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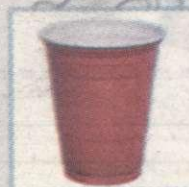
THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LVII No. 7



THE FLOOD

VANDALISM FORCES EMERGENCY
REPAIRS IN ENGLISH, MATH, AND
FOREIGN LANGUAGE WINGS



**Sports Night
Sobers Up
Features**



**Schreiber
Shows Rock!
A&E**

First Ever Schreiber Radiothon
News
Spring Sports Previews
Sports

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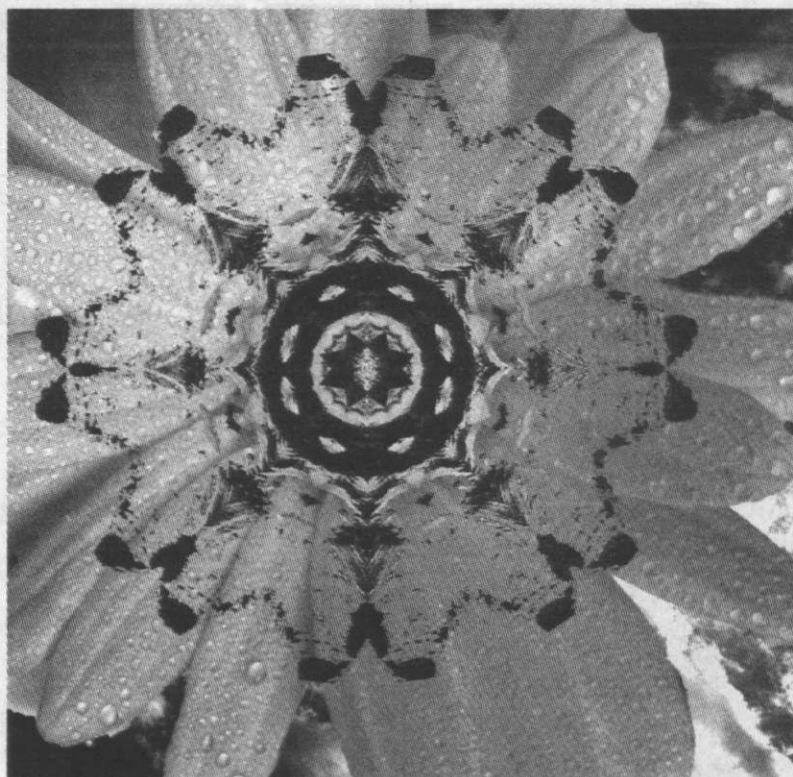
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Sofia Skarlatos' digital portrayal of a Tibetan mandala captures the beauty of symmetry in nature.

NEWS BRIEFS

Academic Decathlon

The Academic Decathlon Team recently competed in the New York State Championship held in Buffalo, NY on Mar. 9 and 10.

The competition is a statewide event in which students are tested on various topics such as economics, language and literature, mathematics, and science. Essays and interviews are also included in the competition. In total, ten different events were held.

The Academic Decathlon includes students from all academic and achievement levels. Each team consists of Honor, Scholastic, and Varsity student levels, which are differentiated based on students' GPA's. Each division competes with students from other schools in the same level.

Seniors Jimmy Lam, Lisa Schechner and junior Stephan Muller represented the Honors Division, seniors Emlyn Diakow, Mike Lau and Max Lewin represented the Scholastic Division, and seniors Yuliya Gorbin and Daiki Okamoto represented the Varsity Division. The school's team was coached by science teacher Ms. Christine Nelson.

The team with the highest overall score qualified to compete in the national competition located in Hawaii. In the past, Schreiber's team has attended nationals in places such as Alaska and Arizona. Schreiber's team came in 6th

place this year and therefore did not qualify. However, most of the members of the team were awarded gold, silver, or bronze medals. Muller won two bronze medals and Schechner won one gold and one bronze. Diakow won four gold medals, four bronze medals, and also won a silver trophy for overall achievement in the Scholastic division. Lewin won three bronze medals and two silver medals. Lau won a gold medal and a silver medal for math and super quiz, respectively. Gorbin won three medals—one of each, while Okamoto won a silver medal in the interview portion of the competition.

~Lauren Effune

Campus Action Protests Iraq

As the war in Iraq continues, protests against the further death of soldiers and the governmental spending on the war were carried out in Manhattan on Mar. 18. Protesters yelled furiously, "Four Years Too Many! Not One More Death! Not One More Dollar! End the War on Iraq!" The group of Schreiber students at the protest, who included Campus Action co-presidents, juniors Sammy Lang and Eliana Theodorou, marched along with hundreds of other rally participants despite the snow, ice, and freezing weather.

All across the nation, similar anti-war protests took place to commemorate

the four year anniversary of the War in Iraq. These protests were held by local extensions of United for Peace and Justice, a coalition that protests the War in Iraq and demands immediate withdrawal of the troops.

When asked why she was attending the rally, Lang said, "The war has cost too many lives and nothing has been accomplished."

The United for Peace and Justice website (www.unitedforpeaceandjustice.org) has pronounced a harsher sentence by lambasting the invasion and occupation of Iraq as both immoral and illegal. Lang encouraged students to attend rallies because of the general responsibility of our generation to be politically active and aware.

"After all, we're going to be the ones voting in the election of 2008," said Lang.

"There was one point where Sam and I were walking behind a few older people, and they were talking about how young people don't turn out to protests," said Theodorou. "But then [the couple] turned around and saw us and a whole group of college-aged students. They were just like, 'Oh well, never mind. That's nice to see.'"

Students can become more active by joining Campus Action or Youth Rights, some of the few political and social activist clubs in Schreiber.

~Esther Kim

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Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink

Recent flood damages school property and poses a potential health threat

BY Amanda Schiff
News Editor

In the past year, students have been plagued by the menacing acts of others such as graffiti in the bathrooms and in the hallways, despite Schreiber's reputation as a "safe school with great kids and a low tendency toward crime and vandalism," as junior Nina Zorfass said.

After returning from winter break, rumor had it that there was a massive flood that destroyed the entire English wing and the foreign language wing below. The rumor was partially true—there was a flood, and it did damage both of the aforementioned wings—but destruction is not exactly the right word choice for this particular act of vandalism because it eventually resulted in renovation.

"I think it's disgusting that someone would do that to our school," said junior Alyssa Hansen. "I hope that whoever did it is found and gets in trouble."

The entire building was checked at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 18, and the flood was discovered at 2:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 19, about 36 hours after dismissal from school that Friday. During that time period, there were only two groups using the building. The sink in the custodial closet on the main floor was clogged with a plastic bag and left on for about 24 hours before it was discovered.

"During that period of time, the gym was the only part of the building that was open," said Principal Mr. Jay Lewis. "When I found out, I was aghast. It is such a dumb, senseless act. Someone must have had a bone to pick."

Upon arrival at school on the first

day back from vacation, as the rumors rapidly permeated the hallways, students took notice of the wood panel that was once a grille on the door to the custodial closet. In order to get into the closet, the vandal broke the grille and snuck into the room. The grille is currently in the custody of the Port Washington Police who are checking for fingerprints.

"The flood that happened over vacation goes beyond mere vandalism; it is simply a malicious act," said senior Lisa Schechner. "I am horrified that anyone would do such a terrible thing."

Although many students have been quick to jump to false conclusions and assumptions that the vandal was a juvenile delinquent who went out of his/her way to commit this crime, the administration is not convinced that it was a student.

"By and large, our kids are great," said Mr. Lewis. "We don't have a lot of vandalism and I hated to hear people automatically think it was a student."

The custodial closets are the only rooms in the building that do not have spring sinks that automatically expand after a few seconds and turn the water off. Therefore, whoever committed the crime obviously knew his/her way around the building and the systems employed throughout the school.

After the water was mopped up, the school ran an air quality test which showed no signs of asbestos. Additionally, an asbestos abatement company was hired to seal off the wings on all three levels of the school. Remarkably, in under a week, the abatement process was completed and the air was tested yet again.

"We only expected to get five or six

classrooms back, but we got all of them back," said Mr. Lewis. "Our custodians did an amazing job."

Fortunately, the worst outcome of the whole ordeal was the relocation of an abundance of classrooms and teachers. The A-day schedule is the lightest day of the cycle for English and foreign language classes, and it was the only day that a considerable amount

"By and large, our kids are great," said Mr. Lewis. "We don't have a lot of vandalism and I hated to hear people automatically think it was a student."

of classrooms had to be relocated. Teachers and classrooms in the English wing were moved to the B wing, and the administration was relieved that it did not interfere with the education of the students.

"It was such a hassle for both teachers and students," said junior Victor Martinez. "Going the long way to certain classes was just one of the many inconveniences that came along with the flood."

Other consequences of the flood included damage to textbooks in the foreign language department and leaks in the ceilings in rooms 17, 19 and 21. There was about a quarter of an inch of water on the floor in each of these rooms. The ceiling tiles will be replaced as soon as possible by the custodial staff.

Because asbestos is such a serious issue, the school had to make sure that there was no risk involved with the project of replacing the tiles. The tiles in the floor did have a low asbestos count, but if any evidence of friable asbestos came from the air quality test, the school would have been closed for the day.

"All of the asbestos removal was done according to federal law, and when no student or employee was in the building," said Mr. Lewis.

The consequences of the flood were great, but they did not come without their perks. The insurance company used by Schreiber is paying the \$150,000 - \$200,000 dollars in damage. Also, the 60-year-old vinyl asbestos floor tiles in the English wing were in great need of repair. In fact, the administration was already looking into getting new floor tiles, but the money in the upcoming budget would not be sufficient to complete the project. Although the insurance premium will increase in the next year, Schreiber did get brand new floor tiles with minimal setbacks.

The administration promises that as soon as a culprit is found, he/she will be charged to the fullest extent of the law. The cameras by the front doors were checked by Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller, but there was no suspicious activity during those two days. The administration hopes to get more cameras installed in the building, but the costs will require board approval as well as sufficient funds. The insurance company will also go after the vandal due to the magnitude of the crime; however, the longer it goes without charging a suspect, the harder it will be to find the person responsible.

Young Women of Achievement excel in the here and NOW

National Organization of Women honors four dedicated students

BY Melanie Fried
News Assistant Editor

The National Organization for Women (NOW) recently honored four female students, recognizing them as Young Women of Achievement. Senior Gayle Krebs, juniors Erin Szulman and Maryann Vlahos, and sophomore Liz Marks were each nominated by their teachers for their accomplishments in academics, athletics, extracurricular activities, and community service.

"NOW rewards students who are reasonably solid academically and who show long-term commitment to a particular activity, whether it is sports or clubs," said guidance counselor Mr. David Hinchliffe. "Usually with this commitment students rise to leadership roles."

Upon being nominated last May, the students were required

to complete paperwork describing their involvement in community service and clubs, including a personal statement about leadership for submission to NOW. The organization then selected recipients for the award after reviewing the students' applications.

Each student honored with this

award in Nassau County is invited to attend a brunch hosted by NOW on April 15.

"I'm honored to be recognized and am looking forward to meeting everyone at the event," said Vlahos.

NOW is an organization devoted to gender equality. It also focuses on

ending discrimination based upon age, disability, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. The Young Women of Achievement Award is presented to female students in grades six through eleven. Recipients are nominated in the spring by school faculty members and honorees are notified during the subsequent school year. This year, the Nassau County Chapter of NOW granted this recognition to 73 students.

"NOW is an amazing organization that has worked so long for female empowerment and has successfully achieved recognition," said Szulman. "I am honored to be a recipient of this award because it stands for more than just leadership. It's an honor to be among such outstanding women who have accomplished so much."



(l-r) Senior Gayle Krebs, juniors Erin Szulman and Maryann Vlahos, and sophomore Liz Marks were nominated by their teachers for the National Organization for Women's Young Women of Achievement Award. They were noted for their outstanding achievements in academics, extracurriculars, and athletics.

Port Light

Students hear Radiothon festivities loud and clear

WDOT raises over \$11,000 and reaches viewers throughout the country

BY Lauren Effune

Staff Writer

Supporters from all age groups and seven different states called WDOT, the new Schreiber radio station, in order to witness seniors Carlos Molina and Nikki Pond uphold a promise. The station made school history by hosting its first live marathon from February 15 to February 16, when Molina and Pond entertained listeners for 24 hours straight without a wink of sleep. Seniors Katrina Fahey, John Forman, and Alex Solomita also joined the hosts for the entirety of the radiothon.

In total, the WDOT Radiothon raised over \$11,000, with the Port Washington Education Foundation contributing a check for \$9,652. The radio station also received more than \$2,000 from

donations, pledges and profits. Phone calls came in throughout the night from listeners and supporters in seven different states, including California, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio and Virginia.

Organized by student DJs and advisor Mr. Jeremy Klaff, the Radiothon was held in order to provide live entertainment for the student body and to raise money for more radio equipment, including microphones, speakers and headphones.

This cause also received considerable support from the faculty. Teachers donated money, made pledges, and found their own unique ways to help the cause. Social studies teacher Mr. Craig Medico bought an autographed CD, and science teacher Ms. Joy Grasso-Krebs sang the national anthem on air at the beginning of the Radiothon. Assistant

Principals Mr. Brad Fitzgerald and Mr. David Miller also supported the DJs by stopping by for interviews.

During the second day of the event, school nurse Ms. Susan Gombert stopped by the radio station to do a full physical examination of the DJs to make sure they were not harming their health by not sleeping the night before.

In honor of the Radiothon, two special lunches in the cafeteria were created for its hosts. Burgers were renamed "Carlos Molina burgers" and Nikki Pond had "the Nikki Pond salad" dubbed in her honor. During lunch periods on the first day of the Radiothon, Pond went down to the cafeteria and served lunch to students and faculty, with a cell phone alongside her so that she could talk live on the air.

The first event the Radiothon sponsored was the Madden Football Tournament, which lasted over five hours and attracted over 32 competitors. Playing and watching the Madden 2007 video game, students filled up the rooms in the social studies wing. Junior Alex Stern won the event, with junior Victor Martinez coming in a close second.

Another activity that WDOT organized later that day was a scavenger hunt. Students had to find several objects and return them the next morning. Some of the objects included an oyster, social studies teacher Mr. Doug Matina's autograph, a Dunkin' Donuts napkin, a picture with a freshman, a love note to a DJ and a pair of Ugg boots. Senior Michael Luna won the contest with a perfect score.

Apart from the stimulation in the cafeteria and halls of Schreiber, students in the community also were attracted to the on-air aspect of the Radiothon. One Boy Scout troop visited WDOT, coming to earn a merit badge in communications. While they visited, hundreds of calls came in through Molina and Pond's cell phones and through the WDOT line. Callers asked for shout-outs, gave pledges and sent personal messages.

Later, senior Fredi Bernstein and junior Kate Hughes performed their

own "theater soap opera" about insects that are very close to death and are dreading their last days. The members of the girls varsity basketball team also visited the radio station for an interview after winning their first playoff game.

The festivities did not stop there. During the school day, the radio class also came by and joined the DJs. They were not the only ones to accompany the DJs, however. Pond brought her personal teddy bear, "Mimi," to stay with her for the full 24 hours. Later, Mimi was taken by one of the Boy Scouts and hidden by Fahey.

Another gag created by Fahey was when she and Forman called Gino's and Carlo's pizzerias, ordering two separate pies to find out which would deliver faster. In the end, Carlos' pizza was the clear winner, delivering ten minutes faster than Gino's.

In the wee hours of the morning, the radio hosts kept themselves busy by singing Enrique Iglesias, dancing, and playing video games. Pond noted that she beat Mr. Klaff in every round of Mario Kart they played.

The next morning was just as busy for the DJs. First, Molina attended the Senior Breakfast and called in from the event live on the air. Afterwards, Molina and Pond read the morning announcements.

The work that was put into the Radiothon was successful in raising funds. Due to its financial success through registration for the Madden tournament, pledges, T-shirt sales and CD sales, the Radiothon is most likely going to become an annual event. However, in future years, Mr. Klaff says that the money will be donated to different charities.

He hopes to continue work on expanding the program by purchasing a larger recording studio, providing the space for new equipment and software.

Mr. Klaff also plans for the WDOT to utilize remote broadcasting, meaning that recorded shows will be able to be reached farther than just near school grounds. In the upcoming month, the radio station intends to host an event like "battle of the bands" live on the air.



Nikki Pond

WDOT DJs with the Port Washington Education Foundation, who cut them a check for \$9,652, adding to the \$2,000 raised from pledges for new equipment. (l-r) Top row: Radio club supervisor Mr. Jeremy Klaff, project liaison Ms. Amy Levinson, current president of the PWEF Ms. Laura Mogul, seniors Alex Solomita, John Forman and Jake Mastbaum, project liaisons Ms. Robin Sigman and Ms. Margaret DiServo, and the founding president of the PWEF Ms. Amy Bass. Bottom row: Seniors Kat Fahey, Nikki Pond and Carlos Molina, and Principal Mr. Jay Lewis

GSA shows that a little tolerance is not a drag

First annual Drag Ball kicks off season for LGBTQ pride and acceptance

BY Rachel Merker

Contributing Writer

While the day after Valentine's Day is a return to the chocolate-less, un-Hallmarked regimens of daily life, those at the Gay Straight Alliance's first Drag Ball found that Feb. 15 was filled with festivity.

"We needed a fundraiser," said junior board members Kerry Dachowitz and Melanie Davidoff. "We figured the best way to go was a dance."

Dachowitz, who hosted in "femme fatale" garb, Davidoff, as an old-style crime boss and fellow board member senior Stephanie Lim, in a ruched lace top, all agree the ball was a well-timed success. The biggest fear that

the members of GSA had with the idea was that the cross-dressing romp would be crashed or would receive negative attention from faculty and students. Under the supervision of club advisor Ms. Julia Brandt, outfitted in a trucker hat and a plaid shirt, and chaperone Ms. Marla Ezratty, the night went off without a hitch.

Indeed, despite a four-day time frame for ticket sales and advertising, the GSA almost sold out five dollar tickets. By word of mouth, sales grew and students learned that they needn't wear drag to attend.

Through ticket sales alone, the GSA made over \$175. The profit helped the club to fund their trip to the Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth Conference at Hofstra on March 13.

The festivities included dancing to the sounds of techno music and Shakira and a "rowdy game of limbo," as Dachowitz puts it. Junior Timothy Sherman wore a strapless, lilac minidress with hot pink fish net stockings and pink four-inch heels. Freshman Alex Costenoble caught the eye of everyone in the room, arriving in a golden rhinestone-encrusted, square-neck top with a matching full-length skirt. Junior Pablo Castro wore a black velvet skirt and sheer black sleeves.

It was not the males who stole the show, however. Junior Melanie Davidoff, sophomore Skyler Volpe and freshmen Leah Feldman and Phoebe Sherman represented the menswear contingent of attendees in polos and baggy jeans.

The success of the Drag Ball may be indicative for the future of the GSA. The board members acknowledge that expansion is difficult, but they state that the recruiting of members this past year has been very successful. Dachowitz explained that with a club like the GSA, it's about quality, not quantity.

"Even though we might not have a huge amount of people, every member is dedicated and active in the club," said Dachowitz.

Davidoff is also encouraged by the turnout and positive tone of the school-wide event.

"The success of the drag ball really shows how tolerant our school is. There are some schools where people can't even get a GSA started," she said.

AP Art exhibit showcases diverse student projects

Focus on internationality leads to a globe full of portraits

BY Lauren Effune
Staff Writer

Students in the Advanced Placement Studio Art class, taught by Dr. Mark Graham and Ms. Kris Murphy, displayed their paintings, drawings, and collages

in the atrium. The exhibit was titled "International Story Portraits" because the students completed diverse and multicultural works of art.

For the exhibit, students were assigned to interview a family member, family friend, or peer who moved to the United States from another country.

Some questions asked to the subjects were where they came from, why they moved, and their experiences in the United States. Russia, the Czech Republic, France, and Bangladesh were some of the countries represented at the exhibit. The purpose of the assignment was to teach students about different cultures and the subjects' personal history.

"We wanted our students to explore a variety of different cultures, and not only learn from their own chosen nationality but from other places as well," said Dr. Graham.

Students took photographs of their subjects and created preliminary sketches of them. As they became more familiar with the background of their person, the students continued to create more detailed paintings and drawings of them.

Many students felt that this assignment was different from others because it was more personal, thus allowing for an enriching and meaningful experience. Students learned more about their subjects' pasts, looked deeper into their personal experiences for inspiration, and interacted with their subjects in a way that most had never previously done.

"Not only did we learn how to paint portraits, but we also learned a lot more about our individual's past and learned things that we never learned before," said senior Rachel Kurjackovic.

Each work of art created was unique and different from the others. Not only did the students use a variety of media, including oil paint, watercolor, and charcoal, but each piece represented a different one of the subject's stories and evoked different emotions that the artist felt while painting or drawing.

Each piece showed different patterns, lighting, symbols, and focal points, all trying to show the experiences of the artist's subject, while emphasizing the person's particular culture. While some portraits were realistic, other portraits were more abstract. Some students created a more unique approach, adding 3-D elements such as yarn, ink writing from a particular language and other contexts, jewelry, newspaper clippings and photography to their work.

Parents, students and other art teachers attended the Mar. 20 opening of the exhibit and observed the different types of culture and stories being displayed. Appetizers and drinks from different nationalities were offered, and freshman Eunice Kim provided musical entertainment on the harp.

"All of us live in a very diverse community, and the exhibit gave us the opportunity to learn from people of different cultures," said senior Haeinn Woo. "It was a really emotional experience, and left special memories for



Matt Odell

The sketches and paintings of AP art students decorate the walls of Schreiber's atrium, an exhibit resulting from students' hard work and time.

Research students participate in L.I. competitions

Junior Science and Humanities Symposium Long Island Science and Engineering Fair

BY Michael Lau
Senior News Editor

Seniors Emlyn Diakow, Ben Jaffe and Daryl Koopersmith participated in the annual Long Island-wide Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, or JSHS. The seniors presented their research projects, which were completed over the summer, at Adelphi University on Mar. 2.

The participants were separated into twelve different rooms based on the subject areas of their research papers. Diakow was placed in the genetics/neurology room, Jaffe in the cancer/cell biology room and Koopersmith in the mathematics/computer science room. Each room had nine to ten students and a panel of two judges.

During the first round of the competition, students presented their projects to the other students in their rooms and to the three judges, who were either scientists or university professors.

Diakow's project, "The Identification and Location of the Mutation Responsible for Myopia," involved finding the DNA mutation that results in near-sightedness.

Jaffe's project, "JNK Inhibition by siRNA in an Oxidant Injury Model," blocked the phosphorylation of protein JNK with siRNA, which prevented

oxidative death in human lung cells.

Koopersmith's project, "A Structural Model for the Intelligent Development of a Tracking System Utilizing Array-based Multi-sensor Data Fusion," created a self-refining model that utilizes audio, visual, seismic and thermal sensors to track and identify objects as an adaptable security system.

Jaffe and Koopersmith came in first place in their individual subject rooms and thus advanced to the final round, in which they presented their projects to a panel of 22 judges in an auditorium with students, parents and teachers, who were all allowed to ask the student presenters questions.

"It was an honor to present in front of the entire symposium, but it was extremely nerve wracking," said Koopersmith. "Once the room winners were announced, we had to present immediately."

Koopersmith was a merit finalist and came in sixth place overall. He was offered the chance to be a student delegate at the National JSHS competition. Only the top two students present their projects at the symposium in Huntsville, Alabama.

"Competitions such as JSHS truly validate my research. All the summer's hard work and effort makes it worth it," said Jaffe.

Second Round Participants:

Chris Catalano (12)

"Microvascular Abnormalities in Contact Lens Users: A Real-Time Computer-Assisted Intravital Microscopic Study"

Honorable Mention

Ben Jaffe (12)

"JNK Inhibition by siRNA in an Oxidant Injury Model"

2nd Place

Adam Johnson (12), Dan Stewart (12)

"An Algorithm for Removing Event Pileup and its Application to 200 GeV Au+Au Collisions at RHIC"

1st Place - Advance to International Science and Engineering Fair

Stefan Muller (11)

"The Effects of 3D Transformations on Volume and Surface Area"

3rd Place

Intel Excellence in Computer Science Award

Alexis Mychajliw (11)

"Comparative River Characterization and Ecological Study of Two Hudson River Tributaries"

Honorable Mention

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Siddharth Ninan (11)

"Optimization of Ethanol Production in *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae* Using Glucose Metabolism Models and MATLAB"

Honorable Mention

Special Awards

Mu Alpha Theta Award:

Katie McCulloh (11), Maddie Mirzoeff (11), Claire Lee (11), Daniel Sirotkin (11)

Ricoh Sustainable Development Award:

Matt Mondragon (12)

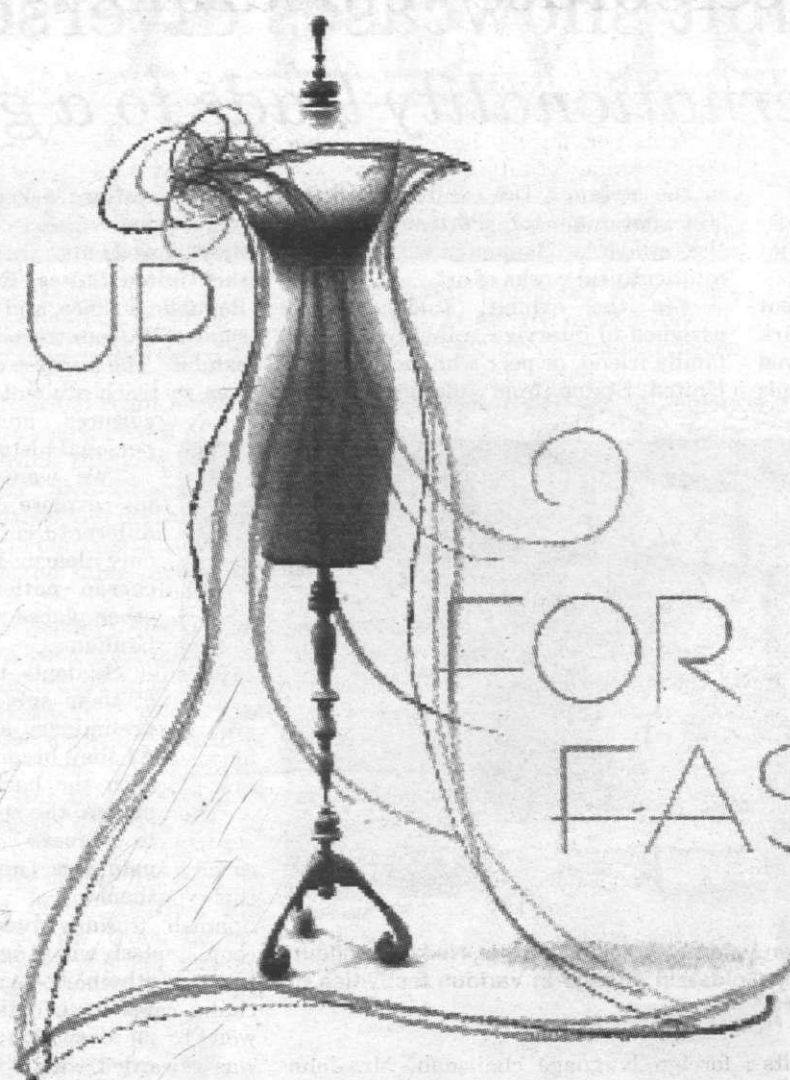
International Society for Optical Engineering:

Lisa Schechner (12)

Intel Excellence in Computer Science Award:

Daryl Koopersmith (12)

FI(RED) UP



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Mardi Gras celebrates cultural diversity

Annual celebration brings all foreign language students together

BY Corinne Tinger

Staff Writer

Mardi Gras comes from the French words meaning "Fat Tuesday." The holiday combines religious tradition with a carnival that is meant to welcome Spring. Schreiber had the opportunity to

at Schreiber, foreign language teacher Ms. Jeanine Montusi describes our celebrations as "an event that brings all language students together."

Foreign language teachers, honor society members and school administrators gathered in the cafeteria to enjoy the event organized by the

Each guest was required to bring a dish that would serve at least six. "Eat as much as you can and enjoy the food because you have to fast after," said Mr. Placella as the food came out of the kitchen. Students filed in line to get their dinners (seniors received priority). The buffet foods ranged from pastas to sushi to salads to pizza to tacos; the dessert tables were also covered with plenty of sweets.

The festivities included a table supplied with glitter, glue, feathers, beads, confetti and plain Mardi Gras masks that students were able to decorate. Other activities included a hula-hoop contest and a mummy wrapping competition. Students tried to keep the hula-hoop up for as long as they could and, once it fell, they had to pass it on to the next member in their group and see whose group could last the longest. The winning group received a first-place ribbon.

The toilet paper wrap brought many students to the center of the cafeteria to cover friends in toilet paper and make their own, original creations. "The Spanish Speaker" creation won the contest which was judged by the foreign language teachers. A game of musical chairs caused much laughter and was won by junior Alyssa Hansen who was rewarded with a maraca. Junior Kristiana Ressa and sophomore Kelsey Siegel were the last two standing in the limbo competition.

"Any opportunity to see our students celebrate the diversity of language and culture that we have at Schreiber is special," said Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller about the event's success. "This was a wonderful evening. We are so proud of our students and teachers."



Alex Stein

(l-r) Sophomores Kelsey Siegel, Lauren Valenti, Amanda Ostrove, Nikki Horvilleur, Ryan Goldstein, Liz Jester, and Perry Goldstein engage in various festivities to celebrate cultural and lingual diversity.

celebrate and embrace this holiday at its fourth annual Mardi Gras celebration. The night of Tuesday, Mar. 13 was filled with food and festivities.

The word "carnivale" comes from Latin and means "take away the meat." Although Mardi Gras originated in Europe, it quickly spread to America and other countries. In France, a fat cow was paraded around throughout the streets to remind people to give up meat during Lent, the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Here

foreign language chairman, Mr. John Placella, who worked incessantly to see the fruition of this party.

The celebration took place in the Schreiber cafeteria that was elaborately decorated in the trademark colors of Mardi Gras: yellow, green and purple. To add to the enjoyment of the partygoers, the colorful tables were adorned with leis, confetti and beaded necklaces. The usually stark, white walls were covered with decorations including festive masks and streamers.

Pi Day brings math into the real world

Students complete projects about the applications of math in everyday life

BY Nick Pray

Staff Writer

With over 152 participants and nearly 100 projects, this year's Pi Day festivities were the most elaborate Schreiber has witnessed. Pi Day was overseen and coordinated by Mr. Anthony Tedesco and Mu Alpha Theta, Schreiber's math honor society. Mu Alpha Theta proclaimed this Pi Day as the biggest success in six years.

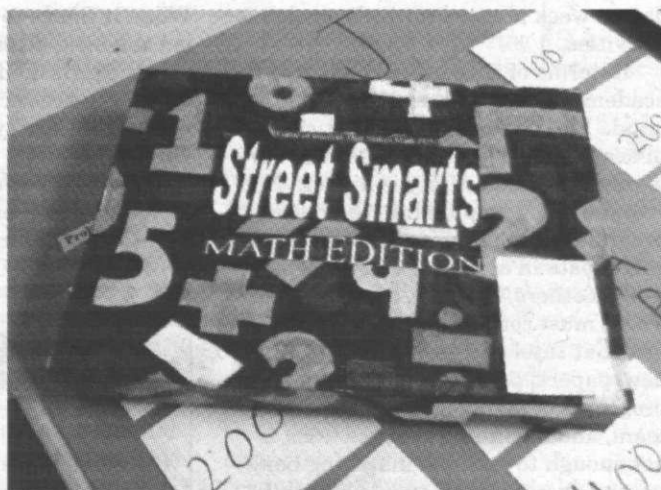
The theme of this year's Pi Day was "Math in the Real World." The participants chose from a variety of categories to express their interest in the applications of Pi in the real world. Freshman Adam Epstein completed a project entitled "Spirit of 3.14". Another freshman, Shaan Shivdasani, expressed his adoration for math through a poem in which he describes math as "A Motivation in life." Shaan and Adam's appreciation for Pi was mirrored by their fellow students who created math games such as Mathopoly, where the winner is the student with the highest test and quiz scores. An additional creative look at math was Street Smarts: Math Edition, one of the entries in the game

category. Other students saw objects in their community and chose to describe their geometric shapes. Some explored the everyday occupations, lives and happenings of the community members around them and calculated how math relates to them.

There were several winners for Pi Day in each category, but every participant was a winner and was awarded with a slice of a pizza pie. But those who stood out for their creativity and excellence in the comprehension of mathematical studies and of the meaning of Pi were recognized with prizes.

In the Poster category, sophomore Marie Pier Desmemeules took first place. For Essays and Board Games, Priyanka Sewhani, Katelynn Catalano and Nicole

Meyers came out on top. The only winner for the puzzle category was Engi Ibrahim. Jenna Reichenbach, Lindsay Rubin, Andrew Seo, Huseeyin Kivrak



Russell Saks

A student's game uses a creative approach to demonstrate the relationship between math and everyday life.

and Evan Samson were all recognized for their projects in Tessellations, Power Point and Songs, respectively.

Foreign Language week recognizes the importance of learning different languages

BY Ryohei Ozaki

Staff Writer

National Foreign Language Week, the first week of Mar., coincides with Mardi Gras, an annual event celebrated by the foreign language department. Immediately following Foreign Language Week are the National Latin exam and Le Grand Concours, the National French exam.

Foreign Language week was celebrated in Schreiber this year without the festivity that usually accompanies the first week of March. While Ms. Jeannine Montusi's French classes made crêpes and the Spanish classes cooked traditional Spanish foods, students did not hear the voices of other nations over the public announcement system, a past Schreiber tradition.

“The week does not only honor many unique languages and cultures but also recognizes the importance of foreign language education.”

“Usually we have announcements in different languages, and although this year we couldn't do that, the school celebrates Foreign Language Week just the same,” said Mr. John Placella, the chair of the Foreign Language Department at Schreiber.

The week does not only honor many unique languages and cultures but also recognizes the importance of foreign language education. Foreign language week, while incorporating enjoyable aspects of learning the language such as cooking, eating, and discovering the culture, has as well a serious emphasis on the importance of education.

“Foreign language is the un-elective elective, because it is a necessary skill to have to get into college,” said Mr. Placella. “It points out the importance of the kind of education we give students, because it really is significant in their lives.”

As a way to spread the celebration of foreign languages, two French classes visited Weber Middle School to teach the younger students about the importance of foreign languages in and out of school. The Weber students were given word searches to learn about French-speaking countries, and some students spoke of their own experiences in France and other countries.

Another annual event at Schreiber, Mardi Gras, took place on Wednesday, Mar. 13, in the cafeteria. Mardi Gras celebrates the beginning of Lent, although it was somewhat delayed this year.

Although Foreign Language week did not come with the same excitement as it had in past years, it still achieved its goal: students learned how to have fun with language.

Point

Counterpoint

Do students prioritize sports over academic activities?

BY Sam Kraus

Contributing Writer

Convince me. Show me a pep rally for the annual Intel semifinalists. Show me the marching band playing for the next Science Olympiad competition. Whether or not this is a bad thing, it is obvious to me how much more attention sporting activities receive in comparison to academics.

Fortunately, students in this school district tend to be introduced to sports at a very young age. Many kids even begin playing soccer at the age of five. Likewise, those who don't know how to ride a bicycle are looked upon as if they are missing an important part of their childhood. We have youth sporting organizations in Port Washington such as PAL and PYA. Where are the competing youth academic organizations?

As an athlete as well as an academic, I feel that I have the experience to gauge whether academics or sports get more attention. One point is participation; many more students play a school sport than take part in academic extracurricular activities. Ask Mr. Klaff how many people are part of the track team. Then ask his colleague, Ms. McClean, how many people are members of the debate team. A 60-person difference between the clubs shows which gets more attention from students; track is overwhelmingly more popular.

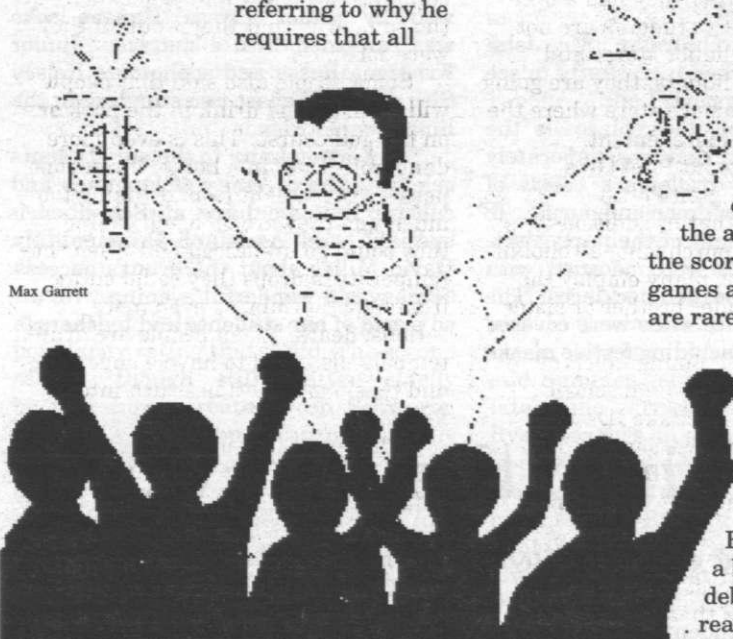
But also, sports are more popular among the observing (and not just the participating) students. Consult students who don't participate in athletic or academic activities about what type of event they attend more. Can I expect a cheering section for my next debate round? Can I expect a pep rally, ticket sales, the Step Team, or the Portettes to cheer for the publication of this article? I doubt it. Who can blame the people who choose to attend games? It's only reasonable that fans seek entertainment, and sports are slightly more entertaining than a meeting of the National Honor Society.

Sure, the school funds some academic activities, but not all of them. And if you argue that success proves how much attention academic activities get, think again. The drama club gets nothing from the school. The literary magazine relies chiefly on private donations. And the debate team only receives enough money from the school to function at the most basic of levels.

Our school might not have the most school spirit when it comes to football games or pep rallies, but last fall we did witness an enthusiastic crowd. The Vikings boys varsity football team made it to the playoffs with a 4-4 record. In the weeks leading up to the exciting

blowout elimination, the prospect of the team making it to the playoffs for the first time since the 1970s was the hottest talk around school. But there was never a large crowd that ever cheered "LET'S GO MATHLETES! YOU CALCULATE THAT DERIVATIVE!" before a competition. Yes, any academic can tell you that the greatest form of recognition from the school is the occasional announcement over the morning PA system.

If my article leaves you with any doubt about whether or not Schreiber athletics receive more attention than academics, think about this simple fact: six days is certainly more than two days, and most sports demand six out of seven days of the week in order to even compete at all. As Mr. Klaff said, "I can't take everybody to the meet," referring to why he requires that all



his athletes maintain a near-perfect attendance record. Compare this stringent attendance record to the two days a week allotted towards academic activities.

In terms of success, perhaps it is the academic activities that have the upper hand. Maybe there is less participation in academic activities because the bar is raised and selectivity is higher. Not everybody is accepted into the research programs, and not everybody can participate in academic activities as well as others. For now, it seems that we all must come to terms with the fact that Intel success, award winning newspapers, prestigious research programs, a highly competitive debate team, and a winning robotics team is not enough to justify a marching band to send these various teams and clubs on their way to dominate the academic world.

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

BY Melissa Quigley

Staff Writer

Unlike most high schools on Long Island, Schreiber is known for its luxurious library, and its school spirit only when it comes to academics. The general mentality is: if you're not involved in a sport, what's the sense of going to watch it? It's somewhat sad that our most popular "sporting event" is none other than Blue and White Night.

We start the beginning of the year with the typical high school traditions: homecoming and the pep rally. This year, not even enough people to fill the stands attended the homecoming game. Our town remains relatively uninvolved in athletics, and there is minimal

community spirit (probably due to a "lack of victories" that are necessary in drawing audiences to sporting events). During the athletic seasons, the scores of matches, games and tournaments are rarely announced on the loudspeaker, unless a team or an individual happens to qualify for the state competition.

But no one misses a beat when the debate team gets ready for the state competition or the Mathletes team places first. And while we may not know our football captains, we sure know our Intel semifinalists. When it comes to sports, the teams that get the most attention are the Portettes and the girls on dance and skit teams.

There are certain towns with names that are synonymous with a particular sport. When you think of Manhasset, you probably think of lacrosse. However, in Port Washington, we are known for our rigorous academic

curriculum and consecutive records for Intel semifinalists.

For a student who wants to create a new sports team for the school (for example, boys swimming), it's a very long, trying process. In contrast, the members of the Board of Education may snap their fingers (assuming the budget allows) and we have a whole new set of classes dedicated to our theater productions.

"Since I am in math research, and I was also a member of the girls varsity swim team, I can see both perspectives of the table," said senior Sarah Nash. "There is no question about the willingness of the school to fund most research experiments; however, I spent the past six Octobers waking up at five in the morning in order to drive to a pool, because we do not have one. I'm not saying the school should build a dome, but even the tennis courts have cracks on the cement and the baseball field is somewhat ruined."

Not too long ago in Schreiber's history, there was school spirit; it did really exist. Blue and White Night, hands down, was the most heavily populated 'sporting event'. In the past, Blue and White Night, then called Sports Night, was a gymnastics competition and worked as a school spirit enhancer. Today, we watch teenage girls dance provocatively in revealing clothing, which gives other students who both watch and participate in the event an excuse to party with the infamous plastic red cups.

"It's the middle of March and the tennis team has barely had practice time due to poor weather conditions," said sophomore Jonny Marks. "There has to be some solution so we can get out on the tennis courts so our season doesn't suffer from it."

It's true: for an academic, the education you receive at Schreiber is top notch for a public school. But what about the stereotypical jock who needs the advantages of a great sports program? Do we send him to a different school? At least for the students' sake and the community as a whole, there needs to be a happy medium. Bring back our school spirit.

Schreiber Speaks

"I feel like there is so much attention given to academic activities in Schreiber students. People place much more emphasis on clubs that are academic versus sports teams."

-Elena Box, senior

"I think that for the most part, both academic clubs and sports teams are well supported. Both are given a fairly equal amount of attention."

-MaryAnn Vlahos, junior

Local weekend social life has high alcohol content

Lack of activities in Port Washington has led to hazardous weekend agendas

BY Jason Lifton
Contributing Writer

The town of Port Washington is an amazing place to grow up. We have a great school system, amazing scenery of the Long Island Sound and no shortage of water sports during the warm months. Our only problem as a community is the amount of underage drinking. Frequently, teens who are bored on the weekends search for a new source of amusement. If Port had something such as a bowling alley or an arcade teens would be more inclined to have fun in a safe and legal way.

According to a survey of 75 students, just about everyone has attended a party where alcohol was present. Fifty nine of the 75 students surveyed, 73 reported having attended a party where alcohol was served within the past month. I believe that Port Washington as a town does not provide enough activity for teenagers on the weekends and that is why they are drinking. Simply stated, they are bored. Of the 75 students surveyed, 73 felt that Port Washington does a poor job of providing entertainment for teens both at night and on the weekends. These statements are consistent with drinking statistics nationwide.

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) statistics show that the more suburban an area is, the higher the number of teens who drink. As a prime example of a suburban community, Port Washington reinforces these claims. In addition, teens in Great Neck, Roslyn and other surrounding communities that resemble Port Washington also report that with little to do, teens are left with drinking related activities as their source of entertainment.

Many suburban communities all over New York are experiencing a similar problem. Yet when you speak to teenagers who live in more developed areas, underage drinking seems to be less of a problem. My teenage cousin, who lives in New York City, could easily list dozens of activities that he and his friends do on the weekends, none of which included getting drunk. He said that simply going out for dinner and walking around Times Square could easily occupy him and his friends for an evening. He does not deny that underage drinking takes place, but he

argues it is much less prevalent.

In addition, there are a number of teen clubs that welcome teenagers and do not serve alcohol. Many of my cousin's friends go to these clubs on Friday and Saturday nights.

Furthermore, the security that is found in most New York City apartment buildings makes it more difficult for teens to throw parties. It is much easier to get away with a party in Port Washington where the houses are spread apart and there is not a doorman at every house watching who is coming in.

One of the many factors that encourages teens to attend parties is their cheap rate of admission. Students can easily afford the seven of ten dollar entry fee to a house party, but may have difficulty paying \$20 or more for a round of bowling. It is hard for teenagers without cars or licenses to make their way to a bowling alley that is twenty minutes away. It is much easier for them to get to a liquor store and purchase some alcohol for a party.

Among the students whom I surveyed, every person who reported attempting to purchase alcohol locally said that they had no issue doing so regardless of whether they had a fake ID or not. Obviously students are not going to high end liquor stores and buying expensive liquors; they are going to the local convenience store where the policies are much more lenient.

Detective Sergeant Paul Gros of the Port Washington Police Department said that in addition to teens themselves purchasing alcohol in convenience stores, many employ the assistance of an older brother or sister who is over 21.

Fake IDs are becoming much more of a common fixture in high school students' wallets. The fake IDs of years ago are primitive compared to the nearly perfect fake IDs of today. Detective Gros said that this is an increasing problem because possessing a fake ID is considered a felony under the charge of possession of a forged document. He said that he hopes that students understand the consequences of this charge; it can eliminate your chance of becoming a lawyer or a federal employee because felonies show up on a criminal record.

A senior who has wished to remain anonymous said that she "doesn't understand why carrying a fake ID is such a big deal; it's not like we are trying to get on a plane illegally and blow it up, we are buying alcohol." With computer technology becoming more and more advanced, fake IDs are becoming more and more accessible and more affordable

and most importantly to teens, more realistic.

According to the students who were surveyed, most do not feel that drinking will come to a complete halt if some entertainment is brought to Port Washington, but many hope that something such as a bowling alley would bring it down a notch. When teens attend binge drinking parties in a home, kids often get hurt or sick.

According to school social worker Ms. Michele Weiden, teens are often scared to call the police when someone gets sick, out of fear of getting in trouble. This is incredibly frightening because if someone gets alcohol poisoning they require immediate medical attention. If no one calls the police on a sick person's behalf then this person could potentially suffer more serious consequences. People expect friends to look out for each other but when everyone is intoxicated, no one is thinking rationally and people don't act the same way that they would if they were sober.

Some people also said that people will often go and drink in the park or on the golf course. This is even more dangerous than in a home. If someone passes out at night from drinking too much and they are on a golf course, they could go unnoticed and when the temperature drops they could suffer from hypothermia, or even more serious, death. When people are drunk, tempers also tend to have a short fuse and tensions sometimes turn into fights.

"There have been several instances where fights have broken out over stupid things and gotten out of control because the people were drunk," said junior Sarah Scheinman.

Drunk driving is always the first thing that comes to mind when someone mentions teen drinking and with good reason. Of course, driving drunk is dangerous not just for the driver, but for anyone else on the roads.

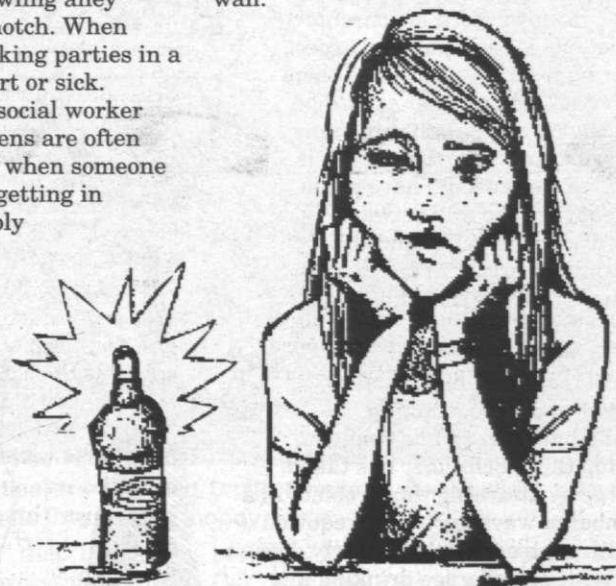
Last year a senior broke his leg when a drunk driver hit his car on Shore Road. Teens driving drunk adds an increased danger to the already dangerous affects of alcohol. Teens are less experienced when it comes to driving because they have not been driving as long as adults.

Nassau County Police Commissioner James Lawrence reported that over the course of 48 hours there were six drunk driving arrests involving people under the age of 20, and 31 arrests of people under 30. Even if teens don't get into cars with people who have been drinking, there is still a serious risk of harm to the individual who chooses to attend a party where alcohol is present. Gang rape, injury, alcohol poisoning and fights are some of the many risks that are associated with drinking.

There are many other problems with parties taking place at people houses. When at a party, people have little regard for the house or the

surrounding property.

Senior Tarryn Fisher recalls that she remembers hearing about TVs and other electronics being stolen at a party. A junior described a party where people were having a contest to see who could punch a bigger hole in the wall.



Samira Irvani

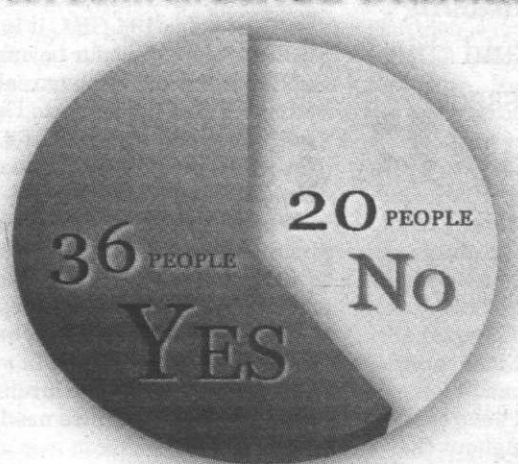
In addition to the damage to the house, parents may be held criminally responsible if there is alcohol consumption on their property by minors. Det. Gros said that although parents are rarely prosecuted, serving alcohol to underage individuals is a felony charge. According to nationwide reports, one-third of sixth through ninth graders obtain alcohol from their own homes.

The residents of Port Washington need to begin to address the issue of teen drinking within our community because according to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, teens who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to become alcohol dependent than those who begin drinking at age 21.

One of the ideas that Ms. Weiden has proposed is a skate park where teens could go and skate and have fun while staying sober. Det. Gros said that he liked this idea; however he said that it would be difficult to find enough space to open an adequate skate park. He suggested that the town offer a free bus for teenagers to get back and forth nearby parks to Main Street. Some other ideas that students proposed include an arcade and more age-appropriate restaurants. These places could keep teens busy on the weekend and provide a safe supervised environment for them to be in at night.

The recent car accident in Port Washington involving teenagers driving drunk, has once again brought the issue of teen drinking into the forefront of everyone's mind. Now more than ever, Port Washington needs to address the issue of underage drinking. There are several empty locations where a bowling ally or arcade could easily be constructed. We were very lucky that no one in the car accident was killed; but we may not be so lucky next time. The town of Port Washington needs to act now to ensure that teens have something safe to do on the weekends.

WOULD MORE ENTERTAINMENT VENUES IN PORT CUT DOWN ON BINGE DRINKING?



Dealing with the consequences of underage drinking

Where to draw the line between parental responsibility and school authority

BY Katrina Fahey

Staff Writer

If a teenager comes home past their curfew, should the parents call the school to demand that they be given detention? What about if a teen takes money from their parents' wallet? Is it reasonable to expect their high school to suspend them for a day? The answer *should* be "no," but it appears that to many Schreiber parents, the answer is "yes." Recent events have made it clear that the line between parent responsibility and the responsibility (not to mention authority) of the school has been blurred.

No one can deny that high school teenagers like to party or that underage drinking exists, but what can be done to stop this? Schreiber has taken charge by attacking this problem in a number of ways, including required health courses that extensively discuss the issue of underage drinking and assemblies that address the topic of drinking.

Still, parents seem to expect more. When pictures surface from a weekend party, some parents send them to the school, expecting punishments to follow, but does that really solve the problem? Should the school send representatives around Port Washington at night, looking for parties to break up?

The school can only do so much, and its authority can only stretch so far. Students' parents need to remember that these are *their* kids who are making the decision to drink and that it is *their* houses being used for parties; and therefore the responsibility is on

the parents.

Though the Schreiber community is concerned about underage drinking, school officials and staff do not have the authority to get involved with events that students participate in outside of



Alex Stein

school, unless it pertains to a school activities. The school can talk about the issue as much as it wants, but should not and cannot punish students.

However, the responsibility of the school to deal with out-of-school events is called into question when drinking can be related to an extracurricular activity, such as sports teams or, what we've all heard about, Blue and White Night. Though students in organized

school activities may hang out and possibly drink on weekends, should we blame the fact that they're on a team? The decision to drink is not simply based on if you participate in school activities. In fact, isn't our participation encouraged in order to stop that kind of behavior? We could eliminate all extracurricular activities, but let's be honest, that is not going to eliminate drinking (and is rather unrealistic). Though the school can take action against those caught drinking, it's not going to stop the problem.

In terms of the recent Blue and White Night events, students participating actually did sign contracts, along with their parents, stating that use of drugs and

alcohol would not be tolerated by the school. This does give the school the authority and responsibility to discipline students who break this contract, but, in these specific instances, the only proof the school has is pictures: pictures of girls holding red cups (and two pictures of a girl holding a bottle of alcohol). How can the school, or anyone, fairly punish the girls who were only holding red cups or simply present at the party? Last time I checked, red cups weren't illegal, and we all know what happens

when you "assume." The school cannot simply pick and choose those who are or aren't guilty, or give out different punishments based on what they believe or do not believe. Nonetheless, without the support of parents, the school cannot make a difference, no matter how many students it suspends.

The pictures of parties where alcohol is present generally surface after an anonymous parent has found them and sent them to the school. In this specific case, a person, possibly a parent, allegedly created a fake Facebook, tricked girls in Blue and White Night into "friending" them, and then proceeded to rat them out to the school. Well, parents, though you might be appalled by the behavior of these girls, have you ever thought about talking to your kids and the other parents involved? The school is not always going to be there, and your kids are at an age where they are learning to make their own decisions. A suspension is nothing compared to actually teaching, or at least attempting to talk to *your* children about how to make healthy decisions. Parents, you are the biggest influences on your children whether you realize that or not; use that to your advantage.

"Parents should be aware of what their kids are doing," said senior Mikki Rosman. "They shouldn't ask the school to do their dirty work for them."

When kids step into school every weekday morning they become the school's responsibility, but, once they leave, it is parents who need to be looking out for them. Schreiber is only a part of our lives for four years, while our parents have been a part of our lives since the day we were born. The responsibility, the power, and the opportunity to influence the rest of our lives is in their hands.

The illogical practice of weighing grades and quarters

The problem with how students' GPAs are calculated and possible solutions

BY Justin Samson

Staff Writer

What is it about Schreiber's GPA system that prompts debate among peers, questions from my little brother about what he needs to get to get into Harvard, and the "need" for top-ranking students to take health in senior year instead of junior year simply because it will hurt their cumulative average? Why is it that when you have an A+ for each of the first two quarters, an A in the third quarter, but end up getting a B in the fourth quarter and a B on your final test, that you're frantically flipping through your agenda where the whole grading system is explained to find out if you still managed to pull off that A?

If these five grades were weighted equally, you would end up with an A, but Schreiber's weighting system gives you a B+. This kind of annoyance happens every year at because the school weighs the third and fourth quarters much heavier than the first two. While the exact reasons for this are unknown, there are several theories as to why the last two quarters

are weighted more. For example, the administration may be trying to motivate students to keep pushing themselves as the year goes on, or perhaps the assignments given in class at the end of the year are supposed to be considered more important than those given in the fall.

Nevertheless, the system is extremely flawed. A student who works hard during the first half of the year and slacks off during the second will end up with a lower grade than a student who slacks off at the beginning of the year instead. Other times, students don't even slack off; some students legitimately struggle more during the second semester than the first, regardless of how hard they work.

The entire student body, who collectively view the GPA system as a measure of how smart everyone is or how hard someone works should come to the realization that the system really is not all that it's cracked up to be. The grading system at Schreiber is confusing and nonsensical, and this issue needs to be addressed.

Firstly, quarter grades should not be weighted based on what time of

the year they are administered. With four years of experience as a student at this school, I know that getting an A+ second quarter is just as hard as getting one fourth quarter. However, the administration seems to be operating under the false impression that class difficulty varies throughout the year. There is no reason for these

"The grading system at Schreiber is confusing and nonsensical, and this needs to be addressed."

time-based weights.

Secondly, people would have less trouble understanding the grading system if things were done numerically so that each grade was out of 100 points. This way, a 94 would equal a 94, an 89.5 would equal an 89.5, and both would not be equated as "4.0." As a bonus, students could keep track of their actual grades throughout the year. Many other Long Island school districts, including Great Neck, use

this less-confusing system.

Currently, the GPA value of honors classes is increased by one point so that students who challenge themselves with tough classes receive more credit than those in Regents level courses. I think this policy should be kept just as it is, but converted numerically so that if you get an 85 in an honors class, then a 95 is averaged into your GPA. If you get a 100 in an honors class, then you get the privilege of having a 110 averaged into your GPA. If a student has a 104 GPA, it is clear to colleges they went far beyond the call of duty, whereas nobody really knows what a 4.5 or 5.1 means. There is no need for GPA's to be out of 4.5 or 5.0 (or whatever it is) when we can use a simple 100-point scale.

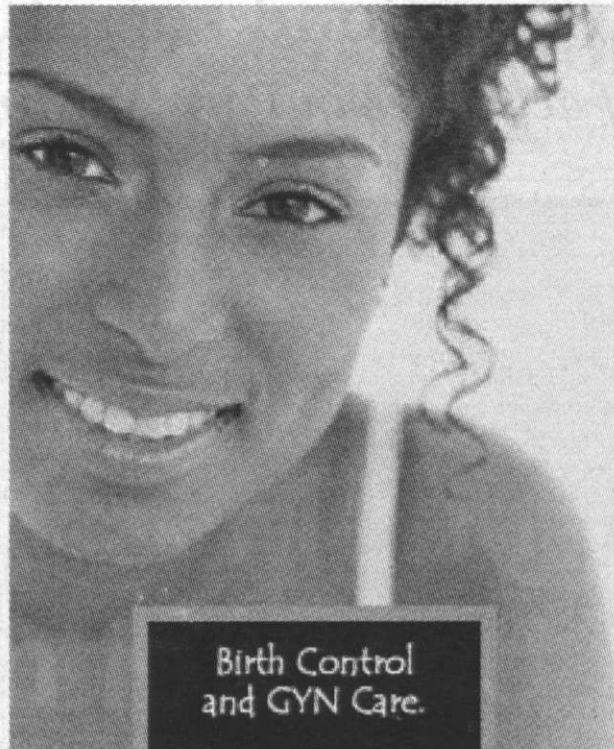
Whether you're the naïve freshman who wonders what the point of learning how to calculate averages in middle school was, or the sophisticated junior who is in all honors classes, but still can't figure out his GPA, I'm sure you'll agree with me on this: Schreiber's grading system is in dire need of a makeover.

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Local weekend social life has high alcohol content

Lack of activities in Port Washington has led to hazardous weekend agendas

BY Jason Lifton

Contributing Writer

The town of Port Washington is an amazing place to grow up. We have a great school system, amazing scenery of the Long Island Sound and no shortage of water sports during the warm months. Our only problem as a community is the amount of underage drinking. Frequently, teens who are bored on the weekends search for a new source of amusement. If Port had something such as a bowling alley or an arcade teens would be more inclined to have fun in a safe and legal way.

According to a survey of 75 students, just about everyone has attended a party where alcohol was present. Fifty nine of the 75 students surveyed, 73 reported having attended a party where alcohol was served within the past month. I believe that Port Washington as a town does not provide enough activity for teenagers on the weekends and that is why they are drinking. Simply stated, they are bored. Of the 75 students surveyed felt that Port Washington does a poor job of providing entertainment for teens both at night and on the weekends. These statements are consistent with drinking statistics nationwide. Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) statistics show that the more suburban an area is, the higher the number of teens who drink. As a prime example of a suburban community, Port Washington reinforces these claims. In addition, teens in Great Neck, Roslyn and other surrounding communities that resemble Port Washington also report that with little to do, teens are left with drinking related activities as their source of entertainment.

Many suburban communities all over New York are experiencing a similar problem. Yet when you speak to teenagers who live in more developed areas, underage drinking seems to be less of a problem. My teenage cousin, who lives in New York City, could easily list dozens of activities that he and his friends do on the weekends, none of which included getting drunk. He said that simply going out for dinner and walking around Times Square could easily occupy him and his friends for an evening. He does not deny that underage drinking takes place, but he argues it is much less prevalent.

In addition, there are a number of teen clubs that welcome teenagers and do not serve alcohol. Many of my cousin's friends go to these clubs on Friday and Saturday nights.

Furthermore, the security that is found in most New York City apartment buildings makes it more difficult for teens to throw parties. It is much easier to get away with a party in Port Washington where the houses are spread apart and there is not a doorman at every house watching who is coming in.

One of the many factors that

encourages teens to attend parties is their cheap rate of admission. Students can easily afford the seven of ten dollar entry fee to a house party, but may have difficulty paying \$20 or more for a round of bowling. It is hard for teenagers without cars or licenses to make their way to a bowling alley that is twenty minutes away. It is much easier for them to get to a liquor store and purchase some alcohol for a party.

Among the students whom I surveyed, every person who reported attempting to purchase alcohol locally said that they had no issue doing so regardless of whether they had a fake ID or not. Obviously students are not going to high end liquor stores and buying expensive liquors; they are going to the local convenience store where the policies are much more lenient.

Detective Sergeant Paul Gros of the Port Washington Police Department said that in addition to teens themselves purchasing alcohol in convenience stores, many employ the use of an older brother or sister who is over 21.

Fake IDs are becoming much more of a common fixture in high school student's wallets. The fake IDs of years ago are primitive compared to the nearly perfect fake IDs of today. Gros said that this is an increasing problem because possessing a fake ID can carry serious consequences. It is considered a felony under the charge of possession of a forged document. He said that he hopes that students understand the consequences of this charge; it can eliminate your chance of becoming a lawyer or a federal employee because felonies show up on a criminal record. A senior who has wished to remain anonymous said that she "doesn't understand why carrying a fake ID is such a big deal, its not like we are trying to get on a plane illegally and blow it up, we are buying alcohol." With computer technology becoming more and more advanced, fake IDs are becoming more and more accessible and more affordable and most importantly to teens, more realistic.

According to the students that were surveyed, most do not feel that drinking will come to a complete halt if some

entertainment is brought to Port Washington, but many hope that something such as a bowling ally would bring it down a notch. When teens attend binge drinking parties

in a home, kids often get hurt or sick. According to school social worker Michele Weiden, teens are often scared to call the police when someone gets sick, out of fear of getting in trouble. This is incredibly frightening because if someone gets alcohol poisoning they require immediate medical attention. If no one calls the police on a sick person's behalf then this person could potentially suffer more serious consequences. People expect friends to look out for each other but when everyone is intoxicated, no one is thinking rationally and people don't act the same way that they would if they were sober. Some people also said

that people will often go and drink in the park or on the golf course. This is even more dangerous than in a home. If someone passes out at night from drinking too much and they are on a golf course, they could go unnoticed and when the temperature drops they could suffer from hypothermia, or even more serious, death. When people are drunk, tempers also tend to have a short fuse and tensions sometimes turn into fights. "There have been several instances where fights have broken out over stupid things and gotten out of control because the people were drunk" said junior Sarah Schienman.

Drunk driving is always the first thing that comes to mind when someone mentions teen drinking and with good reason.

Of course, driving drunk is dangerous not just for the driver, but for anyone else on the roads. Last year there was a senior at Schreiber high school that had his leg broken when drunk driver hit his car on Shore Road. Teens driving drunk ads an increased danger to the already dangerous affects of alcohol. Teens are less experienced when it comes to driving because they have not been driving as long as adults. Lack of experience combined with alcohol can very often make for a deadly combination. Nassau County Police Commissioner James Lawrence reported that over the course of 48 hours there were six drunk driving arrests involving people under the age of twenty, and thirty one arrests of people under thirty. Even if teens don't get into cars with people who have been drinking, there is still a serious risk of harm to the individual who choses to attend a party where alcohol is present. Gang rape, injury, alcohol poisoning and fights are some of the many risks that are associated with drinking.

There are many other problems with parties taking place at people houses. When at a party, people have no regard for the house or its surrounding property. Senior Tarryn Fisher says that she remembers hearing about televisions and other electronics such as a palm pilot being stolen at a party. A junior student told me about a party where people were having a contest to see who could punch a bigger hole in the wall. This is serious damage that ultimately becomes the burden of the person who was hosting the party. In addition to the damage to the house, parents may be held criminally responsible if there is alcohol consumption on their property by minors. Sergeant Paul Gros said that although parents are rarely prosecuted, serving alcohol to underage individuals is a felony charge. According to nationwide reports, one-third of sixth through ninth graders obtain alcohol from their own homes.

The residents of Port Washington need to begin to address the issue of teen drinking within our community because according to The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, teens

who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to become alcohol dependent than those who begin drinking at age 21. One of the ideas that Mrs. Weiden has proposed is a skate park where teens could go and skate and have fun while staying sober. Sergeant Gros said that he liked this idea; however he said that it would be



Samira Irvani

difficult to find enough space to open an adequate skate park. He suggested that the town offer a free bus for teenagers to get back and forth nearby parks to Main Street. Some other ideas that students proposed include an arcade, a bowling ally, a skating rink and more age-appropriate restaurants. These places could keep teens busy on the weekend and provide a safe supervised environment for them to be in at night.

Of course, it would be sheer ignorance to say that the lack of activity in Port Washington and the similar communities is purely due to boredom. Today's teenagers are placed under so much pressure to do well in school, succeed in extracurriculars, and go to a good college that the stress level is astonishing. When teens go out on the weekends they are looking to relax and forget about all the anxieties of being a high school student. Drinking provides the escape that some people are looking for. Communities are not going to be able to get these kids to stop drinking completely, but some alternative sources of entertainment might give everyone something else to distract themselves from school on the weekends.

The recent car accident in Port Washington involving teenagers driving drunk, has once again brought the issue of teen drinking into the forefront of everyone's mind. Now more than ever, Port Washington needs to address the issue of underage drinking. There are several empty locations where a bowling ally or arcade could easily be constructed. We were very lucky that no one in the car accident was killed; but we may not be so lucky next time. The town of Port Washington needs to act now to ensure that teens have something safe to do on the weekends.

"Suicide Hill" lives up to dangerous reputation

BY Megan Doyle

Staff Writer

A favorite hill for many Port Washington sleigh riders is "Suicide Hill," which has become the prime site for sledding over the past couple of decades.

Located at the Plandome Country Club, "suicide" is the private golf course's 5th hole. Sloping down at a relatively steep angle, Suicide Hill has never posed many problems in the past because the riders who braved the hill were very experienced riders. However, in recent years, the lack of expertise of the riders combined with the dangers of modern sleds has allowed the hill to live up to its dangerous name and has injured many riders.

One of the most popular sleds today, known as the AvaLuge sled, can go up to 60 mph. Its body is framed in stainless steel, reducing friction and increasing speed tremendously. While it is recommended for ages 13 and up, the AvaLuge Sled is sold without a warning sign or safety suggestions.

"Sleds today are so modernly designed!" said Fredi Bernstein. "They end up gaining such tremendous speed and are hard to control at times. It's not hard to believe that this is a reason why there have been so many accidents occurring this season."

Just a few weeks ago, sophomore George Racanelli was sledding with some friends at the country club, and he was using the AvaLuge sled. He had spun out of control, fell into a ditch, and struck his head on rocks at the bottom of the hill while traveling at high speed. Racanelli found himself at the emergency room of North Shore Hospital, the local head trauma center, where he received 12 stitches and underwent an open head injury.

"It happened so quickly," said Racanelli. "The pain didn't come until much after the wipe-out. I didn't even realize anything had happened until I saw blood next to me on the rocks at the bottom of the hill. I knew that Suicide Hill was dangerous but I never thought that anything would happen to me."



Rob Bellon

Every snowfall children from all over Port Washington and Mahanassett go to Plandome Country Club to sled down the many different hills. The steep hill slopes down into a ravine filled with rocks and broken concrete slabs.

Because of the legally sensitive nature of this incident, the owner of the Plandome Country Club would not comment on this. And while the property is private, country clubs in general have had a tendency to turn their backs to the issue, only halfheartedly enforcing the policy.

Yet with the recent spike of sledding accidents that this winter season has seen, it seems odd that the club has not taken the incidents more seriously, especially with such a popular spot as Suicide Hill.

"I don't feel that it's necessary to wear a helmet while riding at Suicide

Hill," said junior Tyler Fernandez. Fernandez owns some of the latest versions of sleds but has managed to avoid a serious accident. "So many kids just do stupid things and they get hurt because of it. I think that if people used common sense and stopped sledding in obviously dangerous areas, there would be fewer accidents."

In an informal poll of Schreiber students, 54 out of the 56 surveyed said that they do not take precautionary actions before sleigh riding and 39 of those said that they tend to ride on the most dangerous and challenging hills.

Around 3,500 sledders a year are treated for head injuries in the United States, with one-third of those resulting in some type of brain injury, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

With the overwhelming number of accidents this season has seen, it seems that safety procedures have been long abandoned. Staying off of public streets, facing forward while sledding, and avoiding areas with trees, posts, fences, or rocks are all recommended for a safe, enjoyable ride.

"I think that people should take those measures, but I doubt that anyone will put on a helmet or avoid dangerous hills," said freshman David Yedid. "I've had a lot of friends get hurt on Suicide Hill. In fact, my younger brother hurt his arm earlier this year. But my family hasn't done anything in particular to avoid this from happening again."

While there may be no exact way to prevent sleigh riding accidents, by taking cautionary actions they can be easily avoided. Because the newest versions of sleds are becoming more and more dangerous, it is important to get as much experience as possible before using them on steep slopes, such as

Suicide Hill.

While this winter was deceptive with its lack of snow, seasonal sledding accidents reached an all time high, according to the *Ithaca Journal* online.

Considering this lack of snow and less than ideal sledding conditions, one might expect to see a dramatic decline in the number of accidents this year. As a result of our mild winters, students have experienced less time on the hills,

"I think that if people used common sense and stopped sledding in obviously dangerous areas, there would be fewer accidents."

decreasing their opportunity to take it slow and develop skills throughout the season.

Therefore, children who would have normally been using sleds four or five times a week are now only riding once or twice in the entire winter season, at the mercy of a sled which is traveling much faster than it has ever before. While there have been many technological advances made in both the materials and styles, little has been done to improve the safety of modern sleds. Many fear that because there is such a lacking in the experience that one would need to control such modern sleds, there will only be an increasing number of sledding accidents in the future.



Stephen Nash

When snow covers "Suicide Hill" these rocks appear to be an innocent contour in the hill. However, they are responsible for a wide variety of injuries for the many kids who sled over them. This winter, one Schreiber student suffered a head injury from these rocks.

Genies bottled in Facebook drinking bust

BY David Becker and Amanda Schiff

Assistant News Editor and News Editor

The suspension of this year's Blue and White Night participants has been talked about among students, but rumors and allegations are as varied as they are inaccurate. Talk ranges from false Facebook accounts created by administrators to plots of parental espionage. These events have precipitated a fundamental question. How does a time-honored event fare in an age where its flaws can be instantly revealed to the administration that sponsors it?

That was the question Principal Mr. Jay Lewis asked himself before he conducted an internal investigation prompted by a call from a participant's parent the Monday after the sixty-first annual Blue and White Night. The call was in regard to photographs posted on Facebook.com by a sophomore of the "Genie" team that showed upwards of six members of the twelve female students on the dance team pouring a beverage into and drinking from red cups.

"Any event that promotes positive school spirit, I'm for," said Mr. Lewis, referring to Blue and White Night's original goal of providing an outlet for female students to play sports. "But this event has been obsolete for its original purpose, and cannot be identified with alcohol involvement."

While Mr. Lewis does admit to working with his assistant principals to find and investigate the photographs, he denies that he or any of the assistant principals made Facebook accounts and "friended" students. Some claim that "Samantha Miller," a junior who wrote that she went to Herricks High School but was listed as attending Schreiber, was a pseudonym for Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller. Both Mr. Miller and Mr. Lewis deny this.

"I did not have a Facebook," said Mr. Miller. "Neither I nor any faculty member went out in search of pictures on Facebook."

Additionally, Mr. Lewis did not file a subpoena (which could have given him access to both public and private Facebook profiles) or involve the police in any way to gain access to various students' profiles. This technique has been applied by colleges and human resources departments with the Facebook profiles of their constituents. Rather, it was the parents of Schreiber students who helped Mr. Lewis get onto the privatized website.

"I will not troll the profiles of the students of Schreiber High School," said Mr. Lewis, who insists that his investigation was only one week long, and that he has not gone team by team to investigate all possible student involvement. "The school is not in the business of snooping around on websites like Facebook and MySpace. However, when we receive a call that the school is implicated in a student's photo album, we have to react."

By law, the school was forced to take action in order to resist negligence charges. However, one senior member of a dance team said, "I had so many of my

civil rights violated, I can't comment" on the process the administration took with the investigation.

What many students do not know is that the school is responsible for all major and minor damages and legal infractions that occur during an activity with a school-related pretext. These activities can occur off campus as well, so long as they have a definite link to a school activity. Under the idea of a nexus, a link that shows causation, the school could have been to blame if the police had arrested the girls or even if Mr. Lewis did not respond to the call.

Social worker Ms. Michele Weiden discussed the legal nexus and the consequences of the night with each member of the Genie team toward the close of the investigation. One sophomore on the team said she knew drinking would occur at the party, and so did her mother.

The sleepovers in which dance groups meet have

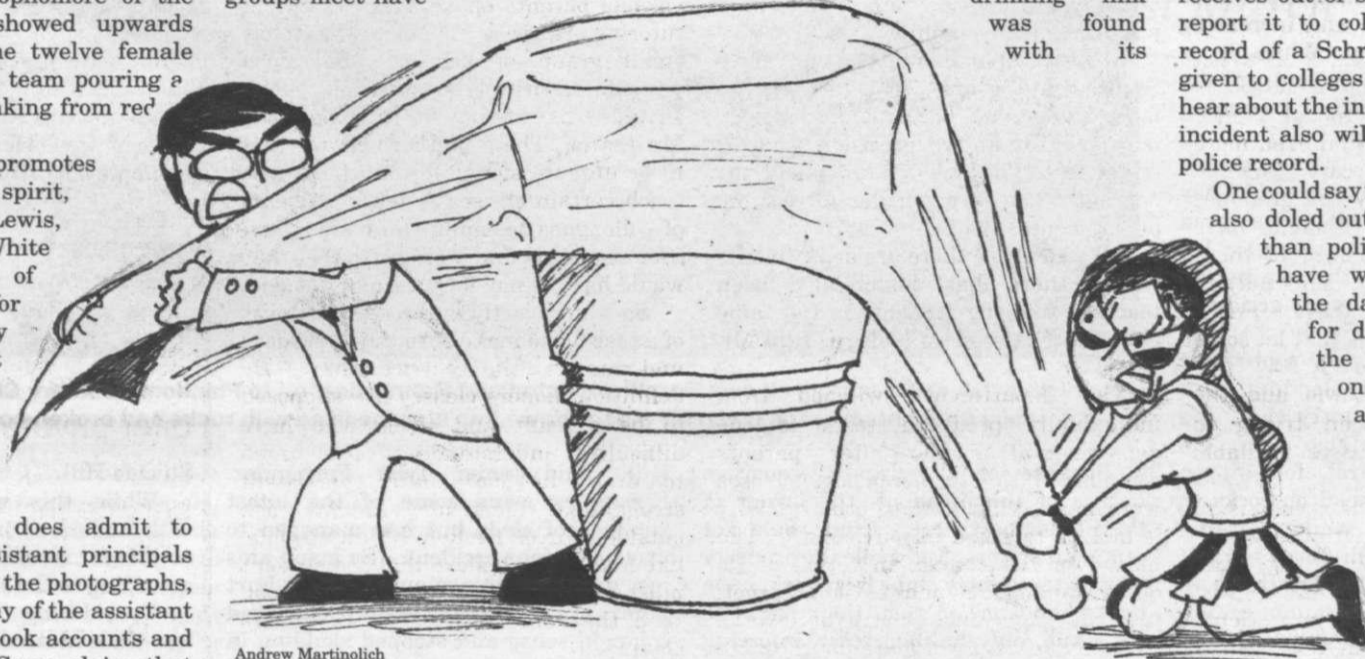
to do is false," said Ms. Weiden. "This is just ridiculous because students are drinking on the pretext of activities."

Ms. Weiden cited other school-linked commitments she has heard have drinking cultures, such as athletic teams, Battle of the Bands and the Drama Club.

But the damage of this incident is not going to influence all extracurricular activities, but rather two in particular. One of the members of the Genie team is also part of Weiden's group, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). Of the 147 students that have signed pledges not to drink, a requisite for joining, 28 of those students participated in Blue and White Night.

In addition to SADD, the Portettes, one of Schreiber's two cheerleading teams, is entirely comprised of Blue and White Night participants, according to supervisor Ms. Robin Cooper. The 26 woman team would disintegrate if a

drinking link was found with its



Andrew Martinolich

been commonly recognized as drinking parties to spectators and participants alike.

"The first time I went to a sleepover, I actually thought we were going to dance," said one junior participant from a different team.

A sophomore on the Genie team said that although she was an occasional drinker, she claims she got "caught up in the Blue and White Night culture."

"I have had suspicions of illegal activity at Blue and White Night's related gatherings," said Mr. Lewis. "However, [they] have never come to the forefront like this. I think it's reprehensible that a parent would knowingly host a sleepover of this nature."

"It's not a surprise to anyone that everyone in Port Washington drinks," says senior Emily Mottahedeh, a participant in the white team's skit performance, a team that was also questioned about their drinking. The white team was implicated not through photographs but rather testimony that two members were intoxicated on school premises.

"Everyone, regardless of what activity their drinking is attached to, is going to find an excuse to drink and I don't think it's fair to pinpoint just one group," said Mottahedeh.

Ms. Weiden agrees.

"One of the things that I've learned from this is that the argument that students drink because there's nothing

constituents, but Ms. Cooper claims that the group is small enough to be well supervised. In contrast, Blue and White Night has upwards of 150 participants.

"Blue and White Night is one night of the year, so you party it up more," said a junior Portette. "When something's all year long, there's no one powerful weekend."

But all this speculation received a headshake from Mr. Lewis, who claims that catching students drinking is not his goal. While Mr. Lewis gave most of the team some mixture of in-school suspension and out-of-school suspension, he would not have been able to give punishments if the first member of the team he spoke to had not confirmed that alcohol was present at the party.

"The red cup symbolizes alcohol, but if the first student I spoke to had said there wasn't any, I wouldn't have had anything to go on," said Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis claims that he is more concerned, at the moment, with students posting such photos on Facebook than he is with cracking the larger issue of teen drinking.

"The stupidity of putting these pictures on the Internet is mind boggling," said Mr. Lewis, who said that he was shocked the photos were not taken down more promptly by the student who posted them. "You just see albums titled 'Thirsty Thursday' that dwell there casually as any photo album."

Mr. Lewis has noted that a few of the girls of the Genie team he spoke to were mortified to hear that their pictures were on the Internet.

"Some were furious that the cameras came out at all," said Mr. Lewis.

However, one of the photographs showed nearly all the members of the Genie team posing together, holding red cups. It is unlikely that, drinking or not, they were unaware of the presence of a camera.

At least two of the girls had received their suspension by the close of the post-Blue and White Night school week, and the first whispers of an investigation convinced many other Blue and White Nighters to remove such pictures, with at least four girls from different dance teams closing whole albums instead of just going picture by picture.

Suspension is the lightest of a string of punishments students could face for the event. While any student who receives out of school suspension must report it to colleges, the permanent record of a Schreiber student is never given to colleges and so they will never hear about the in-school suspension. The incident also will not go in a student's police record.

One could say that the suspension was also doled out with more hesitation than police involvement would have warranted. Not all of the dancers were punished for drinking, whereas with the police, all students on the premises and any witnesses to the underage drinking would have been legally implicated. Instead, if a team could verify that one of its constituents did not drink, that student was not implicated, despite her presence.

It is not clear, however, if students punished for drinking in this investigation will be forbidden to participate in Blue and White Night next year. To be part of a Blue and White Night team, a student must sign a contract that they will not drink. While failure to comply with this contract means removal from the Blue and White Night event of that year, there is no distinction that the punishment will roll over for next year's event if such drinking occurs after the event.

What students can be certain of is that, if found to be a viable event at all, next year's Blue and White Night will be regulated and possibly even micromanaged by the administration. Mr. Lewis says that content might be "checked" before the performance next year, but claims that he is still glad that this year's performance was televised by Cablevision, accessible to all of Long Island.

This brings us back to the original question. How do administrators criticize a school-related event older than themselves? Within a week of Blue and White Night, Mr. Lewis replied with suspensions. It only took six days for the deconstruction of an event aged around sixty-one years old. With a nexus that was previously invisible to students, Facebook started a crackdown years in the making. And the website is not even accessible from a school computer.

Teacher-tutors subject to stricter policy

Can students "buy" the grade they want with Schreiber teachers as tutors?

BY Erin Szulman
Features Editor

Typically, higher-level classes are intended for more "intelligent" or hardworking students who feel they can take on the challenge and workload. Colleges favor applicants enrolled in numerous AP and honors courses.

Because of this, participation in higher-level classes has soared. Students often feel the pressure to take these classes, despite their potential struggle with the subject. The material is quite difficult, and students are becoming more eager to enroll, and then looking for tutors shortly after.

It is expected that a certain type of student will be taking an honors or AP class, but now students are eager to get in on the action solely to improve their appearance for college. These students turn to outside tutors in an effort to get credit for taking an advanced class.

Schreiber is fortunate enough to offer students 25 AP classes, and even more honors opportunities. According to the requirements set out by the guidance department, almost all students have the ability to enroll in most of these classes if they so choose. This may in fact be misleading since there are still some unspoken conditions that let some people in and keep others out.

Principal Mr. Jay Lewis and the administration have been trying to broaden the range of classes available to students.

"One of our jobs as a school is to provide an opportunity for students to stretch their reach into trying more difficult coursework," said Mr. Lewis. "We have a responsibility to students and parents to let them know what we think [about classes]," he said in response to concerns about students who do not pass requirements yet want to take particular courses. "We owe it to students to give them options."

Most APs require qualifying tests and recommendations by previous teachers. Everybody knows that parents can easily call the administration and demand their students be in a particular class. Mr. Lewis is aware that everyone knows of this loophole, but he wants these classes to be accessible to those who wish to strive beyond others' expectations of them. "I don't want to be viewed as a gatekeeper," he said.

"The tracking system is unethical, not the tutoring. You're never going to stop the outside tutoring," said English teacher Ms. Jennifer Sacha.

This tutoring phenomenon has plagued our school, and concerns have come and gone with the times. First, as a result of the AP/honors phenomenon there are oversized classes. An honors chemistry class can reach up to 35 students, theoretically giving each student equal individual attention.

It makes it more difficult for students to not only get one-on-one time with a teacher, but it's a tedious process to even raise a hand waiting to ask a question. Students who do struggle have the opportunity to go in for extra help, but teachers can become unavailable when trying to help students who are really struggling in the class, trying to grasp the most recent concept.

Second, tutoring becomes an ethically

touchy subject. "There was a time when teachers were permitted to tutor their own students for pay," said Mr. Lewis. Things have changed since then.

Teachers in the school supplement their salaries with money earned from outside help offered to students in and around Port Washington.

The question then becomes whether or not the school needs to limit the tutoring available. Teachers in the same department are knowledgeable of the material that the students are expected to know, which then benefits students by keeping them from being concerned with superfluous information. At the same time, some teacher-tutors might be aware of the test material, making it easier for a student to get help and then receive a higher grade.

"People are buying their grades, and buying their way into college," said junior Alexis Mychajliw.

Some departments even have departmental exams. This can be even more dangerous because one biology teacher-tutor knows precisely what is on the test. The biology department has been attacked in particular for issuing departmental exams.

"We all know there are departments where there has historically been teachers tutoring students in the same class, such as honors biology," said Mr. Lewis.

The department switched from individually produced tests to the departmental exams after parents complained that some biology classes were more difficult than others. Why is biology targeted in particular? "The nature of the course, in terms of its design and goals, makes it a target. Consequently, you'd expect there to be more of an issue of parents thinking their students ought to be doing better," said Mr. Lewis.

These parents then began calling the guidance department, inundating counselors with requests for "easier" teachers. Once this switch occurred, it became less difficult to hire a tutor who not only intimately knew the school curriculum, but the exact test material.

It is difficult to know how to keep the tutoring situation morally sound, and questions whether the administration should put some sort of regulation into effect.

Despite all of these concerns, Mr. Lewis does not think anything in particular needs to be done for current tutoring practices in the biology area. "I do not believe that there is collusion in honors biology," he said.

As for SATII classes offered by a few teachers in the science department, teachers have been complying with the rules set out by the BOE. "They comply with the policy well. They don't advertise," said Mr. Lewis. "SATII classes have been commonplace. The stakes have gotten greater with college admissions."

The Board of Education recently tried to pass a tutoring memorandum. It would prevent teachers from tutoring for pay in school or during school hours, as well as prohibiting teachers from suggesting specific outside tutors. The Policy Committee, comprised of Board members Dr. Roy Nelson, Ms. Nancy Cowles and Mr. Larry Greenstein, opened this discussion for public debate

at the BOE meeting Jan. 16. At that particular meeting, the board expressed a wide range of concerns pertaining to the wording of the written policy. The final version of the policy was passed on Mar. 6 and is printed below.

Many board members and community members were concerned with the wording of the policy. At the Jan. 16 meeting, student representative and Schreiber junior Maddie Mirzoeff suggested the policy be subdivided to more accurately address specific exceptions. Board member Mark Marcellus suggested that teachers who tutor Schreiber students be required to create a private list of those students to foster a more open environment and notify the administration of what is going on outside of school.

The board moved to discussion after various parents spoke against present tutoring practices. "There is a relatively small group of parents who reject [outside tutoring] on principle. You shouldn't have to pay for tutoring," said Mr. Lewis. The group also claims that it is unprofessional for teachers who teach certain classes to teach students of colleagues teaching the same class. "Some parents find it offensive that they would have to pay for tutoring," he said.

So what exactly is the responsibility of a teacher to make sure that a student understands the curriculum? By definition, honors classes are supposed to be difficult and those who have difficulty understanding are urged to drop the class after persistent struggling. Instead, students ask outside sources for help. Many people, like Mychajliw, believe that if a student must resort to help outside of school, then they shouldn't be in an honors class.

"People should rely more on their natural abilities and less on their parents' money," she said.

The school specifically uses block scheduling to maximize teacher help for students. "Everybody's access to that [free] help is significantly larger here," said Mychajliw. Compared to surrounding school districts, Schreiber provides more help out of class. Mr. Lewis explains that parents don't get to compare the help offered at Schreiber to the help offered elsewhere, which makes it difficult to understand how much Schreiber actually provides.

Community members have criticized the system, claiming teachers don't effectively use this unstructured time. Resource rooms exist to provide a forum for student help and teachers are required to schedule time before or after school for extra help. Theoretically, the same student could go to a teacher everyday during their scheduled extra help and the teacher is required to help them.

Peer tutoring is also available, and provides an alternative to hiring tutor-teachers. Peer tutors are available during school hours, free of charge, often provided by in-school clubs like Science Honor Society. The school provides all of these opportunities to help students, and assuming students take advantage of them, they should be ok.

"Students should just go to extra help. Isn't it the same thing without paying for it?" said Mychajliw.

In an honors class, when a student

hires a tutor they are acknowledging that they are unable to comprehend the material on their own. Teachers often suggest students drop honors classes if they must turn to tutors, but of course cannot force them. The Board's policy prevents that teacher from suggesting that any student see an outside tutor for pay, which can exploit the help the students need to financially aid a colleague.

Students in regents-level classes do not face as much criticism because they can't simply drop to a lower class.

Honors classes then become a socioeconomic concern. Excluding the qualified students of any financial background, students who are able to hire tutors take the honors classes. A student of the same ability with financial limitations goes into the regents-level class instead.

"There is no real way to go about dealing with that," said Mr. Lewis. He believes it will drive the whole tutoring system underground. "To battle that problem, we have to make sure there are ample opportunities for help."

Private Tutoring

Port Washington School District

1. No staff member may offer private tutoring (i.e., provide an educational service for a fee) to a child in his/her own class.
2. Private tutoring for a fee cannot take place on school grounds before, during, or after school hours.
3. The School District does not permit professional staff to use school time, District funds, District facilities or District channels of communication to recommend private tutoring for a fee for students.
4. Upon request of a parent or guardian, a staff member may provide private tutoring to a student who is not a student in his/her own class, except that staff members may not provide tutoring using or referencing questions that are or will be on a department examination.

THE YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT'S FESTIVAL

The Schreiber Drama Club presents...

By David Becker

Assistant News Editor

It is not without symbolism that the Young Playwright's Festival was moved from the choir room into the spacious auditorium. The festival, which featured a more diverse cast of experienced and first-time actors, provided for a more accessible and better-attended evening than years past.

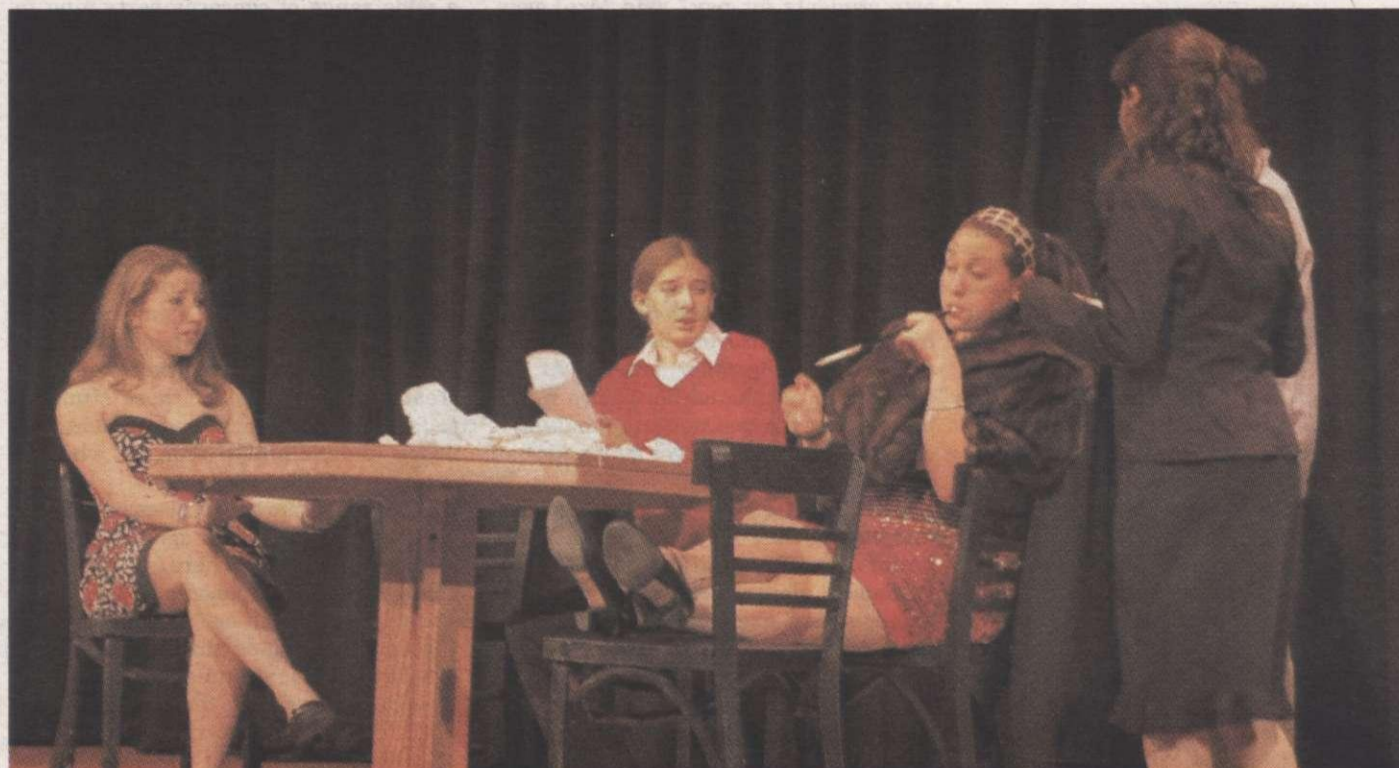
That being the case, the titans of the Drama Club were in the audience at the festival. The fixtures, seniors Elena Box and Fredi Bernstein and juniors Kerry Dachowitz and Tim Sherman, were not the ones who chewed up the scenery as they did last year. Rather, the foursome wrote and directed the plays of the evening.

The new guard of actors came from all corners of the cafeteria. Fresh faces included senior Morgan Mauro, juniors Richard Blue and Sidney Ginsberg, sophomores Christine Bowles and Alex Hohauser, and freshman David Yedid.

The first play of the line up was "Hors d'oeuvres," Bowles's second time on stage. She has previously appeared in last month's *Idiot's Delight*. "Hors d'oeuvres," written by Box, came to the stage in a part tailored for her by director Bernstein. The play focused on the very religious Monty, played by sophomore Skyler Volpe, who falls in and out of love with an ex-beau, played by junior Nick Pray. Monty, in an act of generosity of spirit, invites her ex and his dimwitted arm candy, Tiger Lily (Bowles), to a small party she's throwing with friend Madge, junior Ilana Broad.

"Oh my god, I love club soda!" recited a giddy Tiger Lily, after being offered a glass by Madge. "Did you know it's a wonderful antioxidant? I never really understood antioxidants, because you'd think as humans we'd need oxygen and all that jazz. But apparently not!" After taking a breath, Bowles added, "Green tea is also a great antioxidant, I guess because it's green like algae. I don't really know though." To this, Monty shook her head and simply posed the question, "Who names their daughter Tiger Lily?"

"Cookies," the second play of the night, showcased the rising talent of



Will (Granger Titcomb, in red shirt) reads the surprisingly alive Mona's (Jesse Zeidman) will to her children (l-r. Sidny Ginsberg, Josh Freedline, and Phoebe Sherman)

Blue. Blue has never performed in a Drama Club-sponsored event before. Written by first-time writers senior Samira Irvani and junior Caroline Pickering the play took place in the imagination of a young boy, played by one of the ten junior actors featured, as he pondered "Who stole the cookies from a cookie jar?" In his mind, he imagined the femme fatale and master confectioner Ms. Lovebutts, played Caitlin Foye, approaching a detective, Blue, as she wanted to know who stole her prize-winning cookies. The nutty noir plotline featured the diabetic Mr. Lovebutts, freshman Nick Gardella, and naughty maid Rosa, sophomore Eleah Burman.

The witty play, directed by Box, utilized the child's poem "Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar?" four times. The entire cast looked to the audience and chanted together "Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar? Was it she?" "Who, me?" "Yes, you!" "Couldn't be!" "Then who?" The recurring line served as the herald to the disqualification of

a suspect.

The next play was Dachowitz's, the bizarre comedy "Family Feud," directed by Tim Sherman. It was in "Family Feud" that Ginsberg cut her teeth in acting. The piece involved an eccentric mother, played by junior Jesse Zeidman, who has three children, played by Ginsberg, sophomore Josh Freedline and freshman Phoebe Sherman, from different men. In her death, her children are convening to discuss her will and last testament with an insurance lawyer, played by junior Granger Titcomb.

During the proceedings, the eccentric mother, Mona, walks onto the stage to see her children fawning over her. Revealing to her children that she is, indeed, alive, her children have mixed reactions. The insurance agent informs the children that there is only one spot reserved for one of the children in the local cemetery. At this point, Ginsberg took the cinders from the urn the children thought contained mommy's last remains, swallows them and dies.

Following the spectacle was Bernstein's creation "Janey," directed by senior Allison Schenkler. In Stefan Muller's performance as Vladimir, he reads instant messages to and from his cyber friends while sitting in Dunkin' Donuts. The audience learns of Vladimir's habit of accidentally scaring off friends with his extensive vocabulary. As he types, young runaway Janey, played by freshman Cory Morano, walks in. She attempts to pay for a donut in pennies, and the kindly Vladimir interjects and buys her one. "Can I have the chocolate encrusted one with vibrant specks?" he asks to the bored server, played by Yedid. "And the one with crimson preserves?"

Janey then enlightens Vladimir with her theory on how lost children are found at Dunkin' Donuts all the time by Peter Pan. As Morano threw herself over chairs, even swinging back and forth upside down on the seat of one,

she could not help but suppress a giggle at the blissfully juvenile character she slipped into. When Janey's mother, a small, second role for Ginsberg, walks in and sees Vladimir comforting the young Janey, she immediately reprimands him. And when he informs her that he bought Janey a donut, Ginsberg closed the show by screaming to the heavens.

"It's scientifically impossible for a spacecraft to run on the power of pure bitchingness," recited Mauro into a phone, playing a bored secretary at the NASA offices. Directed by Dachowitz, Sherman's "Fiery Balls of Ice," Mauro and Hohauser, playing a nerdy middle-aged astronomer, attempt to steal scenes from sophomore Steven Alpert, as the caller prompts Mauro to explain basic science.

Apart from dissuading innovators to visit the NASA offices, Mauro's secretary is also responsible for settling a dispute between Hohauser's character and sophomore Robert Ferris' character, a bitter elderly astronomer, over who should receive credit for discovering a comet that they both found at the same time. This is the ninth time they would end up sharing credit, except as they try to trace back the discovery to make sure that they were both calculating accurately, they learn the comet is on course for the Earth. "Why don't you take credit for the discovery?" poses Hohauser, not wanting to be the "astronomer who told everybody it was the end of the world." The show ended with a literal bang.

Was this year's Young Playwright's Festival at the level it was when the senior council fit their friends into their plays last year? It seems so. Apart from the unstoppable creativity, the satisfied grins and hysterical laughter of returning alums Sarah Pickering and Alina Fomovska let us know that talent abounds as it ever did. The festival seems to be the indicator that the Drama Club can successfully regenerate brilliance year after year.



David Yedid lightened the mood as the Dunkin' Donuts Employee in Fredi Bernstein's grim play "Janey."

Port Light

I AM A WOMAN

by Christina Vlahos
Staff Writer

"Reason #109 of Why Women Rock: They can be fierce and tough and still wear dangly earrings." "I Am a Woman" was originally written by Viveca Lindfors and Paul Austin in the early 1970s. It demonstrated the true nature of women and their hardships, struggles and triumphs in a world dominated by men. Therefore, when junior Kate Hughes decided that she "finally felt connected to something..." and that she "wanted to help other girls because teenage high school life can be so difficult," it seemed like the ideal production for her purposes, especially after speaking to her drama director and her dance teacher, Ms. Floryn Glass. It allowed for the expression of feminism through all sorts of artistic mediums; however, because the original play was dated, Ms. Glass, Hughes and Dr. Helen Sachs of the English Department decided to "revise it and make it more relevant to Schreiber."

"Reason #507 of Why Women Rock: A true girl friend knows exactly what you mean even when you don't [say it] articulately." This production wasn't like a play with a direct storyline, but rather a collaboration of acts, dances and monologues from women through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. These portions included the acting out of diary entries or letters from inspirational women such as Anne Frank (played by freshman Heather Foye) and Eleanor Roosevelt (played by sophomore Micah Siegel). Girls acted out conversations on the phone, discussing how their men treated them and how they felt about it (junior Lauren Bourguet and senior Samira Irvani). Their back and forth conversation was about independence from men and how "I am brave...strong...independent...unbought."

Sophomore Shannon Ferguson was upset by the fact that the women's line at the restroom was always so long, and Morgan Block stated that she was getting "b*****er and b*****er everyday" because she was suppressed by society for being a woman. Senior Lesley Brown was very impressive and entertaining with her portrayal of women who were substance abusers and had troublesome lives, including Brenda from *Lovers and Other Strangers*, and Alexandra, a middle-aged actress whose career is over because she no longer has the looks of her youth. There were touching segments about motherhood and the appreciation of the woman

to whom one's very existence is indebted. Then, there were also segments during which one of the girls taught the others about the orgasmic cycle of women, through diagrams and imitations, as well as sessions during which guidance was offered concerning the difference between hooking up and dating and the consequences of each. Although slightly awkward for some, these acts were the most entertaining portions for the audience, considering their reactions.

Other acts included singing about the love of men and how it makes women feel, as demonstrated in Foye, freshman Molly Fried and Ferguson's performances. Senior Fredi Bernstein and junior Leann Li performed a conversation about their experiences working with their peers and being comfortable with themselves. This was certainly an experience to which most girls could relate.

Hughes not only did an amazing job organizing the production, but her performance was very enjoyable as well. She surprised the audience with "Reason #1004 of Why Women Rock: They can change their clothing in public without ever getting naked." The dance numbers of the play were just enough not to overwhelm the rest of the performances, and the choice of songs was very appropriate for each aspect of womanhood that the cast was trying to represent.

"I Am a Woman" encompassed all the aspects of womanhood in a way that was both artistic and engaging. "Womanhood to me means confidence, determination, and passion" said Fried.

"[It] is the power to give life and mold it into something beautiful," stated Samira Irvani.

This production explored the emotional, physical, mental and social aspects of womanhood, allowing for the full appreciation and understanding of women.

"I have to say that these performances were empowering," said junior Mara Hollander. "Women today certainly have more freedoms and rights

than earlier in the century and there are plenty of independent women who have been incredibly successful in our society. This production once again really made me realize how fortunate we are to be growing up now with our privileges and the power to exercise our right to make decisions for ourselves. Women rock and we show it!"

By exploring the role of women in society since the women's revolution, this performance embraced women and everything about them, including their strength, beauty, and intelligence.

"There were people that saw it, and so many people came up to me that I didn't even know and congratulated me on this performance and there were people in the show that aren't in Schreiber drama and they all came out to do the show and I know

they would never do another drama, so it was amazing," Kate Hughes said enthusiastically after the show. "The performance will be followed up with a week of women appreciation, during which there will be speakers discussing feminism and activities occurring during lunch and at other times throughout the school day."



The ensemble posing at the end of the "Rosie the Riveter" number. They were excellent in their depiction of the hardworking women of World War II.

Daryl Koopersmith



Sophomore Morgan Block and Junior Larissa Miller delivered a poignant speech about the trials of womanhood.

Daryl Koopersmith



Juniors Kate Hughes, Raychel Shubert, Willa Jones, and Katie McCulloh posed during one of the many dances in "I Am A Woman."

Daryl Koopersmith



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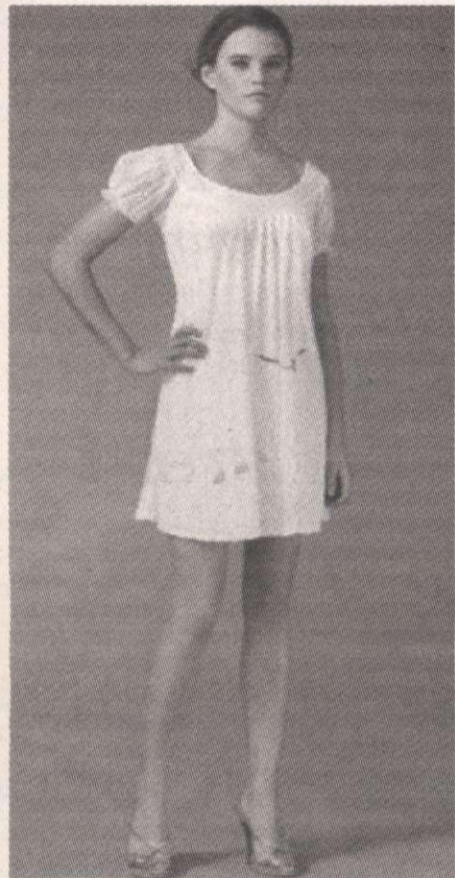
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Fashion File Spring into this season's new trends

BY Amanda Schiff

News Editor

If the groundhog doesn't see his shadow and we get two 60 degree days in a row in March, we immediately think "spring." However, Grandmother Winter thought she'd go out with a bang and dumped a whopping six inches of snow on our Long Island roofs. In the meantime, the fashion world overlooks



A Little White Dress is a basic way to brighten your wardrobe and add some simple style to spring.

such trivialities as daily weather.

In fact, the fashion world has been raring and ready to go since the fall. This spring, the designers thought they'd bring back some old Hollywood glam. The quintessential color of spring is yellow; and it isn't only showing up in newly-sprouted daffodils. The major difference between winter clothing and spring clothing is spring clothing's brightness of color.

In fact, the entire spring line promotes a carefree attitude, crisp, bright colors, and new proportions.

Here are some fashion trends for the spring sure to melt the snow away in a flash.

Yellow, not Mellow

One of the most noticeable spring trends is yellow. Dresses, shoes, belts, coats and many other articles of clothing and accessories have been displayed in every shade of yellow known to man. Everything from butter cream to neon yellow has been popular both on the runway and off. Reese Witherspoon donned a yellow dress at the Golden Globes, and ever since, all of the style magazines have noted yellow for its versatility and brilliance. Opt for a Yellow tote bag at Charlotte Russe for only \$14.99, or try a yellow pump from Rainbow in NYC for \$19.99. Whether you chose to add a burst of Yellow in the form of accessories or apparel, it is sure to add a shocking pop to an otherwise monochromatic outfit. Yellow adds radiance to any outfit that can be obtained by no other color of the rainbow.

The Little White Dress

Sure, we've all heard of the famous "Little Black Dress," AKA LBD, and

most of us probably have worn one at some point in our lives. This spring, you can kiss the LBD goodbye and say hello to the latest trend in formal wear: the Little White Dress. Celebrities and models have been showcasing this trend recently and the general public seems to have caught on. Charlotte Russe carries an inexpensive LWD at stores and online for only \$28. This spring, the designers are trying to remind us that a little change is good for the mind (and for fashion). Runway designers and larger-scale designers alike are producing LWDs in many different styles and shades. So if stark white is not for you, go with a softer cream or eggshell to accomplish the same feminine look à la Marilyn Monroe.

Mad for Minidresses

Minidresses come and go in terms of trends, but they have survived for decades as one of the most feminine and figure-flattering forms of women's apparel. From Hollywood to high fashion in New York City, minidresses have become a popular outfit for many. Although minidresses come in all shapes and colors, this year, the emphasis is on the trapeze shape. Forget the bubble skirt of last fall and swing onto the latest proportion in the fashion world. The trapeze dress is fashion's new favorite silhouette that works on virtually every body type and can very effectively hide some of the worst problem areas! The trapeze dress is a loose piece of fabric that hangs from the shoulder and swings freely around the body. It can be purchased at www.alloy.com for around \$35. Pair the season's easiest look with a pair of high wedges to make your legs look endless.



www.saks.com

This patent leather bag is versatile and goes with any style dress.

Perfectly Patent

Spring 2007 is patent leather. The brilliant shine of the fabric adds some extra chutzpah to an otherwise dull spring outfit. Patent accessories are simple to wear and come in a variety of colors. Belts, shoes, and handbags can be found in every price-range from über expensive designers such as Louis Vuitton, to cheaper department store prices. A crisp, white, patent leather belt can be purchased at Forever 21 for only \$4.80. Belts draw attention to the smallest part of your body, creating the illusion of the perfect, hourglass figure. This is one of the simplest trends of the season because it doesn't limit you to a certain style and better yet, it is easily accessible.

Feel free to mix and match with this season's hottest trends. They are all classic styles that cannot go wrong.

School course guides learn a new language

Spanish translation of course guide makes it more accessible for all

BY Andrew Seo

Staff Writer

The second semester of school marks a time of relief for seniors, hardships for juniors, challenges for sophomores, and newfound comfort for freshmen. It is also the time when schedules are made for the upcoming school year. Students flock to their respective guidance counselors, seeking direction for course lists based on available classes. Students carry around the ubiquitous program planning guide, relying on its contents, scouring it inside and out. Recently, the administration translated the program planning guide into Spanish, marking the beginning of the school's initiative to increase equitable access to course programming to all students.

The most widely spoken language other than English is Spanish. Due to this, it is no surprise that school officials have been pushing for the translation of various administrative materials for many years. An important figure in this process has been assistant principal Mr.

David Miller who has been instrumental in the push for the translation.

Mr. Miller is determined to finally translate the book this year. He had been quite surprised that information of such value and long-term importance hadn't been made available to such a large portion of the Schreiber population, given the current demographic of students.

Mr. Miller, along with Principal Mr. Jay Lewis, is part of the compact committee, which is composed of teachers, students, administrators and parents and acts as an advisory group formed by state law in which members deal with issues that pertain to the school. This group knew that a translation was necessary for the students of Schreiber and made a conscious effort to try and get the process completed last year. Despite the motivation, the budget prevented this from happening.

The current school year marked a new opportunity for the committee to achieve this goal of bridging the

“The administration translated the program planning guide into Spanish, marking the beginning of the school's initiative to bridge the gap between the many different members of the school.”

language gap formerly inhibited by monetary issues. With the appropriate funds and ambition of junior Sidney Ginsberg, the translation of the guide was finally made possible. It was initially Ginsberg's idea to translate the course guide, and her pursuit of the issue is one of the reasons the course guide was ultimately translated. Mr. Miller contacted the district translator and before long the Schreiber program

planning guide was available in two languages, English and Spanish.

"It was a matter of dollars and cents," said Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller believes that the translated guide will give a chance for parents to have a more comprehensive understanding of the school. He said that the guide not only offers course descriptions, but also graduation requirements, policies regarding course selection and other invaluable pieces of information. The guide can be used to inform the parents of all the important aspects of Schreiber.

The translation of the program planning guide marks the beginning of reform in the school. Another current project includes the moving of some ESL classrooms to integrate ESL students into the fabric of the school. Future hopes include a Korean translation, the most widely spoken foreign language after Spanish. This change reflects Schreiber's pride in diversity, the need for equality and the broadening of opportunities.

arts & entertainment

300 is one hundred percent testosterone

Dazzling battle scenes and effects helped to give 300 the biggest March opening ever

BY Nick Pray
Staff Writer

We were told to "prepare for glory" as 300 Spartans went to war against an army of Persians, numbering in the millions, in a clash of titans loosely based on the Battle of Thermopylae. Adapted from the graphic novel by Frank Miller, audiences of *300* didn't just get vicarious glory—they had the chance to see an example of astonishing cinema that everyone could enjoy. For those who have yet to see this movie, prepare your eyes for popping. They might just fly out of their sockets from such turbocharged and glorious visuals.

Those who saw Robert Rodriguez's 2005 rendition of Miller's *Sin City* will have some idea of what to expect. Actors perform against green and blue screens on which backgrounds are drawn to represent the panels Miller created for Dark Horse Comics in 1998.

There are times when the process, however stunning, can suck the air out of a scene and make the viewer feel boxed in. But director Zack Snyder, who did a bang-up job on the remake of *Dawn of the Dead*, keeps the action roaring. Spears, swords and other handy phallic symbols pierce skin

with startling regularity, causing great gushes of animated blood that make it really sticky for guys to fight in sandals.

Decked out like gladiators, the soldiers from the Greek city-state Sparta look gym-ready for battle in crotch-squeezing Speedos that expose as much flesh as an R-rating will allow. Manliest of all is *The Phantom of the Opera*'s Gerard Butler as Leonidas, the king with no patience for the cowards on the Greek council. Dominic West (*The Forgotten*) plays Theron, a sleazy politician eager to stop Leonidas from inciting war against the Persians. Theron degrades the theory that the Persians intend to dominate the world and unleash their weapons of mass destruction, including mutant rhinos, elephants and a masked army called the Immortals. That leaves Leonidas no choice but to round up 300 of his bravest bodyguards and embark on a doomed mission against the Persians.

As you might guess, *300* dazzles as a spectacle, but historically it's dodgy. Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro, *Love Actually*), is the Persian king who fancies himself a god and keeps insisting that Leonidas get on his knees before him. Leonidas will not bow down, and promises that Xerxes' blood will be drawn before the fight is over. This causes Xerxes to pout and add more jewelry to his body armor, decapitate his generals and send hundreds upon hundreds more to make his un-godlike scare go away. Meanwhile, back home in Sparta, Queen Gorgo (Lena Headey, *The Brothers Grimm*) tries to persuade Theron to rally the council to help her husband by submitting to Theron's sexual desires. As for the rest of the cast, you may recognize David Wenham (*The Lord of the Rings*) who is also the narrator of this exciting tale, Vincent Regan (*Troy*) and Michael Fassbender (*Night Watch*) who can



Sparta's hero and king, Leonidas (Gerard Butler), was probably closer to a god than the Persian tyrant Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro), who only fancied himself one.

be seen flying through the air, cutting off hands, and delivering one of the best lines in the film after a Persian messenger says that their arrows will block out the sun: "Then we will fight in the shade."

Some of the battle scenes were completely over-the-top. Close-up decapitations, flying limbs, and waves of blood are commonplace. The brave 300 faced mythic-looking beasts and unnatural human mutations, and they used their minds and their swords to outwit the enslaved army of Xerxes.

The film drew the audience in completely. At every twist, the theater would laugh uproariously, clap, or even yell in anger. Many of Leonidas' lines were meant to fire up his troops. When the army was facing utter destruction, he said "Spartans! Enjoy your breakfast, for tonight we dine in Hell!" Those inspiring lines mixed with the rippling muscles of the soldiers and the flawless bodies of the female characters made this film the ultimate "guy" flick.

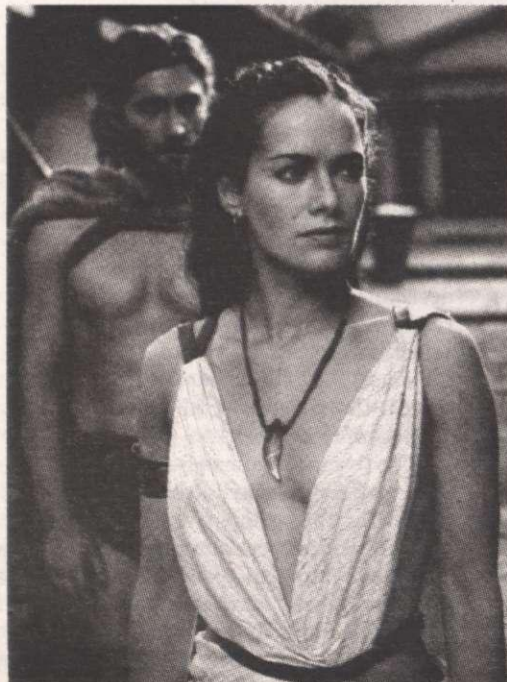
The rest of the movie is all battle, all the time. And it doesn't get old. With flashes of slow motion to normal time we watch as the valiant 300 vigorously make their way through Xerxes' armies, slicing up soldiers' limbs, spewing CGI blood and destroying everything living

about them. Walking out of the film, you'll probably find yourself reciting lines such as, "This is where we fight! This is where they die!", "Immortals, we'll put their names to the test", "This is Sparta!" and of course the courageous

“ For those who have yet to see this movie, prepare your eyes for popping. They might just fly out of their sockets from such turbocharged and glorious visuals. ”

300 battle cry "WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!" It will definitely seem as if the brave 300 made their way into the movie theater.

All in all, fanboys will be thrilled by the carnage displayed in *300*, and most likely forgive the puffed-up dialogue and regrettable lack of characterization. *300* is a movie blood-drunk on its own artful excess, and people of all ages and sexes won't be able to resist it.



Queen Gorgo (Lena Headey) sacrificed her privacy to convince a stubborn assembly to send the Spartan army to the front.

Schreiber and Weber jazz musicians combine

District Jazz Night shows the depth of Port Washington music departments

BY Jordan Lewis

A&E Editor

Although faculty and parents expected The Night of Jazz on Mar. 22 to be dominated by Schreiber acts, in fact, Weber Middle School's Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Choir, and Jazz Band (although playing easier music) stole the spotlight.

The first half of the program began with a performance by the Weber Middle School Jazz Ensemble, directed by Jason Cherry. The most inexperienced act of the night, the band began with an arranged version of "Killer Joe" by Benny Golson. Quickly, the band illustrated its inexperience after the horn section missed a number of notes in rapid succession. However, the band then began to settle in for its second and final number, the "James Bond Theme." After the famous theme and a few missed notes, the tune broke for solos.

In the most interesting and longest solo of the evening, seventh grade student Sara Marinelli wowed the crowd with an enthralling drum solo. Beginning with a brief recapitulation of the theme, Marinelli broke tempo and built a new theme. After what seemed to be five minutes, Marinelli finished with an impressive drum fill and the band broke back into the original theme. Although rusty, the first act of the night was an extremely entertaining introduction that even included glimpses of young brilliance.

After the Jazz Ensemble, the concert continued with a three-song set by the Weber Chamber Choir led by Amanda Carew. Accompanied by eighth grade student York Katajima on the piano, the group's sound was negatively affected by the lack of male voices and at times seemed unbalanced. Moving from a lackluster version of Duke Ellington's, "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," the choir performed two "classic" vocal pieces: "Over the Rainbow" and "Seasons of Love." Overall, the Choir's performance was cute, but not memorable.

The Weber Middle School Jazz Band had the most memorable performance of the night. Conducted by Paul Moyer, the



Senior David Rosenblatt sings a version of the jazz classic "Blue Skies" accompanied by junior Aaron Silberstein on drums and senior Brian Courage on bass.

Jazz Band's full sound was illustrated on all three of their charts and was completed with impressive solos. Playing un-arranged versions of jazz standards such as "Freddie Freeloader" by Miles Davis, and "Watermelon Man" by Herbie Hancock, the band quickly earned respect and moved listeners.

After the impressive middle school portion of the performance, high school performers took the stage with high expectations. However, as illustrated by the first more challenging and precisely coordinated solo vocal performance by junior Katherine Hughes singing Duke

Ellington's "I'm Beginning to See the Light" it was clear that the high energy level created by Weber's acts could not be matched. Although the skill level of the high school performers was superior, the audience seemed to be uninterested.

The Schreiber Vocal Jazz Ensemble, directed by Philip Glover, next took the stage to perform two pieces. The first, "On Green Dolphin Street" by Bronislau Kaper featured a scatting vocal solo by junior Mara Hollander. Trained in jazz theory, Hollander's solo shined through as a tasteful accompaniment to the smooth jazz melody. The next piece, jazz standard, "Route 66" by Bobby Troup failed to draw a high energy response from the audience, although it was very skillfully performed. In comparison to the unbalanced sound of Weber's Chamber Choir, the Vocal Jazz Ensemble's sound was much more balanced, and featured the strong male voices of junior Nick Otte and senior David Rosenblatt.

Accompanying every high school performance, was a small rhythm section featuring junior Aaron Silberstein on the drums, and senior Brian Courage on the stand up bass. Both trained in jazz, the two's impressive skills were featured in solos, Silberstein's during the Jazz Ensemble's performance, and Courage's during the Vocal Jazz Ensemble's.

"It was great to be involved in almost everything," said a jovial Silberstein after the performance. "I can only hope the audience enjoyed the show as much as I did."

After the large Vocal Jazz Ensemble's performance, the group fragmented into two solo vocal acts. The first, a skillful

and controlled version of Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies" sung by senior David Rosenblatt, the second an enjoyable version of Cole Porter's "So in Love" sung by senior Fredi Bernstein.

To conclude, the Schreiber Jazz Ensemble, conducted by Weber teacher Robert Moore, played four charts. Although individually talented, the band did not come together cohesively in their performance; however, by no means was their act poor. Beginning with Les Hooper's "All in Good Time," the band got off to a strong start. Yet after their first chart, their set generally went downhill. The sudden program substitution of Jeff Jarvis' "Honk" for Sammy Nestico's "Basie Straight Ahead" seemed to be a poor choice. Except for a righteous guitar solo by junior Andy Werle, the tune was generally unorganized.

The next two chart, Thad Jones' "A Child is Born" and Doug Beach's "A Nasty Bit of Blues" were both well played but lacked energy. The latter featured solos by freshman pianist Solomon Hoffman and junior Allison Rosenberg on trumpet.

The high school acts failed to convey the same magic that the middle school ones maintained. Nevertheless, the experience was extremely valuable to both middle and high school students.

"Tonight is a great opportunity for middle school students to see where they can go in their jazz studies, and a great time for high school students to see how far they've come," said Port Washington Director of Creative Arts Marc Greene.



Juniors Maddy Bernstein, Jessica Zeidman and Katherine Hughes and senior Fredi Bernstein are all classically trained vocalists. Accompanied by Mr. Phil Glover, the four girls shared a microphone during the Vocal Ensemble performance.

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Zodiac brings primal fear to a personal level

True story of an infamous serial killer focuses on bloody violence and social issues

by Nick Pray

Staff Writer

Two homicide detectives, a crime reporter and a political cartoonist spend decades knocking themselves out to catch a serial killer who never (officially) gets caught. Careers, marriages, and even sanity fall victim to obsession.

This is *Zodiac*: a detailed, mind-bending, nonstop mesmerizer. But it wouldn't have left the audience shivering without the brilliance of one particular man in the spotlight: David Fincher, a director so particular that he often does 100 takes before he gets the tone he wants.

Raising the bar on tension and terrifying endings in *Se7en*, fooling us all with trickery in *The Game*, tracking delusion and the inner-workings of the mind in *Fight Club* and using a prowling camera to dig out psychological truth in *Panic Room*, Fincher shocks the viewer in *Zodiac*, a film based on the psycho who terrorized the San Francisco Bay Area in 1968 and tormented the press with encoded messages.

Primal fear is hard to explain, but the characters in Fincher's film do justice to the emotion by cutting a monster down to human size. Jake Gyllenhaal's character, cartoonist Robert Graysmith, is the perfect blend of smarts and geek-boy fixation. Graysmith, a shy newbie at *The San Francisco Chronicle*, is enthralled by the first Zodiac Letter, which begins with "This is the Zodiac speaking."

For more details, he pursues the paper's ace crime reporter, Paul Avery (Robert Downey Jr.), who in turn hounds the San Francisco Police Department's hotshot homicide inspector Dave Toschi, played by Mark Ruffalo, and his partner, William Armstrong, played by Anthony Edwards.

The unique bond between these men stretches into years, even as Armstrong

drops out of the hunt after no arrests are made.

The movie's confusing story line does force viewers to pay close attention, but make no mistake—you will be instantly hooked and creeped out at the same time. Fincher stages the first murder with blood-chilling intensity. A hooded killer walks up to a car parked on a lovers' lane and opens fires on the teen couple. We feel the swiftness of the crime, the shock of what follows and the reeling sense that life can be snuffed out in seconds.

Later, in one of the most realistic and wrenching depictions of murder in broad daylight, the Zodiac stalks a couple picnicking by a lake in Napa. Tranquility is interrupted when the Zodiac suddenly leaps onto the couple with a knife, stabbing them repeatedly. Fincher lingers on the crime's aftermath (the victims' horrific screams, their cries for help, and the fact that they are left to bleed to death). These sequences, including the execution of a cab driver on a suburban street, and the words that are uttered by the Zodiac in a car to a woman he picked up ("Before I kill you, I'm going to throw your baby out the window."), are simultaneously brutal and calm.

Fincher never sensationalizes these images. For the first time in his career, his subject matter is real people, places and crimes. He achieves a near-documentary realism enhanced by high-definition camerawork from the gifted Harris Savides (*Elephant*,



Robert Downey, Jr. and Jake Gyllenhaal transformed David Fincher's *Zodiac* from a normal crime movie into a more moody piece.

Gerry, and *The Game*) that brings a gritty significance to everything from the offices of cops and reporters to the streets where the crimes were actually committed.

In the gloomy shadows of *Zodiac*, Gyllenhaal relentlessly pulls us into a mindset that ultimately wrecks Graysmith's marriage to Melanie (Chloë Sevigny). Ruffalo is outstanding at showing us a battered Toschi—once enough to be a supercop, a model for Steve McQueen in *Bullitt* is now demoted out of homicide, but is still willing to assist Graysmith on his quest. Avery undergoes the most dramatic decline, and his addiction to the case is trumped by his self-destructive compulsion for booze and cocaine. Downey gives a blazing performance that encompasses a palette of emotions, from humor to

heartbreak. All the actors excel: Brian Cox (*Running with Scissors*) is sharply funny as celebrity lawyer Melvin Belli, and John Carroll Lynch (*Fargo*, *Gothika*) is haunting as Arthur Leigh Allen, the suspect who the cops dismiss and who Graysmith comes to focus on.

Throw your "whodunit" expectations into the waste bin when you go see *Zodiac*. A film as painstaking and tenacious as *Zodiac* will not appeal to those whose only lust is gore. Although there is a good amount of it, it's the story, the characters, and the sheer terror that make this film the best cop/killer film in years. Thanks to Fincher, the still-new movie year has already produced something unique that should not be missed. Despite its long run time, *Zodiac* takes hold of you in a way that only a David Fincher film can.

Breach has its moments, but is not consistent in quality

by Lane Mergler

Assistant Sports Editor

The movie *Breach*, starring Ryan Phillippe, follows the life of a Soviet Union mole in the FBI who constantly struggles to retain his cover within the suspicious FBI. Although it likely will not be an Oscar-nominated movie, its suspense and action still makes it worth its two hour runtime.

The events in *Breach*, based on a true story, actually take place in late 2000 and early 2001. The movie assumes the viewpoint of Eric O'Neill, played by Phillippe. Looking for a position in a governmental facility, he receives a phone call from a woman named Kate Burroughs, played by Laura Linney. She tells him that his job is to work under a man named Robert Hanssen, played by Chris Cooper, and to search for information about his love for pornography and to look for something to incriminate him. O'Neill is told to record Hanssen's every motion and to hand in the log to Burroughs on a regular basis. O'Neill is confused by this because he thinks that the agency should be focused on more serious matters than policing its own members.

O'Neill becomes even more confused after meeting Hanssen. On the outside,

Hanssen appears to be a very holy family man who, although at times rude, tries to make O'Neill's life more religious and attempts to become friends with O'Neill. He goes to church every Sunday, prays daily, and shuns drinking. He has been a member of the FBI for nearly twenty-five years and seems to be very devoted to his job. Upon checking Hanssen's laptop internet history, O'Neill finds no pornography.

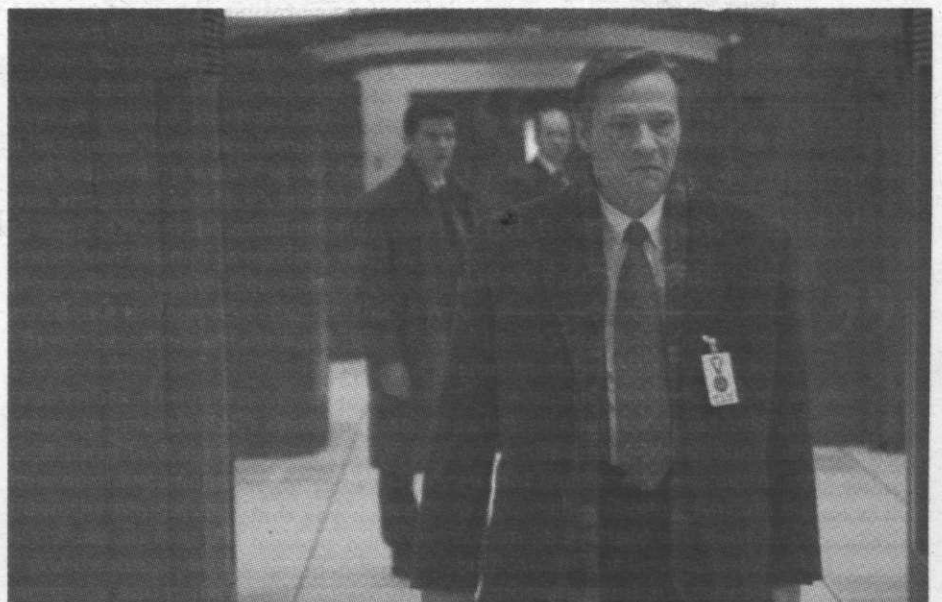
O'Neill, going to Burroughs, pesters her to find out what this is bizarre assignment is really about, and she discloses that the FBI believes that Hanssen worked for the Soviet Union when it existed and is still keeping ties with Russian officials. He was deemed accountable for the murders of over fifty secret agents. There was a whole unit trying to find incriminating evidence, led by a man named Dan Plesac, played by Dennis Haysbert. In addition to O'Neill's information and logs on Hanssen, the investigatory unit also bugged Hanssen's car. Among other attempts, they bugged Hanssen's car, but relied on O'Neill as their main source of information.

Many of the actors in the movie had previously played major roles similar to their roles in this film. Phillippe played a rookie cop in the LAPD in

2006's movie of the year, *Crash*, Linney was involved in a political scandal in the comedy, *Man Of The Year*, Cooper was involved with the CIA in the movie, *The Bourne Identity*, and Haysbert was a former president in the TV show 24. Due to all of this experience in similar roles, the actors seemed to fit well into their

respective characters.

While this movie is entertaining with thrilling moments, it is hindered by some odd plot choices, which make it seem more like a memoir than a thriller at times. But it has enough exciting moments to keep you engaged, even if it may not go down as a classic.



Robert Hanssen (Chris Cooper) is a secret-trading Russian mole in the FBI, with Eric O'Neill (Ryan Phillippe) closely watching his every move.

Music

The "Best Live Act in Hip-Hop" proves their worth

True to their name, *The Roots* pay tribute to their influences at a sold out show at Nokia Theatre

BY Benjamin Jaffe

Editor-in-Chief

What hip-hop act can pull off covering Jimi Hendrix, Cool and the Gang, The Police, James Brown, Bob Dylan, and Biz Markie all in one concert? Only The Legendary Roots Crew.

The Roots, who played at the Nokia Theatre in Times Square on Mar. 11 and 12, further solidified their title as the best live hip-hop group in their most recent concert. Unlike most live rap performances, which are plagued by a booming bass that drones out lyrics, inane, repetitive choruses, and uninspiring musicianship, The Roots put on a show that demonstrated that hip-hop is alive and well, despite rapper Nas' lamentations that "Hip Hop is Dead"—the title of his controversial latest album.

Unlike most generic Hip Hop acts, the Roots' sound is entirely organic. There is no need for a DJ to play recorded hooks and beats because the group members all play their own instruments, a rarity in the present rap genre. Because of their unique musicianship, The Roots are one of the few precious rap acts that sound better in concert than on CDs. In fact, The Roots were the only rap act to be placed on *Spin Magazine's* "25 Greatest Live Bands Now" list.

It quickly became evident to audience members that this was not going to be any typical rap concert when the entire 10-member band entered in from the back of the room à la Soul Train. Playing a New Orleans jazz style jam, drummer Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, the face of the band, walked into the room with his towering afro (and trademark pick) bouncing to and fro. Next in line came Black Thought, the

group's MC, who showed later on that he could just as easily drop a complex freestyle as he could croon like James Brown. The rest of the band followed, weaving through the sold-out standing crowd accompanied by the horn trio, Brass Heaven.

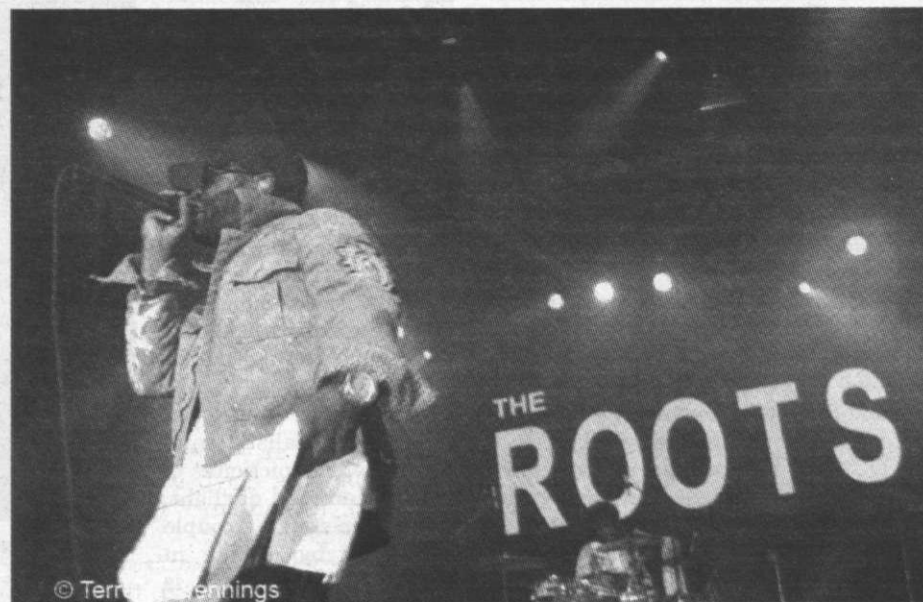
The Big Easy march then transformed seamlessly into the title song of The Roots' latest release, *Game Theory*, noted for its lush, expansive and considerably darker tones.

"In this day and age, I'm kind of noticing that nobody in urban music really has the [guts] to just stop partying for one second," said Questlove to *Rolling Stone* magazine. "I mean, partying is good and whatnot, and it's cool to get down, but I really think that 2006 called for a very serious record."

However, the concert was anything but gloomy as even The Roots' more ominous songs, like "Game Theory" and "Don't Feel Right," featured lively swing and jazzy interpretations thanks to Brass Heaven, led by trombonist Jeff Bradshaw and the tuba-player known as "Tuba Gooding, Jr." Giving a break to Black Thought, guitarist Capt. Kirk, bassist Hub, and keyboardist Kamal of Brass Heaven put on a 30-minute James Brown tribute. With Questlove humbly playing on a stripped-down kit from sidestage, the spotlight focused on the jazzy horn section.

Despite their acclaim as the best live act in hip-hop, The Roots aren't above making fun of themselves. 50 Cent may think he's too hard to sing along karaoke-style to Biz Markie's "Just a Friend," but Black Thought certainly isn't. And maybe The Police's "Roxanne" isn't quite a ghetto anthem, but that didn't stop Questlove from cracking his voice to hit the chorus' hilarious high notes.

Opening the show was Grammy-



Frontman Black Thought sings over a drum beat provided by Questlove and a horn melody from guest artist Brass Heaven.

nominated rapper Lupe Fiasco. But, like The Roots, Lupe doesn't fit into the typical rapper stereotype. He doesn't drink, doesn't smoke, hardly curses, and is a devout Muslim. As the opening act, Lupe mostly played cuts from his critically acclaimed, but commercially unsuccessful debut album *Food & Liquor*.

Mentored by the now legendary Def Jam President Jay-Z and signed to Kanye West's G.O.O.D. Music record label, Lupe is an indie hip-hop purist in the same vein as Talib Kweli, Mos Def and Common. Rather than focusing on money, cars and women, Lupe touches on topics like paternal delinquency on "He Say, She Say" and rap's rampant materialism on "Daydreamin'."

"Now come on everybody, let's make cocaine cool/ We need a few more half naked women up in the pool/ And hold

this MAC-10 that's all covered in jewels/ And can you please put your [expletive] closer to the 22s/ And where's the champagne?... And now hold up your chain slow motion through the flames/ Now cue the smoke machines and the simulated rain," he satirically raps.

Nas may certainly be justified in claiming that hip-hop is dead after listening to Hot 97 or MTV, but as long as groups like The Roots and rappers like Lupe Fiasco continue to remain true to the creativity and spontaneous origins of rap, hip-hop will never die.

"As of late I realized, that this is her fate/ Or destiny that brings the best of me... In retrospect I see she brought life and death to me/ Peace to us collectively, live and direct when we perform," rapped Black Thought in a serenade to hip-hop.

Despite appearance from Alicia Keyes, John Mayer concert fails to move crowd

BY Melanie Fried

Assistant News Editor

Anyone who attended the Feb. 28 John Mayer concert at Madison Square Garden and considered it to be memorable must not have been to many great concerts. Playing to a sold out house, Mayer simply failed to establish any emotional connection with his fans.

Mayer opened with "Belief," one of the best-known tracks on his latest album, *Continuum*. Subsequently, he took an unwarranted risk, choosing to play the lesser-known "Love is on the Way" from the John Mayer Trio's, *Try!* It was as if he was trying to gauge his audience's true response to his more bluesy style, regardless of the number of albums which had been sold. Mayer cleverly slipped in this generally unknown song at the beginning of the show, a time when the audience was still excited by his mere presence.

Half-way through, Mayer sang "Waiting on the World to Change," for which he won the Grammy for "Best

Male Pop Vocal Performance." The song helped to maintain the audience's interest, generating the most excited response of the evening, an obvious clue to its commercial success.

During the all too carefully crafted encore, Mayer came into view on a separate stage that ran through the heart of the arena.

"Before this song was an instant punch line, it was actually a song," said Mayer during a quick, nostalgic homecoming of "Your Body is a Wonderland." "And it's nice to have it back." Subsequently, he returned to the main stage for "Vultures," an electric blues song about being an individual and standing apart.

With his eyes shut, for the first time that evening Mayer strummed through guitar chords that resounded with real drive and passion in "Gravity," a song that first debuted on *Try!* and eventually found its way onto *Continuum*. Yet somewhat unfortunately, just as his guitar playing was hitting the high note of the evening, the crowd was

shocked to hear the voice of a familiar female pop star reverberating through the speakers. Was it Mayer's supposed girlfriend Jessica Simpson? Guess again. It was Alicia Keyes, who added a unique edge to "Gravity," effortlessly stealing the spotlight.

Mayer asked, "Do you know what you're looking for and where to find it?" as his guitar continued to sing and as Keyes's vocals subsided. Personally, I don't think that he did, at least not on that evening. Although the concert was overall a highly enjoyable and fun experience, it was evident that something was missing.

With the exception of a few moments of guitar-inspired zeal during "Gravity," a wholly-enthusiastic and dancing audience could be found during only two or three of his most famous songs. The missing element, however, did not degrade the concert experience during the performance; rather, it was more of an absence that one would notice on the long train ride home. In addition, Mayer's performance lacked

any political perspective to parallel his new, politically-charged album. At his concert last summer at Jones Beach, Mayer's commentary was far more political, illuminating the social criticisms embedded in his music.

One cannot fairly say that John Mayer has not made an effort to be recognized as a sincere and involved singer-songwriter. He abandoned his pop persona in 2005 to experiment with the John Mayer Trio, and in 2006 he self-produced *Continuum*. Mayer also permits audio taping at most of his concerts and allows for the non-commercial trading of those tapes, enabling fans to recreate and share their musical experiences.

Although his performance had some flaws, Mayer definitely appears to be on the road to uncovering his true musical style. His sold-out concert on Feb. 28 at the Garden was an experience of laughter and song, rather than one of passion and inspiration, the formula for a concert one enjoys while it is occurring but not for days to come.

Box

CLASSIC ALBUM - Britney Spears: ...Baby One More Time



BY Damian Bidikov
Assistant A&E Editor

I didn't see the video for Britney Spears' "...Baby One More Time" until a few years after the single came out. Like many teenage boys, I quickly put my TV on mute and left it that way throughout the whole thing. I didn't realize what I was missing out on until I spun the entire album, which shares a name with the single. For Spears, ...*Baby One More Time* is the album that started it all. Featuring a cute picture of the seventeen-year old pop-princess on the front, nine cute filler songs and two cute, catchy filler songs, Spears' debut is still considered by many to be her signature work.

The pause in the beginning of the Spears' debut single/album masks the words "hit me." Spears cleverly arranged the album so that the title

track was first, probably to confuse fans who were eager to interpret the meaning of the full title: "hit me baby one more time." After pressing play, you only have a few seconds to analyze before "Baby One More Time" EXPLODES. Thirty seconds in, you'll understand why the single rode the airwaves to hit number one in the world and to earn double platinum status for the album. For almost an entire year, it stayed in the top ten of the Billboard 200. If you ever turn repeat off of this track, you might eventually realize that it's about Spears' frustration at mistakenly ending a relationship. This theme resonated with wannabe artists like Fountains of Wayne, Bowling For Soup, Mr. Bungle and Marilyn Manson, who all covered versions of the song.

Many people are unaware that there are ten more tracks on the album. Gathering the willpower to turn off repeat unleashes the ballade-like "(You Drive me) Crazy," another popular hit that didn't quite manage to catch up to "Baby One More Time." After "Crazy" is over, most listeners will probably switch back to the title track. If its three-chord intro isn't stuck in your head for weeks, the video of Spears dancing in a Catholic school girl uniform should probably do the trick.

Going beyond the music like this is what *One More Time* is all about. Aside from the notable video contribution,

Spears' debut gave lost and confused teenage girls a role model to follow. Unfortunately, Spears could not keep up with the pressure of having so many young women look up to her. She's since been seen smoking a cigarette, entering and checking out of a rehabilitation clinic and even giving herself a nasty haircut. However, *One More Time* remains a relic of Spears' iconic originality and inner strength.

The album did spark its share of controversy and criticism. Besides the aforementioned singles, the album lacks some of the hooks that would ensure the success of Spears' other releases. Some of the slower tracks, like "E-Mail my Heart," lack the pure energy of the first few songs. Spears' schoolgirl uniform angered some of the less open-minded of her previous Southern Baptist church. Additionally, some harsher critics pegged Spears as a commercially-propelled, talentless teenybopper. Many people failed to find social significance anywhere in the album. Obviously, they've been left out of the debate over whether or not Spears actually has breasts implants. In fact, all it takes is an open perspective and a few minutes to get hooked on *One More Time*. More than a fun listen, the album is a milestone every Britney Spears fan should own.

Explosions in the Sky: *All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone*



BY Alex Stein
Staff Writer

Have you ever heard of Explosions in the Sky? Well, if you haven't then maybe you will remember them as the band that was detained at a Holland airport after September 11 because of their second album, *Those Who Tell The Truth Shall Die*, that harbors the infamous line, "this plane will crash tomorrow." You also might know them as the band responsible for the entire *Friday Night Lights* soundtrack. Do not let this change your view of their music. Explosions in the Sky is an instrumental, post-rock band with a sound that is epic, uplifting and intellectually stimulating all at once. Formed in 1999 in Austin, Texas, Chris Hrasky, Mark Smith, Munaf Rayani, and Michael James were signed to Temporary Residence Limited Records after only half a listen of their demo.

They blew the world away with *The Earth is Not A Cold Dead Place* (2003). Now, with their new album *All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone*, released Feb. 20, they have diverged from their original, soft style by emphasizing their drums and using heavier lines. Though the flow of the two albums is generally the same, the new one is much deeper and more climactic. The songs that embody this new style are "The Birth and Death of the Day" and "Catastrophe and the Cure." However the album is meant to be listened to as a whole, so that the listener can experience the ebb and flow of the music's emotion.

"Birth and Death" comes in with a powerfully distorted introduction, while still maintaining that mystical touch so native to their music. In this song the main emotion is happiness, which is conveyed through a rolling drum line and a number of complex guitar parts, contrasting with more gentle guitar lines. With the music jumping back and forth between such extremes, your heart will beat faster and faster, but then it will suddenly calm. It's the kind of exuberance you feel after experiencing a new emotion for the first time.

If you are a fan of the band Lotus, or post-rock music in general, then Explosions in the Sky is for you. Longtime fans of the group already know that their music is a real trip, a journey through passionate emotions that is sure to keep your mind enlightened and your feet off the ground.

The '07 Battle of the Bands shapes up to be a good one

BY Max Lewin
Assistant A&E Editor

Of the great many cultural and artistic after-school events Schreiber organizes for the student body to enjoy and participate in each year, none provides as much anticipation and excitement for musically-minded students as the Battle of the Bands. This contest of student groups allows the smallest basement or garage band to claim at least one night of glory before an enthusiastic and adoring crowd. In recent years the Battle has seen such varied contestants as ska bands like One Horn Army, rapcore groups such as Something Else, and eclectic, alternative rock groups like Vahina Facce and The Freddy Cook Rock Band. The Battle, which is set to take place on Apr. 23 in the auditorium, promises to be an exciting and unique show, featuring two hardcore rock groups, two new alternative rock groups, and a classic rock-influenced band.

Far From Elysium - One of the most well-known bands in the school, Far From Elysium plays a catchy form of metalcore. Made up completely of juniors, the band consists of three guitar players, Sam Colonna, Mike Marino and Ron Shalev, bassist Mike Divattorio, drummer Alex Telacki and vocalist Mike Berly. The triple-guitar attack emphasizes the relentlessly heavy songs that Far From Elysium churns

out. Their live show is well-crafted and exciting, honed after playing all over Long Island.

Sossy Goats - This trio of seniors, featuring Matt Glickman on bass and vocals, Dave Rafe on guitar and Jesse Stein on the drums, is a first-time contest in the Battle, having formed quite recently. The repertoire features covers of the classic rock staple "Sunshine of your Love," originally written by the supergroup Cream. They also have three original songs so far, titled "Carwash," "Seaside Goldenrod" and "Jenna." They hope that their classic rock sound will appeal to a wide range of students.

Days on End - Veterans of the Schreiber music scene for the past two years, hardcore/metal band Days on End takes its third shot at the Battle of the Bands title. Having toured and played with a wide variety of bands within their scene, Days on End has the advantage of experience, and despite having a different lineup from last year, they still have a wide fan base within Schreiber. Considering their wide catalogue of original songs, their experience and their mass appeal to students, they stand a good chance to finally win the battle.

Zombonauts - First-time Battle of the Bands contestants, Scandinavian electro-death pop group the Zombonauts

seem likely to continue the tradition started by Zamboni Explosion (and their various earlier incarnations) as the eccentric wild cards, capable of anything. They consist of seniors Daryl Koopersmith on drums and Granger Titcomb on bass, and juniors Anthony Fazio on guitar and Timothy Sherman on the keytar and vocals. Their signature song is a cover of the legendary prog-rock group Rush's instrumental "YYZ," displaying the impressive technical skill of all the band members.

Pete's Couch - Closing this year's battle will be the newly formed acid jazz, funk, proto-math rock group, Pete's Couch. The group was formed as the result of a serendipitous impromptu jam between senior bassist Nick DeFeo and junior drummer Aaron Silberstein at this year's Saturnalia festival, which was followed soon thereafter by a basement jam with the full group, including junior Jordan Lewis on guitar and senior Robert Baldwin behind the mic. With strong musical backgrounds in nearly every style that could be produced with their combination of instruments, their music might be described as what would occur if Jimi Hendrix, Buddy Miles and Flea joined Parliament Funkadelic and the whole group fell into a candy-coated black hole. Which is perhaps why they will have the honor of being the closing act to what will undoubtedly be one of the most epic Battle of the Bands yet seen in the auditorium.

Fox cancels *The O.C.*, marking the end of an era

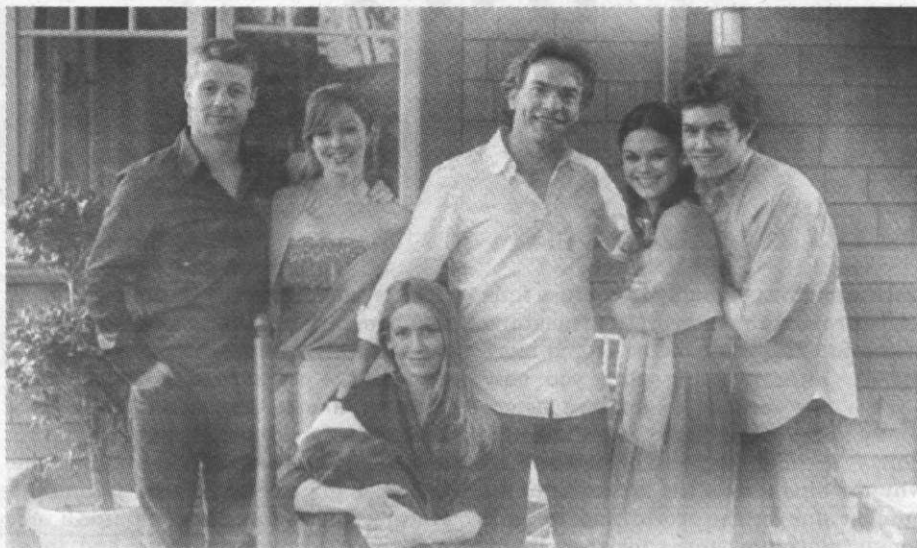
BY Alex Hohaus
Contributing Writer

Feb. 22 saw the last original airing of a television show that may have seemed quite insignificant, but had a great impact on modern popular culture. It revolutionized heartthrobs and "reality" TV based on its premise, brought under-the-radar bands into the limelight, and popularized the "skinny girl in baby-doll shirt" look before the style appeared on the runway. This show, of course, was *The O.C.*

Though many *O.C.* fans agreed that the show had been steadily on the decline since its first season, few thought that it would suffer premature cancellation midway through the fourth. Often deemed "the 90210 of our generation," *The O.C.* was predicted to take a path similar to its predecessor and continue for a few more seasons. However, the recent season has garnered the highest criticism that the show has ever received, so it may be for the best that *The O.C.* ended.

From the beginning, the premise of the show was rather simple. A boy from the wrong side of the tracks, Ryan Atwood (Benjamin McKenzie), steals a car, gets busted, and his public defender Sandy Cohen (Peter Gallagher) takes him in. Consequently, Atwood moves from the inland and the presumably rough Chino to the wealthy seaside community of Newport Beach. Here, he meets Sandy's family: his sarcastic, geeky, outsider son Seth (Adam Brody), and his caring but preoccupied wife, Kirsten (Kelly Rowland). Atwood instantly falls in love with the troubled yet popular girl next door, Marissa Cooper (Mischa Barton), who lives with her selfish mother Julie (Melinda Clarke) and negligent father Jimmy (Tate Donovan). Catch all of that?

Season '0', the summer season which is widely considered to be the greatest of all, expanded on these issues. In-between seasons, viewers witnessed alcoholism, infidelity and near-infidelity, substance-abuse, attempted rape, and at least six different love triangles. By Season 4, changes in the lives of the show's characters were evident. Ryan was preparing to go to college; Seth had found his place in life with his girlfriend Summer (Rachel Bilson), who during



The main cast of *The O.C.*, whose absence creates the largest void in popular network television since the cancellation of *Beverly Hills, 90210*.

Season 0 had been shallow and vapid; Marissa died in the Season 3 finale.

Yes, *The O.C.* sounds like a nighttime rendition of a daytime soap opera, yet it managed to be much more than that. On any given Thursday or Friday morning (Season 1 aired on Wednesdays, 2-4 aired on Thursdays), it was common to hear people talk about Marissa and Seth as though they were real people whose actions actually affected the world.

Death Cab for Cutie, one of Seth's favorite bands on the show, was referenced so many times that record label executives took notice, and the band was signed to a major label. Each of the lead actors rose to fame, and will consequently have no difficulty finding work after the show's completion. Several popular catchphrases from the show permanently entered the pop culture lexicon, and in the fall of 2004, a show called *Laguna Beach: The Real O.C.* aired on MTV.

It was, of course, the first season alone that helped *The O.C.* gain the popularity rating that it did. The second season, though still written chiefly by the show's creator, Josh Schwartz, received a large drop in ratings, not only because of the decline in the quality of the storylines and acting, but also because it no longer had *American Idol* as its lead-in. In Season 3, Schwartz had little involvement with the program, and it showed. An unpopular character named Johnny (Ryan Donohew) often

had more screen-time than mainstays such as Brody and Bilson, and the annoying Taylor (Autumn Reeser), who eventually became likable but was irksome at her entrance, served a similar purpose. The season culminated in the death of Marissa, which angered many viewers to the point of boycott.

Season 4 was short but pleasant. By its end, not one of the teenage characters went to college on time. Ryan had chosen to defer a year at Berkeley after Marissa's death, Seth had applied for the spring, not fall, semester at RISD, and Summer had become an activist and was suspended from Brown for freeing laboratory test rabbits. Julie Cooper was no longer an ice queen, and her relationship with her younger daughter Kaitlin (Willa Holland) was much more enjoyable than her consistent fighting with Marissa. Just as their two sons are about to leave the house forever, Sandy and Kirsten find out that they are going to have a baby girl. In the last half-hour of the show's finale, the entire show wrapped up: Seth and Summer get married; in a twist of fate, Julie earns a college degree; and Ryan becomes an architect, reaching out to a seemingly desolate boy in the final moments, who we're meant to believe must remind Ryan of himself. Whether it be Season 4 or Season 12, we could always predict that this would be how the show would finally end.

The best spring vacation spots

BY Alexandra Vojdany
Staff Writer

Do you want to get away this spring break, but you just can't decide which Caribbean isle to go to? One "hot spot" that no one can seem to get enough of is the sizzling, tropical Puerto Rico. El San Juan Hotel and Casino is one hotel in Puerto Rico that has much to offer. It is located in the city's stylish Isla Verde district and is situated on a gorgeous beach. With a perfect tropical location, the hotel provides cultural attractions and popular landmarks such as Fort San Cristobal and Calle de San Sebastian. Fort San Cristobal is one of the biggest fortresses constructed in the United States. Its principal purpose was to protect San Juan against land attacks. Another cultural attraction in San Juan is Calle de San Sebastian in the Northern part of Old San Juan. This classical street is one of Old San Juan's most famous boulevards, where local celebrations, such as the annual January festival, take place.

If you stay at the El San Juan Hotel and Casino you can also brag about earning a scuba-diving license. After a practice dive in the local hotel pool,

“You can venture from olive groves to islands that are practically uninhabited and explore pristine beaches”

you will get the opportunity to take a boat out into the Caribbean and dive among the fish and coral. However, if you want to just hang out on a hot day at the hotel, you can swim in the many pools and hot tubs. A refreshing part of a trip to Puerto Rico is the unpredictable weather. It can start drizzling at any moment which feels great in contrast with the hot weather; however, it can stop in five to ten minutes as if it never started. You will be sure to relax on this cool vacation to the beautiful island of Puerto Rico.

Another "hot spot" that is a guaranteed amazing vacation is Greece. Greece has a sense of history and culture, along with a beautiful landscape and great weather. You can venture from olive groves to islands that are practically uninhabited and explore pristine beaches and rocky terrain in order to gain a sense of the scenery. A place worth visiting in Greece is Olympia. Located in the West Peloponnese, Olympia was where the first Olympic Games took place. One hundred miles Northwest of Athens is Delphi, which is another cultural site. It contains the Temple of Apollo (an eminent temple dedicated to the God of the Sun and to healing in the Arcadian Mountains), the Castalian Spring and the Corycian Cave. According to ancient myth, Delphi was claimed to be the center of the earth. And if you are not the type of person who enjoys sightseeing, there is always the option of skinny dipping in the ocean.

Black Swan Green is a deep and engaging read

BY Isamar Pena
Contributing Writer

David Mitchell, an award-winning English novelist, has come out with a great coming-of-age novel, *Black Swan Green*.

His newest novel follows the life of 13-year-old Jason Taylor, from his days in the Black Swan Green county to his days during the Cold War. 1982 was a tough year for Taylor, for he was forced to deal with bullies, death, war, girls, and his own family problems. *Black Swan Green* accurately conveys the difficulty and awkwardness of the life of a 13-year-old.

The book communicates to the reader the ins and outs of adolescence in an interesting way. Each chapter is a different month, and there are about thirteen chapters (Jan. 1982 – Jan. 1983). Every chapter depicts a certain crisis or predicament that Jason has to

overcome. One chapter deals with one of the hardest kids in Black Swan Green, Ross Wilcox, who bullies Jason for going to the "pictures with Mummy." Another chapter deals with the divorce of Jason's parents, and how they compete for his love by buying him expensive things. In yet another interesting chapter, Jason talks about a speech impediment. He says that his stammers make him "shrivel up like a plastic wrapper in a fire." Jason describes the significant difference between stuttering and stammering, and acknowledges that he only has a stammering problem. He tries to explain these differences with laugh-out-loud lines like, "Most people think stammering and stuttering are the same, but they're as different as diarrhea and constipation."

It is fascinating how Mitchell portrays the mindset of a thirteen-year old without sounding corny or fake. Mitchell used his personal diary along with other resources to try to create a believable

character. Additionally, he uses words that were common of the specific time period like "ace" and "epic" in order to show the importance of language in a novel. The novel also examines the war in great depth, showing the effects of the war on both Jason himself as well as on the community of Black Swan Green.

David Mitchell is famous for his other critically acclaimed novels *Cloud Atlas*, shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and *Ghostwritten*, which won the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize. In 2003, Mitchell was acclaimed one of Granta literary magazine's "Best Young British Novelists."

I would recommend *Black Swan Green* to anyone who is interested in reading a coming-of-age novel with a twist. David Mitchell's writing style clearly brings out many more emotions than those normally associated with the qualms of adolescent life, making the novel incredibly engaging for any reader.

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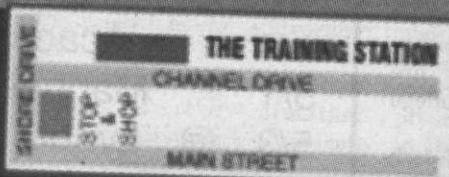


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TEAM PREVIEWS

PREVIEW

VARSITY BOYS BASEBALL

2007 Schedule

Date	Opponent
4/16 @	Long Beach
4/17	Long Beach
4/19 @	Long Beach
4/23	Plainview JFK
4/24 @	Plainview JFK
4/26	Plainview JFK
4/30 @	Baldwin
5/1	Baldwin
5/3 @	Baldwin
5/7	Hicksville
5/8 @	Hicksville
5/10	Hicksville
5/14 @	East Meadow
5/15	East Meadow
5/16 @	East Meadow

BY Lane Mergler

Staff Assistant

The Vikings baseball team hopes to rebound from last year's record of 8-12 and make the playoffs this year.

The coach, Mr. Rich Greeney, has already accomplished the difficult task of making it to the playoffs in 2005 and hopes to achieve the same prestigious feat this year.

This is Coach Greeney's fifth season, and as seen in the 2005-2006 season, he has made a great impact in a positive way for Vikings baseball.

Under him as assistant coach is Mr. Joe DelGais, who was formerly head coach and has been involved in Schreiber's baseball program for 18 years.

Over the course of the 18 years in which Assistant Coach DelGais has held a position on the team, he has experienced both good and bad seasons, and hopes that this year's team will be a successful one.

The team will open the season on Apr. 16, when they play Long Beach. This game will be the first for many new members of the team, most of whom are underclassmen.

The team has lost many of last year's valuable seniors, such as former captains Chris Doscas and Tom Zebroski, who are playing for

Johns Hopkins University and George Washington University, respectively.

Among the team's 14 members, seven of them are underclassmen.

Despite the team's lack of seniors and experienced players, the team has remained confident that they will succeed this year.

"We look pretty good this year," said senior pitcher Chris Corteselli. "Even though we lost a lot of players from last year because they were seniors, most other teams in our division did too. We are very young and we have a lot of potential. We should do very well, and I can't see ourselves finishing below .500."

Among the five seniors on the team are outfielder David Baer, Corteselli, pitcher and first baseman Brian Miller, catcher Zach Pumerantz, and infielder Jordan Spivack.

Corteselli and Miller are the top two pitchers in the team's starting rotation, with sophomore Jordan Epstein pitching third.

"We were looking forward to this year," said a confident Pumerantz. "Everyone is playing solidly as a team and we will have a good year this year this season."

The team's confidence in their play and the talent found in the underclassmen on the team shows only a positive outlook for the upcoming season.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

BY Lane Mergler

Staff Assistant

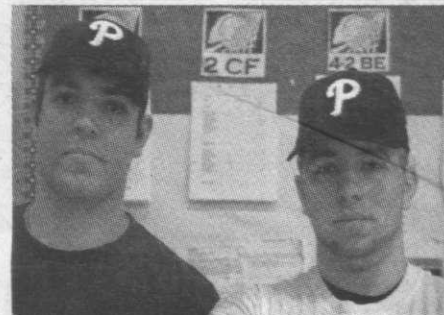
This year, the boys varsity baseball team will be led by senior pitchers Chris Corteselli and Brian Miller.

"Both Corteselli and Miller are the anchors of our pitching staff," said Coach Rich Greeney. "They are two skilled players and create a great one-two punch."

"Miller is an integral part of the team," said Assistant Coach Joe DelGais. "With all of the seniors who left us last year, we really need him."

Corteselli dominates with his fastball whereas Miller has worked more with his breaking pitches.

Both Corteselli and Miller are essential to the team's play as well as their hopes of making the playoffs.



The Vikings will depend on seniors Brian Miller (left) and Chris Corteselli to lead the team from the mound.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

BY John Forman

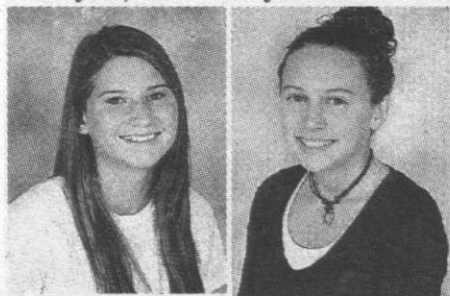
Senior Sports Editor

Two returning seniors who have been with the Lady Vikings for three years each are Sydney DiMaggio and Alissa Potter.

Both have been key members of the squad heading up the offensive attack; Potter as an offensive midfielder, and DiMaggio from the first home attack position.

Last year, as juniors, both were looked to for goals, but this year the duo is expected to play an even bigger role on offense.

"It is important that the offense and defense work together," said Potter. "This year, we are lucky to have that."



Seniors Alissa Potter (left) and Sydney DiMaggio (right) will be crucial to the Lady Vikings' offense this year.

PREVIEW

VARSITY GIRLS LACROSSE

BY Nikki Pond

Senior Sports Editor

After barely making it to the playoffs in 2006, the girls varsity lacrosse team is starting off this season with much higher aspirations and with a strong group of returning players.

"Last year was tough because we had a new coach, and it takes some time to adjust to a different style of coaching," said senior Erin Betsch. "Although it is only the beginning of the season, we're all starting out the season much more confidently and more in tune with the game plan than we were last season."

This year is Coach Ms. Meg Brown's second year at Schreiber. Along with Assistant Coach Ms. Brandy Miller, she has set high standards for the girls.

Both members of the coaching staff have experience playing at the college level, having played at Monmouth University and the University of Maryland, respectively.

The 2006 season, led by former captains Emily Sorg '06 and Sarah Weiss '06, has proven itself to be an enormously helpful learning experience for the girls on this year's team.

All returning players have noted a significant improvement in their stick skills and abilities.

"Even simple skills like throwing, catching, and handling the ball look better this year," said senior Sydney DiMaggio. "If we keep up all of our hard work, I know that our season will be a successful one."

The team looks to build off of last year's progress in what will be the second season with Coach Brown and Coach Miller at the helm.

On Mar. 21 the girls faced off against Holy Trinity in the first game of the season. Though it was a non-league game, it served as a good indication for the girls as to how the rest of their season will play out.

The matchup ended in a tie, which bodes well for the season ahead. Holy Trinity has a reputation as a tough team on Long Island, and the Vikings were able to keep up with their high paced attack.

Leading the team this year are senior captains Christina Carrington and Alissa Potter. There are five other returning seniors, two of whom are currently committed to play college lacrosse, as well as Carrington.

These three athletes include Betsch who is going to play for Davidson College, Carrington, who has signed with American University, and Lauren Brown, who will be playing college lacrosse for LaSalle University.

2007 Schedule

Date	Opponent
3/21	Holy Trinity
3/27	Wantagh
3/30	Ocean Side
3/31 @	Massapequa
4/10	Mineola
4/12	Garden City
4/14 @	North Shore
4/20 @	Friends Academy
5/1	Manhasset
5/3 @	Lynbrook
5/9	Farmingdale
5/12 @	Plainedge

TEAM PREVIEWS

PREVIEW VARSITY BOYS TENNIS

BY Myles Potters

Assistant Sports Editor

2007 Schedule

Date	Opponent
4/13	@ South Side
4/16	Manhasset
4/18	@ Great Neck S
4/20	@ Herricks
4/23	Garden City
4/25	@ Friends Academy
4/30	South Side
5/02	@ Manhasset
5/04	Great Neck S
5/07	Herricks
5/09	@ Garden City
5/10	Friends Academy

Coming off a strong finish last season with a 7-3 record, the boys varsity tennis team is looking to win counties with a much improved squad.

"A strong freshman class has added both to the depth and to the skill of the squad," said Coach Peter Travis.

"With this new talent, I am confident enough to predict that we will win the county championship. That being said, we do play against some of the most competitive high school teams in the state, and perhaps in the nation, depending on the year. So, we have to take the talent and development of other teams into account. However, based on my past experience, I see no reason for any concern."

The system that Varsity Tennis employs is a different system than any sport in the high school.

Because the majority of players on the team take private lessons outside school, once a player makes it onto the team he is on the team for the duration of his high school career.

As such, the team is able to gel in a way that many others are not. Doubles teams are able to adjust to each other's playing style, and the team knows who they can count on for wins every match.

Competing in Division IIA, the team lost in the first round of the playoffs

last year. Coach Travis and his team believe that this disappointment will be remembered and there will be a constant drive for success as the team mounts its attempt for a county championship.

This confidence is something that Travis hopes will be seen in his players, and that they will reflect his desire for success.

"I believe that this is such a strong team that they should have no other goal but the championship," Coach Travis stated.

"With the returning doubles team of Cohen-Odell and with the new Kellenberg brother team, those five spots alone should provide us with stability, not to mention all the fresh talent underneath them."

This sentiment was echoed by a four year veteran on the squad, Josh Cohen, who started on the team in eighth grade. "I feel that this year we have both the strongest and deepest team by far in all my far year," he said. "As a result, I see no lower result than a county championship for this team this year."

"My three singles players, Ryan Kim, Jake Mastbaum, and Andrew Siden, have all been with the team for a long time and are all dependable," said Travis. "With the new system of setup, namely three singles players and four doubles teams, these three players are able to step in and as a result, five out of seven teams are already set up"

PLAYERS TO WATCH

BY Myles Potters

Assistant Sports Editor

On the Vikings varsity tennis team, there are several players to look out for.

Matt Odell and Josh Cohen have been on the team for four years each. With their combined experience, both should be a powerful couple to watch.

Having trained at the Port Washington Tennis Academy with each other for more than seven years, these two boys know each other very well both on and off the court, enabling their combination to be even more successful.

"They are two of the most consistent players on the team," said Coach Peter Travis. "The potent combination of these two players should yield positive results for us. If there was one team I would suggest watching for consistent victories, it would be Cohen-Odell."



Odell and Cohen have trained together at the Port Washington Tennis Academy.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

BY Myles Potters

Assistant Sports Editor

On the varsity softball team, two veteran players are prepared to lead their team once again.

Senior captains Angela Matinale and Alyssa Epstein both received All Conference awards last season and are two of the strongest players on the team.

"We count on Ang to stay focused," said junior Brooke Goodspeed, "Alyssa keeps our spirits high and confidence up."

Matinale and Epstein, who play shortstop and catcher, respectively, led the team last year in several statistics, including batting.

"Having been team leaders last year, I would expect the same this year from both girls on and off the field," said Coach Carroll.



Epstein and Matinale received all conference awards last season.

PREVIEW VARSITY GIRLS SOFTBALL

BY Myles Potters

Assistant Sports Editor

The members of the girls varsity softball team have high hopes as they start practices and scrimmages.

With five total years of coaching experience, both as an assistant and as a head coach, Coach Jeanne Carroll is looking to lead the girls to the AA3 Conference championship. The AA3 Conference is one of the weaker conferences for large schools on Long Island.

Despite finishing a strong season with a final record of 13-3-1, Coach Carroll still expects the girls to improve and achieve better results this season.

Despite the loss of several seniors, the team has high aspirations. The new youth acquired makes the team look poised for another strong season.

"We gained many new strong players this season," said Junior Brooke Goodspeed. "These new players will, in my opinion, be able to fill the large shoes left by last year's seniors."

Outside analysts predicted the team to finish second in their conference, and Coach Carroll expects a strong finish from her girls.

This prediction does not come as a surprise to her, but has added motivation for her girls.

"We should be able to finish with a strong record this season, if not better than last year's record," said Coach Carroll. "I see our team being one of the top teams in the conference, if not the top team, barring injury. Our chemistry both on and off the field will help us to be successful as a team. We are looking forward to a great season."

Led by senior captains Andreina Castillo, Alyssa Epstein, Angela Matinale and Carolyn Voelker, several new players have been added to the varsity squad this season.

"[Because] we lost both of our pitchers last season, one because she was a senior and another for outside reasons, two of the new girls are pitchers. As such, they will have a large impact on our team, and I am confident that our captains will guide the new players on and off the field," Coach Carroll said.

Assistant Coach Jeane-Marie Zarsycki echoed Carroll's sentiments.

"The strength and depth of our team this year is about as good as you can get," said Ms. Zarsycki.

Although the team will lose seven of its valuable seniors after this season, prospects remain bright for the future.

"These girls are some of the best I've seen, and I'm sure that there is more success to come in the near future," said Coach Carroll.

2007 Schedule

Date	Opponent
3/30	@ Elmont
4/12	@ Farmingdale
4/16	Uniondale
4/18	V.S. Central
4/19	Hempstead
4/23	@ Freeport
4/25	Calhoun
4/27	Elmont
5/01	Farmingdale
5/03	@ Uniondale
5/07	@ V.S. Central
5/09	@ Hempstead
5/10	Freeport
5/14	@ Calhoun

Calling The Shots

It ain't all about the brackets...baby! Real fans know "March Madness" is all about the entertainment

BY David Baer
Senior Sports Editor

Sometimes the flaws of postseason NCAA sports are easier to point out than the successes. However, this is not one of those times. I mean, what would college football be without the annual BCS drama and March Madness disputes? Sure, my beloved Syracuse University Orange was wrongfully snubbed from "the tourney," but so were the "Drexels" and "Air Forces" of the country. Although I am compelled to ask "Why were these teams snubbed?" I have accepted the fact that this is really a blessing in disguise.

In previous years, 20 victories were usually code for "welcome to the 'Big Dance.'" The record for number of teams with 20-plus wins was 78. 2006-2007 shattered that record. The 104 teams with this criterion was insanely large.

But so what?

Duke, North Carolina, Arizona, Kansas, and most of the other regulars are dancing this year, just as expected. There's nothing different about that. What is different is that teams like UNLV (7 seed, 30-7 record), Virginia Commonwealth (11 seed, 27-6 record), and Old Dominion (12 seed, 24-8 record) can really lead to an interesting tournament.

Of course, by "interesting" I really mean they are going to play the role of "Bracket Busters," while making for an incredibly entertaining postseason.

But, hey, with an overall increase in the talent level of teams making the tournament, wouldn't you rather see more entertaining basketball than get

a few different spots in your bracket correct? Maybe most of us would rather have a good bracket, but it's still a good trade-off.

The irony behind this year's NCAA tourney may be that six of the top eight teams are still remaining, despite barely surviving on more than a couple of occasions.

As March rolls around, filling out a bracket has become instinctive. All of us, from the classroom to the corner office (or even the secretary's desk) have continued to follow this annual tradition.

Even if the teams competing change, one thing remains true: we always try and predict the obscure upsets.

However, this year, guessing the right one might have been a bit difficult, seeing that there have not really been too many.

So why is this year different from all other years? There are no "George Masons," no major "Cinderellas," no major upsets. But isn't this the way the tourney is supposed to unfold? Despite these changes from the games of previous years, these current matches have still encompassed the meaning of "madness" and have been wildly entertaining.

So as we prepare for the Final Four and the national championship, let's take a second to reflect on the road teams have taken to get there, because trust me, it has definitely been a bumpy one. Every game in the Elite Eight was decided by ten or fewer points, and five of the eight games were decided by five or fewer.

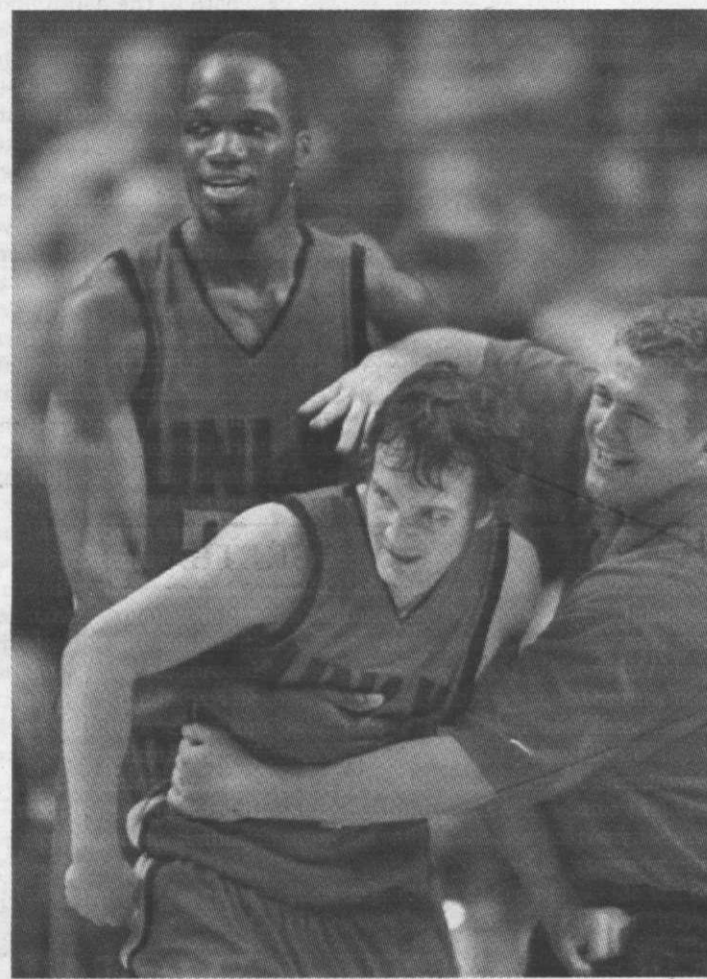
Honestly, who could possibly have predicted that UNLV was going to get as far as they did? Even if you did pick

them in your bracket (and not pull the old switch-a-roo/pencil eraser trick), then there's no saying you are going to be as successful next year, because the capriciousness of this tournament is, essentially, why it is so entertaining.

Although many things in the wild world of sports are unpredictable, there is one thing that is always guaranteed: March will always supply a substantial amount of "madness." And sure, some of us watch the tourney for the pure enjoyment of basketball, but in reality, almost all of us watch it for the madness (à la Ohio State's nail-biting performances).

In a year where the NCAA tournament is more unpredictable than ever, "diaper dandies" are taking center stage, and it's not "all about the 'Dukies.'" March

Madness has once again lived up to its name (even if your team was knocked off by: insert "Cinderella" here).



UNLV senior Kevin Kruger after he sank the most important three-pointer of his career as the seven-seed Runnin' Rebels defeated two-seeded Wisconsin to advance to the Sweet 16 of the 2007 NCAA Tournament.

Out of Bounds and going "mad" in March

BY David Becker
Assistant News Editor

Previously in my illustrious career here in Sports, I've discovered the importance of change, fitness gym and a succinct list of things Ms. Bonanno was missing in her retirement.

This considered, reporting on the similarities between March Madness and the Oscars was something that my audience (Mrs. Salemsen's husband and the Pond family) certainly would be able to stomach. The question at hand was, would I?

Make a list: check it twice

Brackets, brackets, brackets! The science of "bracketology" (I swear you can't make stuff like this up), has been employed not only by testosterone-driven colleagues and peons, but also by the girls at the Fantasy Fashion League

(I swear you can't make stuff like this up), who dole out points for those who are the most astute at spotting trends and guessing who will wear which ones from whom at various award shows.

Blue fish, gold fish, young fish, old fish

Have you noticed that every team in the Elite Eight wears blue in their uniform, except for Ohio State and Oregon? This is because blue is in. Additionally, on the Oscar red carpet, blue was on Kirsten Dunst and Emily Blunt.

Gold, however, is more out of style than Judith Reagan. While gold may have been the color of the ideal accessory of the Oscars, it was not part of the ideal ensemble. I mean, look at Georgia Tech, they got eliminated in the first round. What was their color? Gold. Notre Dame got eliminated in the

first round. What tint did their jersey flash? That was gold. The wavelength ruining college basketball teams across the nation is gold.

Parallel this to Jennifer Hudson, who swiftly swapped her auric de La Renta bolero for a red ensemble. In the film *Dreamgirls*, Eddie Murphy's character, James Thunder Early, claimed to be the first of the Motown singers to wear shiny clothes. "Gold is shiny, baby," he said of the lightning bolt on his jacket. Gold is shiny, Eddie, but so is the Oscar that Alan Arkin stole from you for Best Supporting Actor.

You matter, and not just because you're the Time Person of Year

"This year we're going to celebrate the nominees," opened DeGeneres at this year's Oscars. "Every other year we celebrate the winners." It's true. Kate Winslet's fifth nomination has

her as the youngest to be nominated five times, and we have bracketed her in for bright prospects ahead from this eternal, spotless muse of the geniuses. Fellow *Titanic* actor Leonardo DiCaprio also has us guessing when his turn will come. Let's not forget adorable Abigail Breslin of *Little Miss Sunshine* fame.

The NCAA has shown us that even if you get your face bashed in by a Duke player, you're still a legend. At least Tyler Hansbrough of UNC is. There is light at the end of the catscan for Hansbrough. Kevin Durant is also a bright young thing in the Madness, who is considering going into the NBA. They're considering taking him, despite his team's loss. Randolph Morris signed with the Knicks even as the Kentucky Wildcats team submerged.

In conclusion, NCAA is the sweaty Oscars. It's competitive. It involves bracketological skills. It's blue, and not gold. It's honored to be nominated.

2006-07 Winter Sports Awards

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

MVP
Chris Ryder

MIP
Ryan Goldstein

Coach's Award
Justin Sze

All County/Player of the Year
Chris Ryder

All Conference
Jeremy Gurewitz

BOYS JV I BASKETBALL

Coach's Award
Mark Brewster
Zachary Kriftcher

BOYS JV II BASKETBALL

Coach's Award
Daniel Levinson
Nicholas Omeltchenko

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

MVP
Christina Carrington

MIP
Samantha Reichenbach

Coach's Award
Michelle Doscas
Filiz Kipcakli

All Conference
Christina Carrington
Filiz Kipcakli

All Division
Samantha Reichenbach

Scholar Athlete
Emlyn Diakow

GIRLS JV BASKETBALL

Coach's Award
Perri Goldstein
Stephanie Weinberg

BOYS VARSITY BOWLING

MVP
Christopher Solomita

MIP
Kevin Stross

Coach's Award
Maxwell Cohen
Colin Kerr

BOYS JV BOWLING

Coach's Award
Joshua Schneider-Weiler

GIRLS VARSITY BOWLING

MVP
Alyssa Epstein

MIP
Ani Levine

GIRLS VARSITY GYMNASTICS

MVP
Nina Zorfass

Coach's Award
Amanda Grieco
Angelica Kapsis
Carrie Morea

BOYS VARSITY SWIMMING

MVP
Ivan Bandovic

MIP
Matthew Epstein

Coach's Award
John Forman
Matt Mondragon

BOYS WINTER TRACK

MVP
Richard Schmitz

MIP
Matthew Wolfe

Coach's Award
Marco Bertolotti

All Conference & All County
Shotput
Arnold Donado

Conference Champion
1 Mile
Marco Bertolotti

Conference Champion
1000 Meter
Richard Schmitz

All Conference
1 Mile
Richard Schmitz

County Champion
1 Mile
Richard Schmitz

County Champion
1000 Meter
Richard Schmitz

FENCING (INDEPENDENTS)

First Team All County
& All Long Island
Travis Pereira

All County Honorable Mention
Sabre
David Ehrlich

All County Honorable Mention
Epee
Aaron Silverstein

GIRLS WINTER TRACK

MVP
Ogechi Abara

MIP
Astrid Firland-Schill

Coach's Award
Marissa Fox
Lianna Gordon
Victoria Kasselmann
Carolyn Voelker

Conference Champion
Astrid Firland-Schill

All Conference
Astrid Firland-Schill

All Conference
55 Meter Hurdles
Victoria Kasselmann

All Conference
600 Meter
Meghan Byrnes

All Conference
High Jump
Ogechi Abara

All Conference
Shot Put
Ogechi Abara

BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING

Outstanding Wrestler
Anthony Corbo
John Froccaro

MIP
Jason Rau

Coach's Award
Ryan Castro
Silvio DiLucia

5 Year Athlete Award
Silvio DiLucia

County Champion
John Froccaro

Conference Champion
Anthony Corbo
John Froccaro

All Conference
Larry Baglio
Anthony Corbo
Silvio DiLucia
John Froccaro
Michael Horvilleur
Jason Rau
Brian Savran
John Steadman
Cody White

BOYS JV WRESTLING

Coach's Award
Alex Ferro

BLUE & WHITE

NIGHT 2007

BY David Becker
Assistant News Editor

At Blue and White Night, the annual civil war of woman versus woman was fought this year under the guise of animated male figures: Aladdin and the Mario Brothers. Nearly 200 female students boomed war chants to each other on either side of the gymnasium, and, thanks to Cablevision, the revolution was televised.

The event was also streamlined into a sleek eighty minutes, down from last year's two hour performance. There were only two skits per team: one that heralded the beginning of the dances and one that punctuated the end. This year, \$7,000 was raised in tickets, up from the \$6,000 dollars raised last year. The money went to the American Cancer Society's branch for thyroid cancer, a choice inspired by the fact that one sophomore dancer struggled with the illness.

If your TiVo happened to catch this event, you would notice that apart from length, this year was a toned down photocopy of last year's Blue and White Night. Some moves, such as the cartwheels performed by junior Brittany Sutton and sophomore Kelsey Siegel were carried over from last Blue and White Night and repeated this year. Also similar to last year, there was only one male dancer, senior Andrew Cuthill. Like last year's sole male competitor, Cris Min, Cuthill found himself wearing gangster-style clothing and dancing to rap. Foreign exchange student Lena Bremer from Germany was replaced with this year's Canadian beauty, sophomore Marie-Pier Desmeules. The Genies replaced the Catwomen as the dance that required their music to be repeated not twice, but three times due to technical errors. As with last year, the

winning team of the night was Blue with a one point difference that upset the "every-other" winning pattern of the last 12 years.

In the Blue team's skit, Princess Peach, senior Gayle Krebs, was kidnapped and required the rescuing of Mario and Luigi, fellow seniors Lauren Brown and Suse Vigilis respectively. The skit received the higher score of the evening, with forty-three points out of a possible forty-five.

Cuthill was featured in the first dance with Team Luigi, led by seniors Cherraya Nixon and Jamila Reid. The team gyrated, interlocked arms and even did a step routine to the music of J.Lo and Lil' Jon. Tank tops with silk-screened images of Luigi and green shorts were utilized to give the effect of the Nintendo protagonist. Despite the costuming effort, the team was given one of the lowest scores, 15 out of a possible 20. Dancers speculate that the female adult judges did not appreciate the mildly suggestive moves of the team.

"Bowser, for whom?" was the next question on the audience's lips as the anticipated performance from Team Bowser, led by juniors Maria and Rita Catapano, commenced. The captains went to painstaking heights to achieve the look of the Bowser character. With copper tank tops, yellow shirts, and green short shorts with orange studded belts, Bowser was the most intricate of the costumes. In addition to the calf-high boots and biker gloves, the girls accessorized with rhinestones, which were encrusted into their green and yellow face paint. The team received a total of 17 points for its work.

The Trippin' Toads performed next. Led by seniors Katrina Saidai and Javiera Venegas, the dance celebrated hip-hop music with tiger-fast reflexes. For their efforts the team received a score of 17 points.

Following the Toads was Team Mario with captains seniors Sabrina Cutaia and Lara Kovant. The team led a pack of raging suspender-donning dancers and earned a total of 16 points. Costumes included black solos with red t-shirts and red and white trucker hats.

The last dance of the blue-hued portion of the evening was the Princess Peach dance led by juniors Kristiana Ressa and Ruthie Smith. Wearing tiaras, pink and white striped shirts with puffed sleeves, with pink skirts worn over matching leggings, Team Peach danced to songs such as "What a Feeling" by Pete Dinklage. What a feeling, indeed, as the team received the highest score of all the Blue dances with 18 points.

When the blue presentation came to a close, white skit took the stage in a presentation that would mirror the risqué nature of the content present in last year's skit. The white team's act revolved around the rivalry between Aladdin, played by senior Emily Mottahedeh, and his twin brother Schmaladdin, played by junior Amanda Neilan. The skit, which featured senior Jocie



David Baer

Senior captains Mallory Beberman and Randi Bushell start their dance with an intricate formation. Their team, the Jasmines, earned a score of 16 out of 20 with a fast-paced dance.

Klemes as Jasmine and sophomore Meghan Ingersoll as the genie, was moving briskly until a large clock, bearing the time 4:20 was run around the gymnasium by a member of the white skit. Additionally, one line referred to senior Rachel Bosswick as a "sexual predator."

"I understand that Blue and White night attracts a large audience of many ages, but the truth is that a little bit of controversy is never bad," said Mottahedeh, who justified calling Bosswick a "sexual predator" by saying that she cleared the line about Bosswick with her and her mother. About the 4:20 clock, which currently resides over supervisor Ms. Susan Gombert's desk, Mottahedeh says that she saw a clock with the time 4:20 on the television show, *The Simpsons*.

However, questions were raised as to whether or not the 4:20 on the clock was actually referring to the date 4/20, which is known to some as a day to celebrate and smoke marijuana. Whatever the case, the white skit was viewed by some members of the audience as being in poor taste.

The first white team dance of the evening was Team Jafar led by seniors Sarah Lifson and Annie Schechter. The dance began with a kickline of dancers with canes who later threw them to the crowd and started faster paced dancing. The costumes of Team Jafar included conservative shrugs that the girls later tilted to the side to look like an eighties workout uniform. The girls did this in time to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" in one of the creative highlights of the night. Despite this touch, the team received the lowest white score of 15.

"I had a 102 degree fever and my doctor told me not to dance," said sophomore Andrea Ortega. "So I don't feel so guilty about not doing well."

After that, Team Rajah performed. Led by junior captains Emily Ledner and Emily Liss, the team wore leopard-

striped patches on black T-shirts to represent Princess Jasmine's favorite feline friends. They received a score of 17 points. Team Aladdin, led by seniors Sara Condi and Maia Rowland performed their bhangra-themed dance to some belly-dancing music. The outfits included little hats as seen in the Disney film, with white tank tops and purple vests. The team received a score of 17 points.

Seniors Randi Bushell and Mallory Beberman and their team of Jasmines went next, receiving a score of 16 points, sporting golden leggings and gold shoes. Playing the love interest of Aladdin, they used a distinctly turquoise color palette to separate themselves from Team Genie.

The last team to perform was Team Genie, led by the only sophomore captain of the evening, Amanda Ostrove. Their performance included salsa dancing as well as more "crunk" styling. The team's music failed to play through after two tries, so the team yielded for the closing blue skit and then gave the music one last shot. While Ms. Gombert insisted that the girls simply leave their dance half-danced, Ostrove and co-captain senior Alex Mogul refused. The third time proved to be a charm, but not for sophomore Hannah Yoon who was exhausted after performing more than five hand-free back flips by the end of the night.

As the night came to a close, and the lights came up to reveal the faces of friends, parents and even Schreiber teachers, it became evident how many people attend Blue and White Night each year.

"Port Washington has a reputation for being isolated from the rest of Long Island," said M. Catapano, who is glad that Cablevision will be airing the event. "Other schools will get to see the type of school spirit we have and the talent that exists!"



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Junior captain Kristiana Ressa sits on sophomore Lindsey Mondragon's shoulder at the end of their dance.