vikings' wins have come by over twenty points, and they are currently averaging seventeen more points per game than their opponents.

In addition, the defense seems to be clicking just in time for Port's annual

"Lady Vikings Tip Off Tournament."

Senior Filiz Kipcakli led the way offensively for Port in their win over Oyster Bay. Even though the Lady Vikings only shot thirty-three percent from the floor (to the Baymen's twenty-two percent), Kipcakli scored fourteen points on 7-9 shooting. Also, she came up with nine of Port's twenty-two steals. This landed her one steal short of a double-double.

"We are very focused on our defense right now," said junior Jackie Mezzetta. "You can see the results in the margin of victory and the number of steals that we have been recording."

In addition to the twenty-two steals, Port out-rebounded Oyster Bay 34-28, and committed twenty fewer turnovers. Mezzetta nabbed eleven rebounds, while Reichenbach and sophomore Kim Doyle combined to pull in twelve.

Although she only went 2-10 from the floor, Carrington is still averaging close to fourteen points per game to lead Port's offense. Furthermore, Carrington has been lighting it up from the perimeter thus far this season, netting eight three-pointers.

In the Lady Vikings first game of the season against Lynbrook in early December, Carrington went off for a career-high twenty-five points as Port won easily by a score of 56-35. In addition to her shooting performance, Carrington finished with seven assists and six steals.

Two days later, Port played host to non-league opponent East Rockaway and won once again by a margin of twenty-three points in a 54-31 romp, in which Carrington and Reichenbach scored twelve points apiece.

Along with her double-digit scoring performance, Reichenbach's twelve rebounds were enough for her first double-double of the season.



Senior tri-captain Angela Matinale boxing out a Levittown player during the first round of the Lady Vikings Tip Off Tournament. Port was unable to extend its winning streak to five games as they fell 59-38. The Lady Vikings bounced back the following day in the consolation round against Sewanhaka High School. Port doubled-up the opponent, winning by a score of 62-31. Senior tri-captain Christina Carrington was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Mezzetta also lit up the scoreboard, scoring ten in the win.

"Since we don't have one 'best' player, and we have more options on offense, defenders have been having a hard time guarding us," said Mezzetta.

However this was not the case when Port and Carey squared off on Dec. 9. Although they had an eight point lead at the half, the Lady Vikings were unable to pull away in the second half like they had done in their first two games. By getting points from eight different players—including four from seventh grader Paige Kriftcher—the Lady Vikings held on for a 41-35 win.

"Although it wasn't our best showing,

we played well enough to win the game," said Kipcakli.

Port has not made the playoffs since 2003-2004 when the team finished 8-11. The Lady Vikings would like to return to the form of the teams of the early '90s, who were County Finalists twice.

"If we just keep playing solid defense and smart offense, we should keep playing well," said Doyle. "If we keep playing like this, we have a good chance of making the playoffs." Perhaps we are seeing a return to dominance with this Lady Vikings squad, who are on pace to snap the streak of three straight years without a winning record.