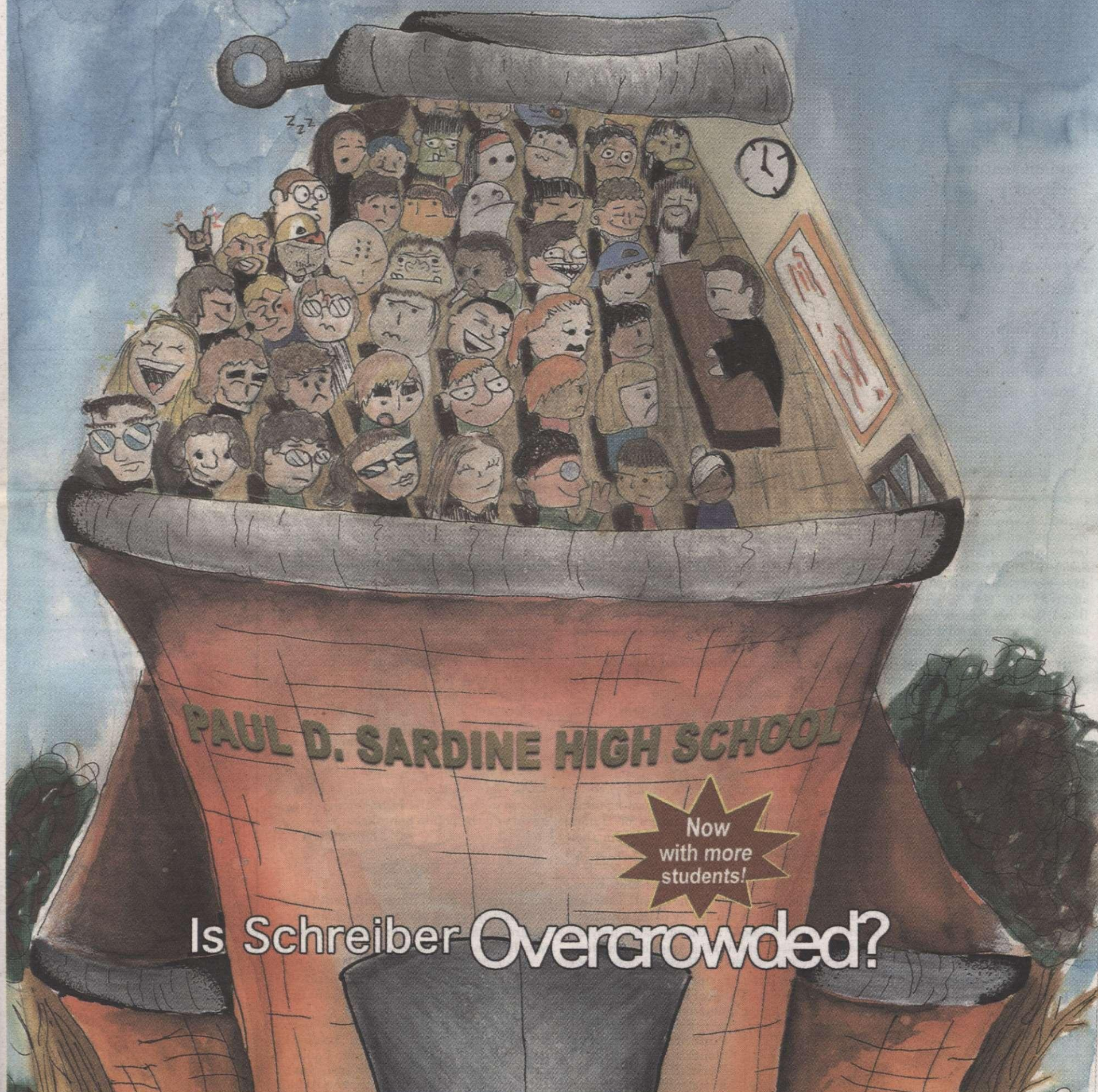


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THE SCHREIBER TIMES

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



**Fall Musical is
Anything but Plain**
A&E



**Cross Country
Ninth in State**
Sports

Are Teens Politically Apathetic?
Opinions
Staph Infections Ravage Long Island
News

IN THIS ISSUE...

NEWS.

Staph infection p. 3
"Rock and Wrap it Up!" p. 4
Weather station p. 4

OPINIONS.

Forgiveness p. 6
Feminism p. 6
Teenage voting p. 7

FEATURES.

Wellness policy p. 11
Student feature p. 14
Facebook philanthropy p. 14

A&E.

Scrubs p. 16
American Gangster p. 17
Landmark concert p. 18

SPORTS.

Varsity tennis p. 22
"Offseason or season?" p. 23
Cross country p. 24



This depiction of dancing figures by AP Studio Art senior Willa Jones is a study of the human figure in motion. Separated by a curtain, the rudimentary figures in the foreground represent male dancers, while the covered figures in the background represent females.

NEWS BRIEFS

Annual Blood Drive

According to the New York Blood Center, "Cancer and surgery patients, accident and trauma victims, newborn babies, and many others—close to 2,000 people in our area every single day—need blood transfusions just to survive." On Nov. 9, the Long Island Blood Services hosted the first of two yearly Schreiber blood drives in the new gym.

Twenty-seven faculty and staff and 98 students were able to donate their blood to the blood bank. Some were prevented from donating blood as a result of factors such as recent travels and the medications that they take. Overall, 125 pints of blood were donated this year, as compared to the 106 pints of blood that were collected in 2005.

School nurses Ms. Susan Gombert and Ms. Ellen Lindsay organized the blood drive. Their initial goal was to collect 160 pints of blood, yet this goal proved unattainable as only 147 total people signed up to donate during the blood drive.

"Although I was originally nervous to donate blood, I found the overall experience to be rewarding, because I knew others would benefit from it," said senior Dominique Ruiz.

However, some students experienced negative side effects after they donated.

Some felt light-headed and dizzy, while others suffered from nausea. In an attempt to limit such side effects, juice and snacks were provided for all donors.

"We appreciate the help of students and staff who went out of their way to donate their blood," said Ms. Gombert.

The next blood drive is scheduled to occur sometime in the spring.

-Lauren Effune

Multicultural Day

Students sampled a spread of foods from different cultures during Multicultural Day, hosted by the Human Relations Club. The event took place after school in the main lobby on Nov. 15. Although the event traditionally took place at night, the club lacked the funding necessary for an evening affair. For the occasion, members of Human Relations Club cooked food from their own heritages and brought it in for sale at school.

The Human Relations club raised \$100 for charity at the event. They will donate all of the money to the Children's Health Fund, a charity that provides medical attention to American children.

The Human Relations Club also works toward cultural awareness in Schreiber. The goal of the event was to teach other Schreiber students about

cultures and ways of life other than their own. After the fundraiser, Human Relations donates all of the money to selected charities. In recent years, the Port Washington School District has donated thousands to this charity, working toward buying a fully equipped mobile medical unit.

Biscotti, fried rice and challah were available for students to sample, along with foods from Spain, Japan and Scotland.

"We are really trying to inform people about different cultures," said club member sophomore Liz Corteselli.

Most of the funds were collected right after school ended, although the members of the Sports Night teams pitched in along with other athletes and passers by. Although a large variety of foods were sold, the best-selling foods proved to be the Italian waif cookies, the sushi and the potato pancakes.

-Laura Werle

ERRATA

The Oct. 2007 issue misidentified a girls volleyball player as sophomore Andrea Cambitsis. The actual player was freshman Samantha Milhaven.

The Oct. 2007 issue did not identify junior Eleah Burman as a participant in the One Acts.

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Port adapts hygiene measures in response to national pandemic

Gym locker rooms cleaned out to reduce risk of MRSA infection

BY Ryohei Ozaki

Assistant News Editor

This year Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA, has encouraged the district to step up its schools' sanitary precautions. MRSA bacteria cause difficult-to-treat infections in humans. Although "Staph infections" are common, this strain of bacteria is resistant to certain types of antibiotics. Although no schools in the district have reported MRSA infections in their students, a cleaning staff sanitized both the male and female gym locker rooms to ensure the safety of students.

Scientists speculate that MRSA, or the "superbug" as deemed by the press, may cause a pandemic on the same scale if not wider as that of AIDS. Despite the severity of symptoms as a result of the infection, MRSA is easier to prevent than other bacterial illnesses. This strain of *S. aureus* is surprisingly not new. MRSA has been around since the 80s, but has not entered school buildings until recently. The administration sent letters home to each student in the district, warning their parents about the potential threat.

The school nurses are prepared to meet the threat. The nurses' office cannot facilitate the necessary

equipment to help victims of MRSA. Students, if infected, would be sent immediately to a physician. The nurses want to spread awareness of both the infection's severity and prevention methods considering the school does not have the medications to treat the illness.

"Teachers are advised to report any unusual wounds they see on students. It's our duty to stress the need for awareness of the threat to the students," said nurse Ms. Susan Gombert.

Schreiber is trying to improve the school's cleanliness by frequently sanitizing high-risk areas such as the gym, bathrooms, and nurses' office. During the week of Oct. 21, students had to clean out their gym lockers, one of the high-threat areas, so that they could be disinfected over that weekend. The first stage of the spraying took place on Saturday as was planned. However, students were not informed that the second phase would take place that Monday evening.

Physical education teachers and nurses are addressing the MRSA threat to students. Students often leave clothes that they wore during class in their lockers for weeks. The type of environment created by this is ideal for MRSA bacteria, as well as other pathogens.

"People should not share clothing,

drinks, food, or even sneakers. Students really have to take home their clothing to wash," said physical education teacher Ms. Nancy Klotz.

Due to the awareness aroused in the student body, other cases of severe illnesses such as meningitis and mononucleosis may be decreased. Creating hygienic conditions in the school will be beneficial to all students.

"In a way, having students heighten their awareness helps them to live a healthy lifestyle by improving their self-hygiene," said Ms. Klotz.

Those who had gym on Oct. 29 put their belongings back in their lockers thinking their valuables and clothes were safe. The next morning, in front of the boys' gym locker rooms was a pile of everyone's clothing. Only the boys' locker room was cleaned out that Monday evening.

The physical education teachers were just as upset as the students were as they were forced to use their class time to sort through the mound of shoes and clothes. It was announced that the clothing that was not reclaimed would be donated to charity.

The district informed Schreiber parents that student athletes are more prone to infection than other students due to their travel to many different schools. On the letter sent out by the school were procedures students could

follow to minimize their chances of infection.

The Director of Pupil Personnel, Kathleen Mooney, advised that students should maintain "...good personal hygiene," and to

•Keep hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand cleaner.

•Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.

•Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.

•Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors."

Furthermore, the website for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) explains that in healthy individuals, the infection shouldn't be extremely difficult to treat. Despite the efforts that the school is making to maintain a hygienic environment, many students are inherently afraid of MRSA.

"I know that certain safety precautions are being taken, but I still don't feel completely safe around the bathrooms and locker rooms," said sophomore Kristin Cantele. Schreiber's medical staff members are working to have students feel safe at school. Much of this consists of individual students taking measures to stay sanitized.

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GenocideAwarenessDay@gmail.com

Any questions, please see Erin Szulman
or Mr. Begun in the Social Studies
Resource Room

Charity food smells of teen spirit thanks to *Rock and Wrap-ers* Students and new food service director implement charity sustenance program

BY Sidney Ginsberg
Features Editor

Schreiber is the first high school in the country to participate in Rock and Wrap It Up!, an organization whose mission is to end poverty by feeding the hungry with recovered edible leftover food.

The organization started on Long Island seventeen years ago when founders Mr. Syd Mandelbaum and Ms. Sandy Chapin decided to expand their anti-hunger organization, Long Island Cares. They partnered with the production coordinators at Jones Beach, and began collecting the leftover food at concerts.

Since then, Rock and Wrap It Up! has gained partnership with many Long Island high schools. Rock and Wrap It Up! takes donated food from bands, colleges, sports teams, and even homes and gives it to local soup kitchens, shelters and community centers. Jack Johnson, the Mets, the Yankees, Walmart, and Fordham University have all participated.

Both the Republican and Democratic National Committees have also donated almost sixty pounds of food to Rock and Wrap It Up! on past election nights as part of the Anti-Poverty Congressional Initiative.

Rock and Wrap It Up! is being conducted with the help of a smaller committee within Key Club. Members, juniors Josh Greenberg and Brennan Spreitzer have been collecting food from the cafeteria every Wednesday, wrapping up food from lunch or breakfast during

the previous week.

Several parents and Key Club students volunteer to assist Greenberg and Spreitzer every week. The donated food from the schools is loaded into a student or parent's car and transported to a local community center, or church, where it has been either distributed or picked up by families.

Rock and Wrap It Up! is made possible by Mr. Alan Levin, the food service director for the Port Washington School District. This is Mr. Levin's first year in the Port Washington School District. Mr. Levin's company has a contract with the school district, asking him to work with Rock and Wrap It Up!

"Even if Rock and Wrap It Up! wasn't

in my contract, I would still participate in it," said Levin.

All five elementary schools, Weber Middle School, and Schreiber have agreed to donate extra or leftover food to Rock and Wrap It Up!, even though the middle school and high schools each donate more food than the elementary schools combined.

The elementary schools have employed lunch counts which estimate the number of students who buy lunch each day and produce that number plus five to ten more portions, just in case.

In a typical week, Schreiber will donate 70 containers of milk, and 50 loaves of bread, along with a leftover meat product, like chicken nuggets. The food donated by Schreiber and other Port Washington schools would otherwise be thrown out.

Organizations such as Long Island Cares, Food Share, and Rock and Wrap It Up!, which collect food, are becoming more effective and successful due to legislation passed by the United States Department of Agriculture. These programs encourage schools to provide more choices for student lunches.

Because schools are encouraged to provide more lunch choices for students, cafeterias must provide a larger variety and a larger amount of food. Subsequently, there is a surplus of food, fueling these programs.

With the introduction of the Rock and Wrap It Up! program this year, Schreiber can provide a larger variety of food choices to its students, ranging from panini to sushi, while avoiding fear of excessive food-waste.



David Yedid

Juniors Brennan Spreitzer and Josh Greenberg pose with Mr. Alan Levin, director of the Port Washington food service. The two students have coordinated and regulated the implementation of *Rock and Wrap It Up!* at Schreiber during Mr. Levin's first year working for the district. Here, the students hold a package of bagged cafeteria food which will be distributed by RWU's food collection center to poverty-stricken Long Islanders.

Sutton is "Top Fundraiser" Sophomore raised over \$10,000 for cancer

BY Maria Catapano
Staff Writer

Sophomore Jordan Sutton was honored this September after raising over \$10,000 for cancer research through Relay for Life last June. Of that, Sutton raised \$9,256 by means of his online homepage connected to the American Cancer Society's site.

Sutton earned the title of Port Washington's Top Fund Raiser, raising more money than any party involved in the Schreiber-sponsored Relay for Life.

Sutton's participation in Relay for Life was motivated by a suggestion from health teacher, Ms. Pat Kosiba.

"Ms. Kosiba made me feel like my efforts could make a difference," said Sutton.

Another impetus for Jordan Sutton's fundraising drive was the death of his cousin Jessie, who was four years old when he died of bone marrow cancer.

"I realized that my family and I had to be active in spreading awareness, of the importance of health and cancer research," said Sutton.

Sutton himself organized and put together a Relay for Life team, emailing

everyone he knew for the donations that would eventually enable him to reach this goal.

According to him, the money was raised rapidly.

Sutton was named the founder and first member of the Port Washington community's "Ten Grand Club," and

"I realized that my family and I had to be active in spreading awareness, of the importance of health and cancer research," said Sutton.

Sutton plans to continue raising money for Relay for Life.

"I'm looking forward to topping my previous total this coming year in Relay for Life 2008," said Sutton. "I'm going to include more people, raise more money and make a bigger difference."

Weather station installed Port is informed via school radio program

BY David Yedid
Staff Writer

Business teacher Dr. Chris Haring installed Port Washington's first local weather station at Schreiber this September. The Port Washington Education Foundation covered the installation costs of the station. Dr. Haring wrote the grant for the weather station.

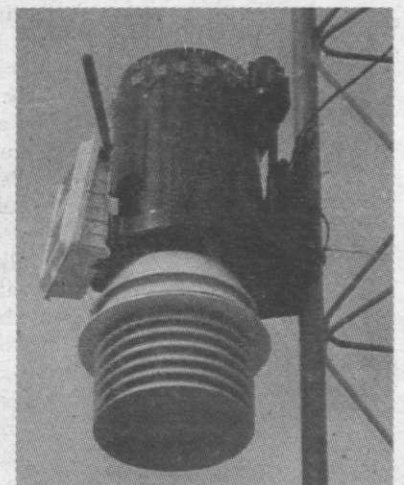
The purpose of the weather station is to inform all residents of the weather and to complement the Earth Science, Radio, and Advanced Web Design curricula. The information, which is also posted on the station's website, concerns wind speed and direction, humidity, dew point, temperature and rain.

The station's data are updated every ten minutes. The measurements are very precise, offering graphs and tables of useful data, measuring rain to one hundredth of an inch. It is located 20 feet above the roof of Schreiber, to obtain the most accurate weather readings. It is operated by a central "sensor suite" along with wind cups and an anemometer. The data collected are then sent by radio transmitter to two consoles, one located in the science wing, used for earth science classes, and the other located in the busi-

ness education wing.

The weather station's listeners can contact the software writers who invented the weather station's software, and e-mail them suggestions and comments.

"Just log in and check out the weather. It's a fun project," said Dr. Haring. "I'm glad the PWEF is able to reach out to a broad range of people and the community."



www.portweather.net

One of the recent additions to the weather station is the above device, which deters birds from perching.

Point Counterpoint

Are Freshman Guidance Groups at all necessary?

BY Allison Rosenberg

Contributing Writer

Every incoming Schreiber freshman is automatically placed into a small group, that meets once a cycle for 30 minutes, to discuss school-related issues. Scary? Not at all! These groups are led by juniors and seniors and are quite laidback. The Freshman Guidance Program, also known as "Peer Helpers," provides freshmen with invaluable resources (free of charge!). As with any program, however, there are ways in which it can be improved. Freshman Guidance helps freshmen acclimate to their new environment. As any student will admit, adjusting to the Schreiber lifestyle can be a scary process. Everything is different, from homework, to room numbers, to cafeteria food. Peer Helpers introduce and explain topics that upperclassmen take for granted and that freshmen find confusing, such as the 4-1/4-2 structure of lunch periods. Without having to take the time out of their schedules to make a trip to the guidance counselor, freshmen are introduced to a variety of subjects helpful in beginning their Schreiber career.

Through Peer Helpers, freshmen have access to a unique academic resource. They can ask questions regarding certain teachers or school policies without being judged by an adult, and receive honest answers from experienced students. Freshmen can obtain information about the layout of the school and advice about how to approach teachers for extra help. In answering their questions, Peer Helpers can draw on personal experience with a specific teacher or issue, providing relevant and useful information for the freshman's situation.

Freshmen can also get information about social life at Schreiber, which can differ from experiences in Weber. They can ask questions on issues from peer pressure to partying and receive the truth from seasoned Schreiber veterans, all of whom were in their shoes two or three years previously.

This closeness in age allows for a candor that one is unlikely to find in a teacher or a guidance counselor. Peer Helpers are not bound to certain rules that come with being employed by the school, or the unwritten laws of talking about a colleague; a senior can easily reveal that [insert teacher's name here] is better approached in the afternoon.

The Freshman Guidance program builds connections between freshmen and upperclassmen. For the freshmen, in a strange and often overwhelming environment, their Peer Helpers are new friends and familiar faces. Even after Freshman Guidance ends, the Peer Helper can provide anything from advice in times of stress to a smile in the hallway. The program sets grounds

for the formation of relationships that can last the rest of the time the Peer Helper and the freshman are both in high school, and potentially beyond.

Freshman Guidance also provides a way for freshmen to better acquaint themselves with their classmates. Through games and discussions, freshmen interact in a small group setting, allowing those who had not known each other previously to meet.

Even with the aforementioned benefits, the program is seen by some as boring and a waste of time. As a past freshman participant, I can see where these descriptions come from; some of the games tend to be repetitive and generic. Yet, this does not cancel out the program's benefits. However, as always, there are ways that the program can be improved. In order to make the Freshman Guidance curriculum more appealing, greater responsibility should be given to the Peer Helpers. In accepting positions as group leaders, it should be mandatory that they create original plans for each session, using games and activities in which the freshmen are willing to get involved.

Nonetheless, the program is undoubtedly an asset. "The Peer helper groups are a really good experience for both the freshmen in them and the upperclassmen who run them," said senior Peer Helper Mara Hollander. "It's great for the freshman to have a resource about Schreiber, and it's fun for us to meet new students."

BY Daniel Bialer

Contributing Writer

Throughout the first quarter of school every freshman is required to spend one lunch period per cycle at Freshman Guidance Group. Freshman Guidance Groups are meetings of approximately 15-20 students, two or three of which are juniors or seniors who convene to discuss problems that freshman may encounter during their first year at Schreiber. The group covers hot topics such as bullying, workload, school layout, and the difficulties of the transition from middle school to high school. The main purpose of the guidance groups is to help the freshmen adjust to life as high-school students.

Though the groups are intended to be helpful, many feel that they are actually rather useless. After the first week or two, many freshmen feel that there is no point in spending one of their lunch periods at guidance.

"Being asked the same questions six weeks in a row serves no purpose," said freshman Tommy Doyle. "A lot of freshmen look at guidance groups as a waste of time."

Not only would many freshmen prefer to spend their lunch periods with their friends, but after a long morning of classes most do not feel up to playing "icebreakers" for half an hour. Furthermore, some students have no off periods other than lunch and would prefer to use their time more wisely; for example, many students who

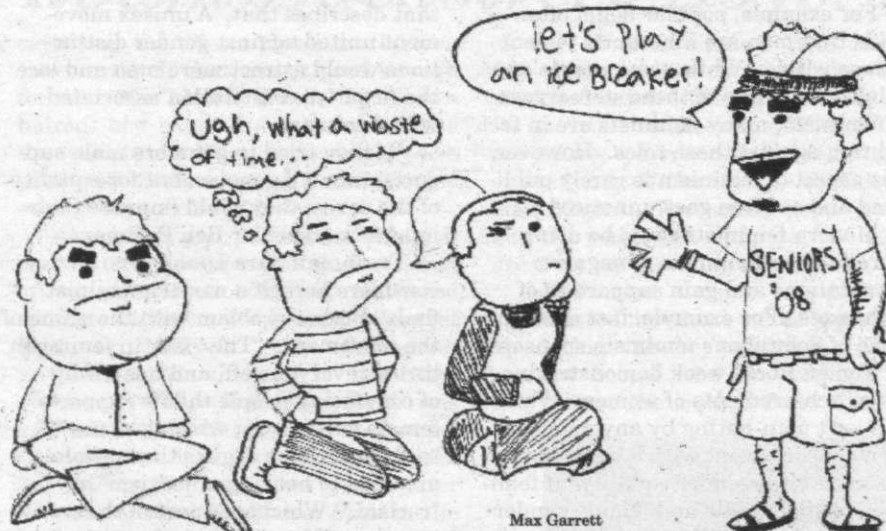
participate in extracurricular activities need their lunch periods to study or do homework. Some feel that they need a rest during a seven-hour-long day in order to maintain concentration during afternoon courses. Without some time spent the way they choose, students feel the school day is tiresome and less enjoyable.

Perhaps the solution is not to get rid of Freshman Guidance Groups entirely, but simply to lessen the number of sessions. After the first few weeks of school, freshmen are usually fairly well adjusted to Schreiber. Many feel that they no longer need to go to Freshman Guidance Groups because they are no longer learning anything new. When people start new jobs they don't want to feel like they are still in training after the first few weeks. They want to feel that they know what is going on. The same thing is true of high school freshmen. After the first few weeks, most students can function without the help of the guidance groups. Questions which were once helpful get tiring to hear and students just want to enjoy a normal lunch period.

Arguably, students can learn more about high school from sitting in the cafeteria than sitting in a classroom with 20 fellow freshman and a few seniors. Just sitting in the cafeteria during period 4-2 can show new freshmen how Schreiber students interact with each other and can teach students real life lessons about getting along with fellow freshmen and upperclassmen. Fending for oneself in the cafeteria or getting used to sitting outside during lunch teaches students practical lessons about Schreiber and can prepare them for a successful four years.

It is important to get to know your guidance counselor, but in a large group this almost never happens. Additionally, the information learned in Freshman Guidance Groups can easily be obtained and learned at home if desired. If there was a packet that freshmen could pick up and read, it would negate the need for more than a few sessions of Freshman Guidance Groups. Freshmen would most likely prefer this anyway, as a packet would allow them to skip over information they are already aware of and focus on what they want to know more about.

The bottom line is only a few weeks of guidance are necessary to obtain the most important information. There is no point in the upperclassmen repeating certain mantras until they have sore throats. Though many freshmen do acknowledge the use of guidance groups during their first weeks at Schreiber, there comes a point where guidance groups are repetitive and students begin to get annoyed. Though guidance groups need not be completely abolished, it would be best if their structure were revised.



Max Garrett

Schreiber Speaks

"I think that Freshman Guidance Groups are necessary but not for the entire quarter because after a few weeks you get the hang of things, learn the ropes of the school, and you're good to go."

-Julia Catalano, senior

"The Freshman Guidance Groups are not necessary, but they are a great way to meet upperclassmen."

-Emily Weinstock, junior

Are we obligated to forgive people for their sins?

BY Melis Emre

Opinions Editor

The best kinds of books and movies are those that leave you feeling profoundly disturbed after you've finished them. A little while ago, I was fortunate enough to stumble across a book that quite literally kept me up at night and monopolized my thoughts during the day. *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness* is an astounding story that poses numerous ethical questions and keeps the reader perpetually on the fence.

The story is taken from a chapter in the life of Simon Wiesenthal, the novel's author, who spent several years as a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp. Faced with unspeakable horrors on a day-to-day basis, Wiesenthal ponders the nature of man and questions the reality of what he sees.

One day while Wiesenthal is working in a hospital under the supervision of the Nazis, a nurse calls him in and asks him to follow her. Baffled, Wiesenthal is led to the room of a dying SS officer, an individual responsible for the deaths of hundreds of innocent people. The soldier, Karl, recounts his misdeeds to Wiesenthal in the dingy light of his hospital room, and as he finishes his tale of horror, asks Wiesenthal for forgiveness. Unable to decide what to do, Wiesenthal simply leaves the room without saying one word to Karl, and returns to the concentration camp. He later learns that Karl died shortly after his visit.

The most prominent theme in *The Sunflower* is the idea of guilt and, more specifically, forgiving the guilty party. More than anything, guilt proves difficult to place in this book. When

discussing the Holocaust, you would think it rather easy to blame those who murdered and tortured innocent people. Yet Wiesenthal does a wonderful job of making the reader really ponder the question: Who is guilty? Are only the perpetrators of a crime responsible? Or do all bystanders carry the weight of crimes on their shoulders? Moreover, should we forgive the guilty parties?

The purpose of *The Sunflower* is not to place blame on individuals. Certainly, Wiesenthal's aim is not to condemn Karl. Rather, Wiesenthal is attempting to point out how difficult it is to settle the questions of guilt and forgiveness due to the nature of man. Wiesenthal uses the story of Karl as proof of this proclamation. When he is

first called into Karl's room, Wiesenthal is (most understandably) resentful towards him. Yet as he hears Karl's tale and listens to the young Nazi repent, he is torn. Surely Wiesenthal still dislikes Karl, but he also pities him. On the one hand, Karl is a cold-blooded murderer. On the other, he is a young teenage boy who got caught up in something more powerful than him and realized his errors too late. It is easy to advocate either side. What Wiesenthal does is force the reader to ask themselves about circumstance. Do certain conditions warrant the committing of crimes? Or are some things simply unforgivable?

Another thing Wiesenthal is trying to shed light on is the subject of forgiveness. We are often urged to forgive and forget when we are wronged by others.

But what if one person wrongs another, (whom you've never met), and then asks you for forgiveness? Are you authorized to give it to them? Are a person's sins crimes against common

humanity?

Though forgiveness may seem like the right path, it is certainly not an easy one to take.

Look at your own

life. Undoubtedly, someone has done something that hurt you in one way or another (though hopefully not nearly to the same degree Karl harmed innocent people). If they apologized, did you or would you forgive them? And even if you did forgive them, should you simply pretend like nothing ever happened at all? Does the act of forgiving encompass forgetting as well?

"I think that everyone is capable of forgiving others for their sins," said junior Laura Bowles. "I know that some individuals do awful things, and if this was ever true of any group of people it would be true of the Nazis. But I still think that there is always the possibility for reform. Even though I would never forget Karl's misdeeds, I would still forgive him."

While some may feel the same way, others believe that forgiving is circumstantial; there are some acts that are so detrimental that, once committed, cannot be forgiven.

"I don't think I would ever be able to forgive someone who killed thousands of innocent people," said junior Ben Greene. "Besides, how could I burden myself by forgiving someone for the wrongs they committed against total strangers? It wouldn't be the right thing to do."

Though it is easy to say we would withhold forgiveness from someone, the truth is that when confronted with a person begging for mercy, simply walking away may be harder than expected. Simon Wiesenthal never makes clear whether or not he feels he made the right decision, and thus, he leaves the door wide open for debate. In the end, the question still remains; what would you do if you were in Wiesenthal's place?



Hayley Fuchs

Feminism's reputation may not be well deserved

BY Stefan Muller

Managing Editor

The formation of an active feminist group at Schreiber has lately stirred some controversy over the topic of feminism itself. Some students, male and female, believe that at least a fringe of the feminist movement is too radical, and dedicated more to condemning men than to promoting equality. Until recently, I'll admit that I was one of these people. However, after speaking to two students representing the club, I realized that even if some feminists believe women are superior to men, this is not part of the feminist movement.

"I think that most people who do label themselves 'feminists' would agree with me that it's not about man-hating. You always have extremists," said senior Kate Hughes.

"Feminism is about equality, so if one gender is superior to the other, then that's sexist," said senior Eliana Theodorou in agreement with Hughes.

Hughes and Theodorou helped found Schreiber's new Third Wave Feminist Club this year. According to Theodorou, "third wave feminism," the current phase of the movement, is focused on correcting gender roles not just for females, but for both genders.

"Feminism really applies to men as well, because there are many cases where men are affected by sexist as-

sumptions and social 'norms,'" said Theodorou.

For example, popular belief often holds that men are inherently violent or insensitive. While some people attribute the origin of these stereotypes to feminism, many feminists are in fact fighting against these roles. However, this aspect of feminism is rarely publicized and so often goes unnoticed.

Modern feminists could be doing more to clear feminism of negative connotations and gain supporters of both sexes. For example, last spring, some of Schreiber's feminists sponsored a "Women Rock" week demonstrating major achievements of women. While this isn't man-hating by any means, it seems inconsistent with a movement based on total gender equality. If feminism is about male and female gender roles, wouldn't a "Women and Men Rock Equally Week" showcasing both genders be more appropriate? Alternatively, feminism can remain a movement primarily based around women, as long as there are no objections to a separate movement opposed to male gender roles, since the two could work together to achieve a world free of gender-based distinctions and stereotypes.

Another source of confusion may be the name of the movement. Even if feminism is now dedicated to the correction of male and female gender roles, it is still called "feminism," a name that implies benefits only to females. If

feminism seeks to benefit people of both genders, perhaps it should have a name that describes that. A unisex movement united against gender distinctions would attract more men and lose the negative connotation associated with feminism.

"If they tried to get more male support, since it's a movement for equality of the sexes, they could improve their image," said senior Ben Perlman.

Freshman Sara Lyons, who considers herself a modern feminist, finds another problem with the name of the movement. "The '-ism' in feminism throws everyone off, and has a way of convincing people that it supports female superiority, which it doesn't," said Lyons, who argues that people are used to hearing of "sexism" or "racism." Whichever part of the word is responsible, the term "feminism" does sound as though it is emphasizing women over men, implying that the movement does this as well.

Maybe the difficulty is not the term but the definition of the term. Feminists themselves have different opinions on what feminism means. "Anyone who believes that people deserve equal rights and fair treatment regardless of their gender, and who acts and treats people according to those principles, is a feminist," said Theodorou.

"You need to take initiative," said Lyons about being a feminist. "Passive behavior doesn't count."

Hughes, though, takes a stance somewhere between these two. "You don't have to be taking action to be a feminist," said Hughes, "but I think that the difference is in who is just saying something to go along with what's normal...and who is willing to stand up and fight for that belief."

In the spring, the organizers of "Women Rock" week asked Schreiber students to give their definitions of feminism, resulting in a wide variety of answers. No "right" answer was given afterward. While feminists may have different beliefs about the movement, allowing many interpretations leaves the door open to those with negative, radical views of feminism to consider their definitions "right" as well.

Although it's certainly a high-tension issue, feminists should realize that people who don't consider themselves feminists, especially at Schreiber, probably don't feel that women are inferior to men. Similarly, others should remember that those who do consider themselves feminists almost certainly don't hate men. Two ways to ease these tensions permanently would be to form one movement that truly focuses equal attention on men and women or to have two movements, one for each gender. Some, on the other hand, are wary of making major changes. "I take pride in being a girl," said Hughes, "and I don't think its time to get rid of feminism any time soon."

Jesus really isn't all that funny

BY Meghan Doyle

Opinions Assistant Editor

I wasn't ever going to talk about my religion publically like this. In fact, I've avoided any confrontation with the subject matter of Jesus Christ. For almost four years I've simply listened to what everyone had to say about Christianity, and quite frankly, I'm sick and tired of all the Jesus bashing. I understand what people have to say. I know that in the past, some forms of Christianity have shown hypocrisy. But let's be realistic here, folks: every organized religion has a bad history that it does not take pride in. So please tell me, why is there all this hating on lovers of Christ? And why has He (Yes, I will capitalize that "H") become so comedic and hilarious to the American audience?

These days, it seems that every time I turn on the television, Jesus is a character on yet another comedy show. Popular shows such as South Park and Family Guy use Jesus in several episodes as a character of comic relief. I'm still boggled as to why He is so funny. I mean, is there really a need for His constant appearance on the shows? Surely, there are some other pretty ridiculous people in our country today that could seem hilarious to your average American audience. Jesus does not have to be one them.

"I'm not offended by the jokes. You make jokes about everything these days. It's not a big deal to make a joke about Jesus," said senior Nicole Lalena.

Some people are offended, though. I am one of them. I came to Schreiber after receiving six years of Catholic education. Coming to a public high school was a frightening transition.

Suddenly, I was in a classroom filled with students of various religious backgrounds, learning about the theory of evolution (gasp!) and the history of the church. Needless to say, I came home everyday wondering why I had never learned about the numerous belief systems that filled the hallways of my school. Still, I was proud to add to that diversity, even if diversity was an extremely foreign concept to me.

In tenth grade, I started to realize that not everyone was as enthusiastic as I was to learn about other students religious backgrounds. In fact, every time Christianity was brought up for discussion in class, there seemed to be only negative events associated with the religion. I noticed a popular clothing brand selling T-shirts with the slogan "Jesus is my homeboy" written across the chest. I became terribly confused when people who did not follow His teachings began sporting the shirts. Why was my God their

"homeboy"?

"The T-shirts are so disrespectful," said sophomore Nicholas Gardella. "Religious beliefs are sometimes the core of who a person is. It's a sensitive topic and shouldn't be seen as some big joke."

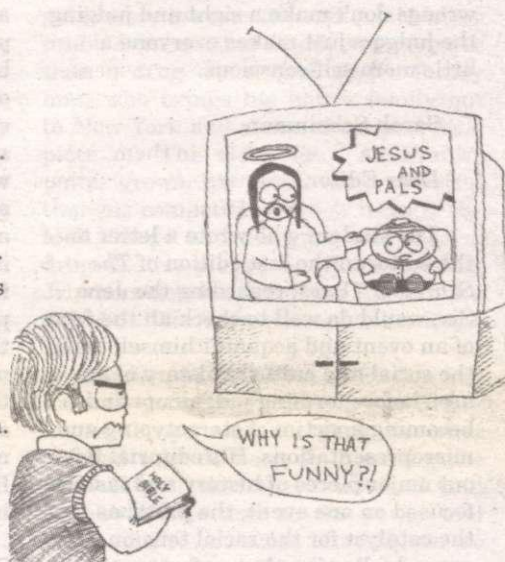
In one of my gym classes in tenth grade an older student started telling some infamous Jesus jokes. In fact, she told several people and myself that the purpose of her reading these jokes outloud, was to upset me. I still remember one of them. It went something like this:

"What's the difference between Jesus Christ and an oil painting?"

"You only need one nail to hold up a picture."

I'm still trying to make sense of it all and find some humor in the joke. Do people feel better about themselves when they make fun of someone for being part of a certain organization? I understand that people like to feel light hearted about such a serious topic. But if you know that someone is practicing their religion and cares deeply about it, then why not save the joke for someone who would doesn't?

Schreiber student body: this is a serious wake up call. THINK before you start to tell a joke that could be seriously offensive to another person. It is not okay for a student to feel unwanted or hated because they are a member of a certain religious group. Can we pride our school on being "accepting" if so many feel this way? Boys and girls, there is a this really swell thing that can exist in our world today if we let it. It's called "respect". And it can exist in Schreiber if we are willing to put aside our prejudiced jokes and start showing tolerance for people who are different than we are.



Age requirement hurts many teen voters

BY Erin Szulman

Editor-in-Chief

This years graduating class has a definite influence on national politics. Whether we choose to or not, we have the power to make decisions about what healthcare policy our officials ought to enact next or where the country should stand on torture. This power is mainly executed through our vote in the presidential election.

Hopefully I don't have to tell you about the potential you have in your fingertips for change. Our generation is being viewed as apathetic liberals who can't do more than click some website via Facebook to stop world hunger. I can understand why legislators deny us rights when we don't visibly use them in a positive, proactive manner.

Contrary to that view, in California, legislators are considering changing the voting age to 14. If this legislation were passed, the ballots of 14- and 15-year-olds would only count as one-quarter the adult vote, and 16- and 17-year olds would count for one-half. The primary argument in this discussion is unfair taxation without representation (social security payments and taxes on goods), yet it raises a larger, more interesting question. At what point are we responsible and educated enough for our opinions to matter?

Let's say your birthday is in May and you turn 18 in 2008. You have all your voter registration forms complete;

society has pretty much deemed you a capable being. You will be able to vote in the November presidential election, but by that point you're already limited in your vote. Since the primaries in New York take place in February, only those with birthdays before that can choose their republican or democratic candidate. After that point, it's only down to two. By denying voters the opportunity to choose their party's candidate, they are limiting their power to choose a leader.

"It would be better for the parties because they'd be able to choose a candidate based on who better represented the people voting in an actual election," said senior Mara Hollander.

As a result, a voter might solely vote along party lines, or get frustrated and not vote at all. In this next election, the primaries are going to be an essential part in determining the next president. With two clear forerunners of the Democratic Party, Clinton and Obama, the primaries will be crucial in deciding who will be the Democratic candidate, and who may be the next president. Some may say that 18 is an arbitrary bright line that ought to remain in place for an election.

"If there is a law saying that you can't vote until your 18, then you should not be able to vote for anything until that age," said senior Mary Forman.

Our system was created to fairly

choose a president, and voters would not get the full democratic experience otherwise. This time I'm not getting up on my pedestal to remind you to vote and become politically active. (Ah yes, I hear you sighing with relief.) Instead, I'm arguing about the right I have to vote in the primaries. Instead of having the choice to vote for Obama over Giuliani (in my extremely hypothetical example), I want the broader choice of deciding between three or four Republican or Democratic candidates. The primary gives voters more experience with voting, allowing them to be more familiar with the process when it comes to the presidential election. While voting in the primaries requires voters to register for a political party, 17-year-olds are capable to make that choice if they are seen fit to choose a president only months later. They can always switch parties or decide to register as independents and forfeit their right to vote in primaries.

Connecticut is discussing the possibility of allowing 17-year-olds to vote in the presidential primary if they will be 18 by the final election, which would come into effect by 2012. The argument isn't about culpability at age 18 versus 21 or 12. It's about earning the right to have full political power. If we are deemed responsible enough to vote in the presidential election, we should be granted full voting rights that extend to the primary.

Schreiber Ethics

BY Adam Vojdany

Contributing Writer

Recently, a friend of mine found himself in a rather awkward situation. His best friend began seeing a girl from their school whom he intensely dislikes. In fact, he detests everything about the girl, including her general attitude towards others and the way she treats him. The girl is not too fond of him either, and the two of them don't get along. The main reason my friend is upset is that he thinks that his best friend is a really good kid who deserves someone much better. Should my friend say anything to his friend and try to end the relationship or should he simply keep his mouth shut? What would be the ethical thing to do in this situation?

Let me just say, my friend is in a predicament that I have found myself in quite a few times. While it may be hard to accept it at first, the ethical thing for him to do in this situation is to bite his tongue, put a smile on his face, and do his best to get along with this girl, regardless of how he may feel about her. He should keep in mind that he is not the one dating the girl, and it's his friend's choice to be with her because he enjoys the girls company and she makes him happy. It would be selfish for my friend to try to end their relationship, or to even confront his friend and tell him how he feels about the girl. Even if my friend simply expressed his disapproval, it would put his best friend in an awkward position, making him feel forced to take sides and choose which is more important: his friend or his girlfriend.

While my friend may feel disinclined towards his friend's new girlfriend, he shouldn't try to change his best friend's opinion of her, unless of course there is something legitimately wrong with the girl. For example, if my friend were to witness the girl boiling an ex's rabbit in a pot, he would have reasonable cause for concern. Otherwise, he should do his best to be civil and hide his feelings. Obviously, the opinion of anyone's best friend is important to them. If your best friend were to criticize your girlfriend/boyfriend, it would understandably make you feel uncomfortable.

The same philosophy can also be applied to friends in general. If one of your good friends hangs out with someone you don't particularly like, it is best to simply avoid being with the two of them together. There is no point in making the situation awkward all around. Unless you feel your friend is in danger or you believe his other friend to be a truly bad influence, you should keep your thoughts to yourself.

My advice to my friend is to grin and bear it. If his best friend is happy with the girl, then so be it. Even if he may feel that the two of them are mismatched, sometimes people need to figure things out for themselves. If the couple wasn't right for each other, they would realize that with time. For the sake of everyone's sanity and the maintenance of healthy relationships, my friend should mind his own business. It may be strange for him to see his friend with someone he dislikes, and surely, the two of them might not hang out as much as usual, but after a while, the situation should diffuse and circumstances should resolve themselves.

Editorials

Rebellion against technology

Recently, there has been a rather strong backlash against new technologies that, though helpful, can also be bothersome. Just last week, the *New York Times* featured a gadget that hinders the electronic waves of all mobile devices within a certain radius from transmitting their signal, thus making it impossible for individuals to hold conversations nearby.

Admittedly, technology is very advantageous. Cell phones, computers, and other tools enable us to communicate with people on the other side of the world. But there comes a point where technology is not only useless, it's irritating.

I am sure that everyone has been annoyed by a nearby person's loud and obnoxious cell phone conversation. Though everyone is entitled to speak, there are certain rules of social etiquette that many fail to follow in regards to new technologies.

Moreover, technology has become a substitute for personal interactions. All these different gadgets and networking sites are replacing face-to-face discussions.

Not only do people misinterpret the words of others online, but they also become inept at talking one-on-one in a computer/cell phone-free medium. Social skills suffer, and individuals grow to be less personable.

Though it is difficult to argue for the complete elimination of technology, there should definitely be limits on its applications. People should do their best not to use cell phones when the possibility of a face-to-face talk exists. Students should refrain from using phones and iPods during class, and should stop texting one another when they are in the same room.

It may take some getting used to at first, but selectively applying technology to your life can make an enormous difference in your relationships with close friends and even complete strangers. Believe us, the man on the subway thanks you for not yakking away on your cell phone.

as well as personal exploration. The way one dresses is often the manifestation of the inclinations of one's interior, and whatever judgment may be reserved based on one's appearance is often what the individual wants to convey to the general public.

The author did demonstrate that there is nothing "holier than thou" about her article, because the truth is everybody judges everyone. But then the question is, isn't it hypocritical to write an opinions piece about being judgmental only to single out a group of people who are implied to be the epitome of judgment? The not-quite-so-subtle reference to the residents of the "four tables in the front of the cafeteria" as the embodiment of all that is judgmental defeats the entire purpose of the article. What I had read is that Sewhani wanted to call attention to judgment, not bloat on those who are perceived as the most judgmental. You don't like being judged, and neither do I, but two wrongs don't make a right and judging the judges just makes everyone a little more self-conscious.

Sarah Scheinman

Dear Editor,

The student who wrote a letter to the editor in the last edition of *The Schreiber Times*, regarding the Jena Six, would do well to check all the facts of an event and acquaint himself with the social and cultural history of an area before forming judgments and becoming a victim of stereotyping and misrepresentations. His editorial left out major pieces of history and instead focused on one event, the party, as the catalyst for the racial tension that ensued following that unfortunate incident.

What he failed to include was the fact that the Jena Six attend a school in which 15% of the population is black and 80% is white. Perhaps that sort of demographic in a Southern state where the KKK is still very much active could put those residents in a hypersensitive state. Additionally, another important element that was not mentioned was that a tree, known as the "white tree" became a symbol of division and control between the minority and majority populations and that nooses hanging from the tree would place members of the minority population in an awkward position even though it was later claimed that the nooses were a prank aimed at the white members of the rodeo team by other white students and their intentions behind the actions were never clarified. Nor did the letter to the editor mention that the principal of the school attempted to harshly discipline the pranksters but was overridden by the school board. What sort of message did this send to the minority community and students? According to Professor Anita L. Allen of the University of Pennsylvania Law School "the full horror and terror of the noose's significance may remain unclear to a 16 year old who would see it as merely an intimidating and cheeky act."

When the District Attorney addressed the entire school at an assembly, he became upset when he believed the students were not paying proper attention to him. He then told the students that "I can be your best

friend or your worst enemy...I can make life miserable on you or ruin your life." Some black students said the DA was looking directly at them although the DA said he was not. The letter to the editor does not examine the impact of when the black students attempted to address the school board regarding the growing feelings of concern when they were turned away. So now one is left to ask the question, if one were to place all of these events together, is it reasonable to assume that the black students could construe some very deliberate messages from these actions?

Now let us examine the party which the letter to the editor places so much emphasis on. The black students were attempting to attend the party with a white student. The fight began between the white male student and a woman. Other white males (non-students) became involved and one black student was injured, but when processing the assaults, one of the white males was only charged with simple battery. Again, this is an incident where it appeared as if one group received preferential treatment over another by law enforcement officials. A series of incidents were building up in this small town creating a powder keg situation. Therefore, the assault on the white student while in fact "brutal" and unfortunate was the result of a series of incidents, not just an isolated event, that had been brewing for some time, and that were never properly addressed. The aftermath of the sentencing only confirmed in the minds of the community the feeling of their children being targeted by law enforcement and the judiciary. The mere fact that the charge of Second Degree murder was rendered was indeed a racist action.

With respect as to whether or not Schreiber is the proper forum for this type of discussion, yes it is! Schreiber has minority population that has long felt their voices are ignored socially. To be a minority is to be constantly reminded of one's status, something that many students cannot fathom. Minority students have complained of feeling isolated and not encouraged to participate in certain academic programs.

Lastly, the problems which the student writer contends the African American community should confront are the sort of stereotype driven perceptions that many students seem to have of African Americans. Instead of the media educating society about the gains that have been made regarding the closing of the educational gap between minority and white students, it focuses on the high drop out rate. By the way, is the drop rate discussed in terms of student to teacher ratios in the urban and rural areas where the rates are highest? What about the effects of the No Child Left Behind Act, which is not helping but hurting the very poor and minority students it is meant to help? Another fact that the writer is misguided about is drug use. No, it is not the African American community that has the highest usage rate but white Americans, with use of cocaine and crystal meth.

Before the writer can ask for real progress to be made in our communities, real education and empathy must be practiced to break down the walls and prevent more Jenas.

Ms. Renee McClean

Drawing Conclusions



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As I read last month's *Schreiber Times* article, "Perhaps Judgment Day is Sooner Than You Think" by sophomore Priyanka Sewhani, I was originally enthused. We have all seen *Mean Girls*, and to say our school is exempt from the microcosm portrayed in the teenage social commentary is completely fallacious. High school is a tough time for pretty much everyone, and while as rough as it is to wake

up each morning to get to school, the social pressure has always been more burdensome. While I believe the author did a good job in discerning the idealistic setting from the realistic in defining the high school pressure experience, I think more than anything else, Sewhani engaged in her own stereotyping.

High school is a battle to define oneself. Whether it is with friends, parents, teachers, members of the opposite sex, or pretty much anyone else, high school is a time for experimentation

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As one of three school psychologists at Schreiber, I read with great interest the point/counterpoint articles, "Should schools be more active in students' mental health." While I think both points of view have their merit, it is clear that both students are largely unaware that schools are required by state education law to have a psychologist in every school.

While school systems are not responsible for meeting every need of their students, they are responsible when the need affects learning. School psychologists play an extremely important role in facilitating the cognitive, academic, social, and emotional well-being of students.

In addition to having expertise in counseling and diagnostic assessment of learning and emotional problems, school psychologists are uniquely situated to provide crisis intervention, case management for students receiving special education services, as well as behavioral consultation to teachers.

Although Jamie Koopersmith states that schools "don't have a right to do anything as long as other students aren't in danger," schools have a legal, moral, and ethical responsibility to ensure that students are meeting expected academic and developmental milestones.

The effect of mental health on school success and achievement is well-documented. Some students who are classified as having an educational disability are required to meet directly with a psychologist or social worker in order to help them function better academically, socially and emotionally. Parents must give consent to this. If that student does not want to meet with the psychologist or school social worker, then the parents are notified and the issue is discussed. No one is "forced" to have counseling in school. For many students who have no access to outside mental health services or who lack funds to pay for outside treatment, the school psychologist is

often that student and family's only mental health support. Many students at Schreiber benefit from having a trained mental health professional to discuss serious personal issues while some students just need an adult (in school) to listen to their concerns.

School psychologists are well-trained in child development and in a unique position to help students, families, teachers and administrators with mental health issues. For those students and parents who prefer to have their children receive outside mental health counseling, psychologists help parents find good outside providers. The role of the psychologist in the school is not to take the place of private therapists and invade a student's privacy, but rather to provide accessible and consistent supportive counseling to those students who are struggling academically, socially, or emotionally for a delimited period of time. We do not see ourselves as "treating mental illnesses," but rather as helping students develop skills and attitudes that lead to positive mental health.

Schreiber High School is lucky to have not just one, but three psychologists (one of whom is bilingual) and a school social worker to help students cope with the many significant issues facing adolescents today. No student is "labeled" for receiving help and a student's privacy is not violated—psychologists adhere to strict confidentiality rules. Information that is disclosed in school counseling sessions is confidential, except in those cases where the student discloses self-harm or the intent to harm others. Any student can stop by (our offices are in the main office and in the guidance department) and make an appointment to speak with us. We welcome the opportunity to take an active role in promoting the mental health of Schreiber High School students and their families.

Dr. Joan Bester

Dear Editor,

It was disheartening to read the Letter to the Editor in last month's paper. This letter was in response to a well written editorial entitled *Racism in High Schools*. Many people are under the impression that racism doesn't exist anymore or is relegated to certain areas of the country. It's convenient to believe this when racism is outside their realm of experience. The author of the Letter to the Editor is obviously one of these individuals. He is poorly informed not only about the facts of the Jena Six incident but the state of racism in America as well.

He claims not to understand where the racism is in the tragic beating of Justin Barker, a white student who was attacked by six black students in the school cafeteria. Yet the author fails to mention the racially sparked incidences at Jena High School that preceded this event. The school suffered from a history of racial tension. The situation spiraled out of control when a black student defied "tradition" by sitting under a tree considered reserved for "whites only" by the white students. Nooses were found hanging from the tree the following day. This is considered a hate crime by the federal government yet the perpetrators received little punishment except suspension for a few days.

The United States Attorney's Office and the FBI investigated the incident following complaints by parents. However they decided not to bring hate crime charges against anyone. Parents and students continued to launch complaints, but were met with indifference. Had the authorities responded appropriately to the incident, it may have helped diffuse the tension instead of fanning its flames.

Justin Barker was beaten during one of several altercations between white and black students at the school. The six black students thought he had participated in hanging the nooses. I do not condone violence against another person by any means. However the facts are these: Justin was taken to the hospital and released shortly thereafter. He sustained no life threatening injuries and actually went to a dance at the school that evening. The six black minors were charged as adults with attempted murder. They received harsh indictments while the perpetrators who hung the nooses received no official punishment at all. Simply put, the punishment should fit the crime. The prosecutors in Jena are being accused of racial bias as is the criminal justice system. *New York Times* journalist Rich G. Jones calls the handling of this case a "...throwback to the worst kind of deep south justice." This event sparked the largest civil rights march since the 1960's. Charges against the Jena Six, as the black students have come to be known, were dropped or reduced due to the growing public furor.

I feel it is essential to understand the historical significance of nooses as they relate to African-Americans in this country. They are repugnant symbols of racial hatred, violence and death; their poignancy is engraved in the hearts and minds of our community. From 1882 to 1968, 4,743 people, mostly African-Americans, became victims of lynching. They were abducted or dragged from their homes by white supremacists, including the Klu Klux Klan.

One must grasp what happened during a lynching to fully understand the power of the noose. These were communal events attended by families and children. All would watch as an individual was burned and mutilated before they were hanged. Pictures would be taken with the body as if it were a horrific sporting event. Meanwhile, the authorities looked the other way. The hanging of nooses is an unambiguous gesture meant to promote an atmosphere of intimidation. It is as potent as a swastika.

Long Island is not without a history of racial bigotry. One only has to listen to the news and read the newspaper to realize that racism is alive and well right here, right now. Nooses have been found at the Nassau County Highway Department yard in Baldwin, a construction site at Green Acres Mall in Valley Stream, the locker room at the police department in Hempstead, at a Ground Zero post office in Manhattan and on the door of the office of a professor at Columbia University's Teachers College just to name a few.

In the final paragraphs of this Letter to the Editor, the author makes generalizations about the African American community that he obviously has no intimate knowledge of. He sights drug abuse, single parent homes, homicides, and high school drop-out rates as the "real" problems African Americans should be concerned with instead of fighting for as he puts it, "political correctness."

Little does he realize that these problems are socio-economic issues suffered by poorer members of society regardless of race and location. These issues are a direct extension of inequalities in education, cutbacks in social programs, and the lack of funding for quality afterschool programs. These programs provide children—particularly those in the inner city—with a positive, safe, supervised environment to spend their free time, instead of hanging out on the streets and being recruited by gangs. The federal government would rather spend billions of dollars building prisons than supporting schools and families in need. This country is in crisis and it crosses all racial barriers. Make no mistake that the African American community is as socio-economically diverse as any other. To make blanket statements regarding any particular group is at the very least ignorant and in this case offensive.

All of us regardless of race, color, or creed should step up and address social, political, or racial injustice and inequality whenever and wherever it occurs. It is not an issue of political correctness but one of making this world a fair and just place.

We live in a democratic society where individuals are free to have and express their opinions. However, that freedom bears a grave responsibility and that is to have an informed, educated opinion based on truth and facts not fear and ignorance. Each successive generation should shoulder this responsibility more strongly than those before it as their duty to making this world a better place for those generations to come.

Ms. Terri Hall

Times Policy Statement

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

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

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

We will print letters to the editors if judged to be of sufficient quality and importance on a space-available basis. We will not print letters that are obscene, libelous,

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

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

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

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

Students aren't the only ones who struggle with numbers

Class size problem creates havoc for teachers and students alike

BY Andrew Seo
Assistant Features Editor

The Integrated Mathematics 10th grade honors class, taught by Ms. Beth Carstens, commenced the school year with sophomores planning to learn about functions, trigonometry, and logarithms. Contrary to popular belief, however, a modicum of interest and eagerness from the students was not the problem. Instead, the nearly three dozen students enrolled in the class was the actual issue at hand.

"On the first day of school, I couldn't believe that there were that many students in the class," said sophomore Max Segal. "Although it is nice to have more friends in your class, it is also much harder to learn and for us to be focused in a setting like that."

Since the first day of school, the number of students in the 10H class has dwindled down to 30, but the sentiment has not changed. The teacher of the course, Ms. Carstens, had dealt with class size issues at her previous teaching job.

"A reason I left my last district was because of the large class sizes," said Ms. Carstens. In general, she feels that they are "not fair to the students."

"I had checked the class's roster on the computer before the first day of school and was very surprised," said Ms. Carstens on her sophomore math class. Being as there are 30 students in the classroom, "it is definitely louder [than a normal class]" and "it is very difficult to give individualized attention."

The problem of large class size is not only present in sophomore mathematics classrooms; instead, it applies to all grades and all subjects. Approximately 19.7% of classes are at or above 26 students. The Port Washington Board of Education policy limits the number of students in a high school classroom to 28 however, not 26. Despite this fact, the latter is a better measure according to Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss, in charge of scheduling. "I think that 28 is too high," said Weiss. "I don't like high school classes larger than 25," added Principal Mr. Jay Lewis.

The problems present in high school classrooms can be partly attributed to the

large incoming grades and ever-growing student body population. However, the issue can be predominately ascribed to the budget's failure to pass for the 2005-2006 school year.

"We got hurt by the contingency because of the negative impact of cutting classes," said Superintendent Dr. Geoffrey Gordon, who is working diligently with the Board in order to restore the balance offset by contingency. "There were negative outcomes [because] of that; the enrollment was growing and we had to cut staff."

Since that time, the high school has

"The resources available rarely meet the need," said Mr. Lewis, describing the entire issue as "a moving target" that "is hard to hit." Nevertheless, the issue is constantly on his mind, as he works feverishly in devising a solution. When referring to this 'juggling act' he said, "it is an art form, trying to make this all work."

For instance, with the help of the Board and the Superintendent, Mr. Lewis was allotted three additions to his staff last year in order to alleviate the problem. At the time, he had requested four.

"When I didn't get the fourth staff

because of safety considerations." With many science classrooms above this recommended ratio of 24 students to teacher, safety problems emerge.

"[The new] building was built to these national safety standards," said Mr. Weiss. As a result, teachers are often forced to overcome these circumstances and deal with having more than 25 students in classrooms meant to accommodate 24. A sophomore honors chemistry class, an example of a Schreiber science classroom with more than the recommended number of students, is so over crowded that students are denied basic necessities.

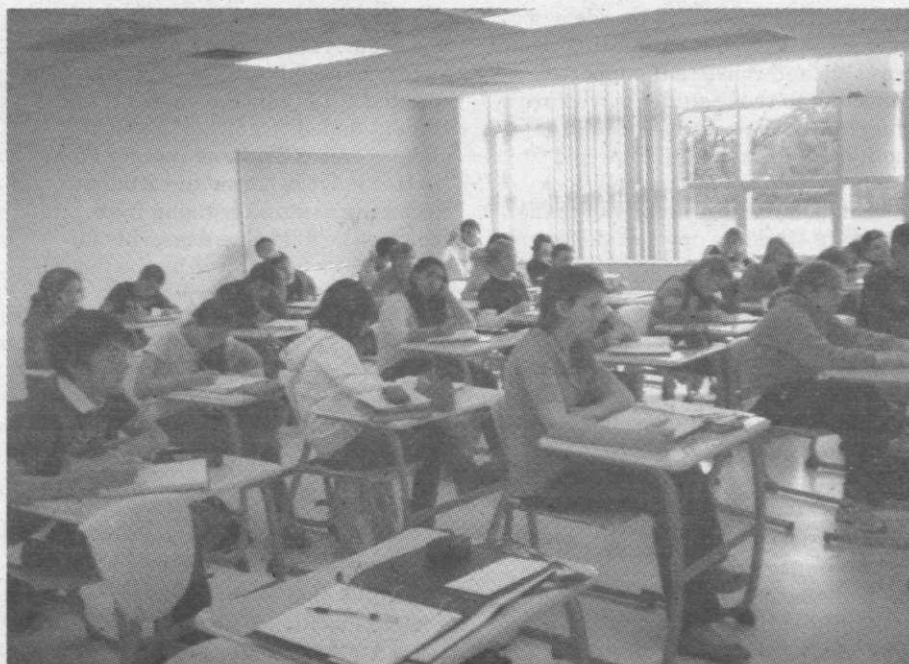
"There are so many other students in my chemistry class that I am often left without a desk," said sophomore Christina Zhou.

To contrast the number of science and mathematics classes over Board policy, there is also a handful below its minimum. The minimum number of students-per-class, according to the official Board policy notice approved on Dec. 16, 2003, is 15.

"Every fall, I have to submit a list of classes under 15 students," said Mr. Lewis. These classes are either relatively new, in their incipient stages, or appeal to only a select number of students. Sections of Personal Computing and Robotics I, lying on the other side of the class size spectrum, demonstrate the fact that the issue is not solely one sided. Classrooms below the minimum provide administrators and the Board with yet another aspect of the class size issue.

With the constant juggling and balancing act of the various factors associated with the class size problem in mind, "I think the Superintendent and the Board of Education deserve some real credit," said Mr. Lewis. Adding, "Dr. Gordon is as attuned on this issue as any other superintendent."

The issue of class size is a perpetual one, constantly in the minds of administrators, the Board, and the Superintendent. "The potential for a 'perfect storm' is there; the combination of an increase in enrollment and the difficulty of the current situation is making this a pressing issue," said Mr. Lewis.



Andrew Seo

Many classes, like this Math 10H class, are above the board policy of twenty eight students per class

made steady progress on its way to recovery.

"Are we on the way? Absolutely. Are we where we like to be? No," said Mr. Weiss. Nevertheless, "we have made a lot of improvements since contingency."

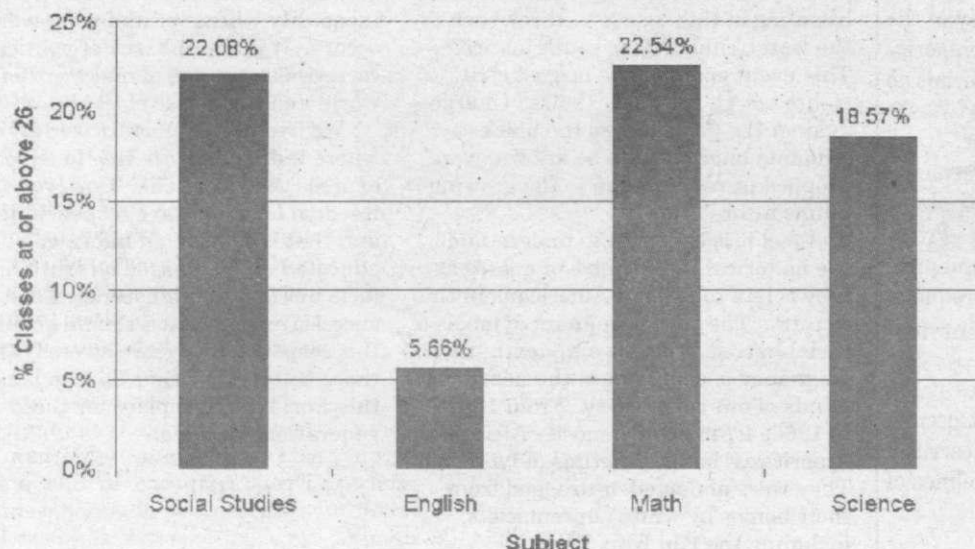
Making significant headway is difficult, with the administration and Board trying to deal with not only the class size issue with the current student body population, but also with the realistic prospect of having a 1600 student body population within the next several years.

member, someone had to suffer. It happened to be math," said Mr. Lewis.

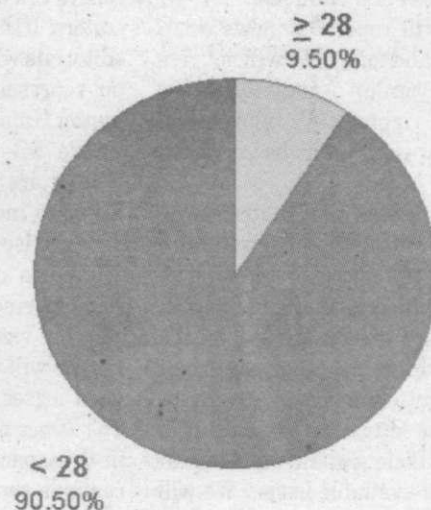
Such suffering is evident not only in the 10H class mentioned earlier, but also by the 22.54% of classes in the math department alone that are at or above 26 students.

The science department, not to be overlooked, is also at that point where its classes are filled to capacity. The National Science Teachers Association's official position on learning conditions for high school is that, "science classes should be limited to 24 students..."

Classes at or above 26 Students



Board Policy - 28 Students



Andrew Seo

Wellness policy instituted to keep students' weight low

Healthier food choices are now available throughout the district

BY Alexandra Hohaus

Staff Writer

Study after study proves that childhood obesity is on the rise and currently a problem for over fifteen percent of American children. Accordingly, many school districts throughout the country, including Port Washington, are taking notice and trying to reform the system. Since the indoctrination of the Wellness Policy in July of 2006, there have been noticeable changes in Schreiber's attitude about health. The policy only made simple, broad statements such as "students shall have access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing food choices," resulting in a series of changes since July.

These broad ideas are now being translated into specific changes. In addition to the New York State required wellness policy, Schreiber is beginning to hammer out detailed regulations for our school's nutrition. These guidelines are not specified within the policy and have not yet been fully adopted by the administration or the Board of Education.

"I think that we're old enough to decide whether or not we can eat potato chips," said junior Christine Bowles, echoing popular student sentiment. Nevertheless, a gradual shift is occurring, which has made itself evident through various modifications of the nutrition standards for the school.

Even though specific regulations

are still in the process of being revised, Schreiber's general step in a new direction is clear. Changes have been most obvious in the cafeteria. One factor which can be attributed to the overall change is the use of Chartwells, a healthier food service company which is now employed by the district. Many of the changes in the cafeteria, however, are not unique to Schreiber or Port Washington. For example, the ban on foods which contain trans fat is not only endorsed by Schreiber, but was also enacted by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg in the summer.

"As with any transition, there are always going to be bumps in the road," said Mr. Craig Weiss, Assistant Principal and representative to the Nutrition Committee and the Wellness Coordinating Committee, both of which have considerable influence over the implementation of the Wellness Policy.

Certain provisions have already been made to ensure that changes are not drastic enough to make students feel unsettled. For example, though technically not allowed within nutrition guidelines, vending machines with soda will remain in the school. A movement to eliminate such vending machines altogether was thwarted at the beginning of year, but the situation is still unresolved.

"We hope to come up with some sort of a compromise, such as introducing 100% fruit juice in the machines as well," said Mr. Weiss.

Since all food related issues within

the school must conform to the policy, two very popular practices at Schreiber may be slightly jeopardized.

Bake sales, although technically covered and regulated under the



Eric Glasser

Pirate's Booty and reduced-fat Doritos were added to cafeteria vending machines after the implementation of the wellness policy.

wellness policy and its extensions, is a perennial favorite of Schreiber students and is at little risk of becoming obsolete.

"We're trying to create a balance," said Mr. Jay Lewis. "An extension of the district's policy and philosophy applies to all areas of the school, even bake sales."

Adherence to the New York State Law concerning minimal nutritional value actually prohibits the sale of

certain foods during lunch periods. As the law states, "A public school cannot sell or serve soda or candy of any type in the student store or from a machine located anywhere in the building before the last lunch period ends." This provision is responsible for the recent removal of Twix and other candy bars from the vending machines. Furthermore, this law may result in many bake sales being moved to the end of the day with pressure to introduce healthy alternatives alongside the tasty baked goods. It is important to note that the practice of the bake sale itself is hardly in danger of extinction.

A similar situation exists for in-class parties, with which there is "still some debate over," said Mr. Weiss. However, it is expected that the same rules will apply — save it for after lunch.

As with any transition from vague ideas to concrete rules, Schreiber's true adoption of the Wellness Policy still has a long way to go. Drafts of guidelines will probably be submitted to the Board of Education by the end of this school year.

We have yet to see what the impact of the Wellness Policy and these reports will have on the school," said Mr. Lewis. Further regulations will be debated by the Nutrition Committee at the meeting in February, which all students are invited to attend.

High taxes cause a high number of vacant businesses

BY Priyanka Sewhani

Staff Writer

As you walk down Main Street, you can see that there are a variety of businesses open to the community. However, many local businesses are having trouble keeping their heads above the water due to the town's tax policy.

A lawsuit was brought against the Port Washington School District and Nassau County by local businesses. An alliance of a dozen Port Washington businesses filed suit claiming that the district was taxing them at an unfair rate not established in accordance with any criteria.

In response to this law suit, Mr. Richard Bivone, president of the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce, explained that the tax dilemma is not unique to Port Washington and that other towns in Nassau County are facing high taxes as well. Nevertheless, Mr. Roy Smithheimer, executive director of Port Washington's Business Improvement District, stated that there was a need to "stop the bleeding" of businesses that are caused by current tax policies. The results of this "bleeding" can be seen in the growing number of vacant lots on main street.

Port's clothing stores represent one portion of local businesses blaming the tax policy for difficult times. Owners admit that they must do everything possible to maximize profits, primarily raising prices in order to cover the tax policy.

In addition to the tax issue, many

clothing store owners find it difficult to reach their customer base. Owners find that their primary customers are young teenagers, around fourteen and

devastated as has been the case with the amazingly high amount of businesses in the location that Prime View is currently in. It is immensely unfair to those who



Stephen Nash

High business taxes instituted by the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce are forcing businesses to close, leaving their storefronts empty.

fifteen, and complain that advertising and marketing to these customers is very difficult.

"When the rising taxes just get to be ridiculous, everyone suffers," said sophomore Danielle Stern. "Business owners seem to be immediately

want to fulfill their dreams by creating their own stores. Unfortunately, those trends seem to be on the rise and you can see the rows and rows of empty stores dramatically growing over time."

Ralph's Ices, a popular business establishment, was forced to change

location due to the rising taxes. Ralph's originally occupied a location on Main Street, but citing rising costs, was forced to relocate to a less desirable location.

Many students contend that Port does not offer a large variety of businesses.

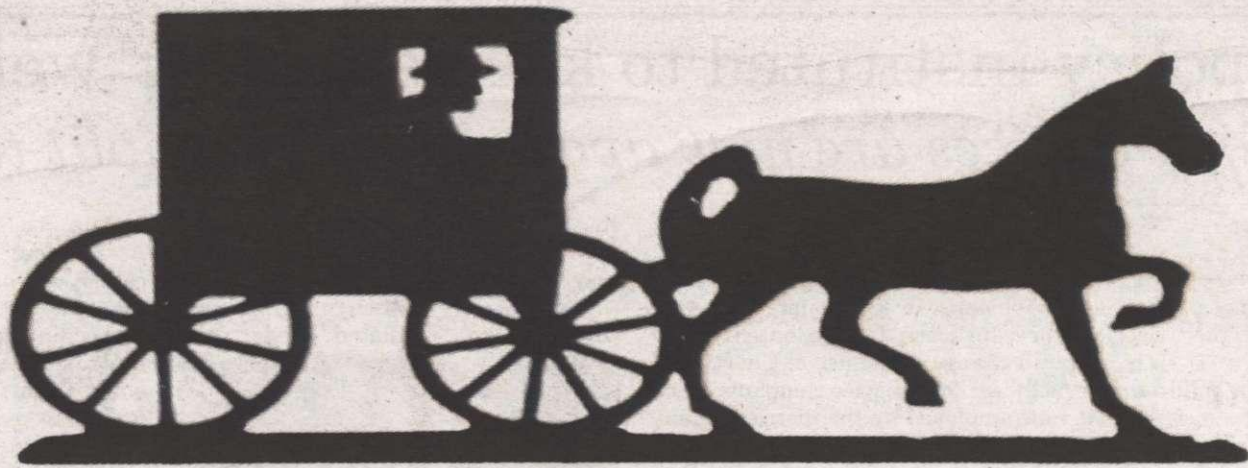
"Who needs ten different banks, nail salons, or pizzerias when what we are really lacking is something fun to do? This lack of entertainment causes high school attendees to dabble in more 'creative ways' of having fun," said Stern.

On the other hand, many students believe that there is a wide enough variety of stores and restaurants open to community members.

"All one needs to do is look down main street to see Port's variety. Port is filled with pizza parlors, clothing stores, Turkish cuisine, French cuisine, Italian food, the list goes on and on," said junior Nicole Botsaris. "Just because there is a large number of a certain type of restaurant does not mean that there is not a variety in the town."

There does not seem to be any clear solution or end to the problems local business owners are complaining about. Consequently, each party is trying to work together to find the most appropriate and realistic remedies to the different issues.

"If the businesses are suffering, then the whole community suffers," said freshman Morgan Quigley. "Everyone needs to find a solution so the kids, parents, and senior citizens can experience all the best Port has to offer."



PLAIN AND FANCY

BY David Yedid

Staff Writer

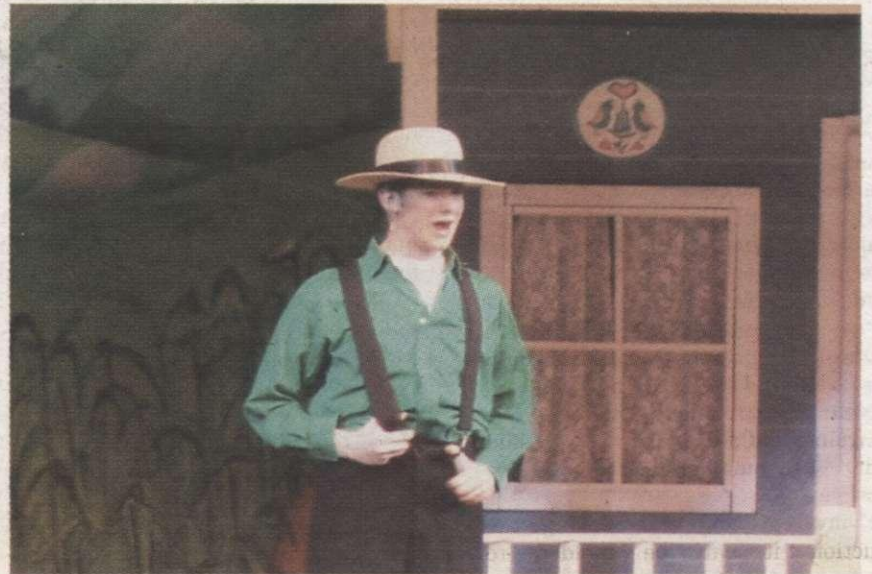
This past weekend, Schreiber students in the pit, cast and crew performed the musical *Plain and Fancy* about real life in Amish Pennsylvania. The musical is opened by a musical number played by Schreiber's pit orchestra with "partners" Ruth Winters and Dan King (played by seniors Jesse Zeidman and Nick Otte) lost on their way to find Bird-in-hand Pennsylvania. Business man Dan King goes to Bird-in-hand to sell the farm he inherited from his Amish grandfather. Through Dan and Ruth's journey they find out what life, love, and society is really like in the Amish country. Dan King is given a warm welcome by the townspeople whereas Ruth Winters is told on many occasions that she resembles a Spanish Woman. Ruth, the token New York City woman, has difficulty coping with the habitat she is forced to stay in.

This musical gave a great insight of arranged marriage in Amish Society,

Katie Yoder and Ezra Reber (played by junior Jeremy Geller and senior Kate Hughes) are arranged to be married by Kate's stubborn father Papa Yoder (played by senior Nick Pray). Throughout the show, Katie Yoder is stuck in a love triangle filled with shunning, betrayal, blue birds and "vegetable juice." Ezra Reber and Peter Reber (played by sophomore Jonny Schechner) end up fighting for Katie's hand in marriage.

Junior Jeremy Geller got huge laughs when he displayed his "lovely melons" and his discovery of the effects of alcohol. Peter, played by Jonny Schechner tries to rekindle the childhood love and promise of marriage that he and Katie shared. However, his violence resulted in his being shunned by Katie's father and no one being allowed to speak to him in Bird-in-hand. Katie is torn because she has to marry Ezra, but she loves Peter. This causes commotion within her family and within the town.

Emma and Isaac Miller, (played



Jonny Schechner sings his heart out confessing his love for Katie.

by seniors Richard Blue and Caroline Pickering) are frustrated with their daughter Hilda Miller (played by junior Skyler Volpe) who refuses to settle with

a man. Her father mentions many eligible bachelors that she could wed, however, she has very negative remarks to share about them. Skyler excited the crowd when she rejected Jacob Yoder (portrayed by sophomore Isaac White) for "being too skinny".

Hilda falls in love with outsider Dan King (played by Nick Otte) and in attempts to impress him, visits the Lancaster City Carnival. At this eclectic carnival there was a belly dancer, (Eleah Burman) as well as showgirls, (Molly Fried, Sarah Sidford, Cory Morano, Chelsea Morano, and Heather Foye), and various townspeople. The encounters at the carnival were all hits for the audience, despite not hearing the showgirls' voices during their musical and dance number because they had to compete for sound with the pit and other carnival activities. Another musical number by all of the men in the cast led by Nick Pray, "Plain We Live," could be heard vaguely for the same reason. Most viewers in the audience could not hear the "Plain We Live" song, but some argued that it was because the cast composed of males did not sing loud enough to be heard.

On a better note, Skyler Volpe got tons of laughs when she discovered the many different uses for a bra. Another comical scene of the show is in the musical number "How to Raise A Barn" in which the male townspeople erected a not-so-sturdy barn of Styrofoam.

Towards the end of the musical, after the Amish townspeople find Ezra intoxicated, Katie's father pronounces Ezra is unfit to marry Katie, so she seizes this opportunity to make up with Peter and marry him instead. With all of this love in the air, Dan King decides



Nicholas Otte, Jesse Zeidman watch as Father and Daughter Richard Blue and Skyler volpe argue about marriage and children and the wrong men.

All photos courtesy of Lizz Predmore

to tell Ruth how he really feels by kissing her; this shocked the audience and provided a good set up for a great ending.

Before the show began, many

“This musical gave a great insight of arranged marriage and ... they find out what life, love, and society is really like in the Amish country.”

students who were a part of the production did not give it good reviews. “It’s not that it’s a bad show, I just think it isn’t intended for a high school audience,” junior Sarah Sidford said.

“The show was definitely intended for a high school audience. It had a lot of jokes that high school students could understand, and even relate to on some level. It is without a doubt that everyone at Schreiber could enjoy this show,” said another cast member, sophomore Zoe Blinksilver.

In my opinion, after seeing the production it can be molded to

many different audiences, most of the jokes in the show were very funny and were understood by the audience. “At first I didn’t quite enjoy it but as rehearsals went on, I began to like the idea of an Amish musical,” sophomore Mark Labadorf said.

The best way to sum up this performance, according to sophomore Priyanka Sewhani, is that “The hard work by the pit, cast and crew showed through in this great production. One reason I enjoyed it, was that there was a good balance of dialogue and music.”

The music was good, the entire cast and many leads in particular all sang with powerful voices. The director, Cam Gelb, did a great job in creating a real image of a town by including young children in the cast. Allison Shapiro, the pit conductor, and the musicians in the pit all did a great job of supplying music for the show.

It was a sad sight for the cast to see Cam Gelb, the director of all of Schreiber’s musical productions, put on her last show. On the last day of the production, tears were shed by Cam and

other cast members sad to see her leave. “I think it’s unfair to force someone out of a job that they are so passionate about, and that many students and parents will be devastated the board doesn’t know what effect this will have on people,” said sophomore Chelsea Morano. Victor Gelb, the supervisor of crew, shared his last production with Port this weekend.

Many crew participants, whose devotion to productions stay “behind the curtain” are distraught and enraged

about Victor’s leave. An anonymous crew member said, “He does so much more than is expected of him, he goes so far out of his way to make the shows what they are.”

Overall, this show was a job well done by the cast, crew, and pit. A majority of the audience really did enjoy then show. Great job everyone, your hard work and preparation showed through in your performance, we look forward for what else is to come in future productions.



A carnival scene where, Ezra (Jeremy Geller) ventures into Lancaster to experience a little peice of reality out side of his the Amish Community.



After the barn burns down in Act 1, The Amish Community rebuilds the barn while singing and dancing to “That’s How We Raise a Barn.”

Student Feature *Ms. Schiff goes to the Vatican*

BY Stephen Nash
Features Editor

An individual has a better chance of getting hit by lightning, than of personally meeting the Pope; senior Amanda Schiff, however, defied these odds. Along with Port resident Gunther Lawrence, executive director of the Interreligious Information Center, Schiff presented Pope Benedict XVI with a Yom Hashoah Menorah commemorating the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust. The presentation to the Pope was made at the Vatican during the first ever Catholic-Jewish Conference.

"Not only was I honored to be selected, I felt that I was taking part in history seeing as how this was the First Conference of Catholic-Jewish relations at the Vatican," said Schiff. "The trip, in its entirety, was an incredible and mind-boggling experience."

The Yom Hashoah Menorah that Schiff and Lawrence presented the Pope is a fourteen inch bronze menorah with seven men and women holding six torches which symbolize the six million Jewish Holocaust victims. The seventh man is standing in the foreground holding a prayer book. The figures are standing on the base of a cracked Star of David inscribed with the years of World War II, 1939-1945, along with the Kaddish, the Jewish mourning prayer.

In years past, this menorah has also been used as a symbol of Holocaust remembrance. In 1999, the menorah was presented to Pope John Paul II and a four foot version was permanently dedicated to the Pontifical North American College, where it stands in the Roman college's "Garden of Remembrance." Additionally, a smaller version of the menorah stands in the Community Synagogue in Sands Point.

The conference lasted five days from the 20th to the 25th of October and was attended by lay leaders and officials alike from over 25 United States cities. At the conference, archbishops and cardinals spoke of the Church's desire for increased dialogue while lay leaders and brainstormed ideas for future interfaith progress.

One of the most important goals of the conference was to bring cooperation from the highest level down to small communities with the help of influential Jewish and Catholic leaders.

"Hearing some of the most influential Catholic leaders speak of their desire to build on Pope John Paul II's foundation of interfaith work was comforting and made the conference a very positive experience," said Schiff. "Pope John Paul II was the first Pope to set foot in the Great Synagogue in Rome which was surprising seeing as how the temple is only five minutes away from Saint Peter's Basilica. Visiting the temple during the trip after having lunch with seminarians was such a rewarding experience."

Schiff was selected to attend this trip based upon a number of factors which include her involvement with her temple and her initiative with charity. As a junior, Schiff served as President of Port Washington Temple Youth, more commonly referred to as POWTY, at the Community Synagogue. Additionally, Schiff also served as captain of a Mitzvah Day project, an annual charity event at the Community Synagogue for two consecutive years. For Mitzvah Day, Schiff worked with Operation Fairy Dust, collecting prom dresses for underprivileged girls in New York City. In school, Schiff has also researched Christians who rescued Jews during the Holocaust and other facets of the Holocaust for her English honors

projects and her Advanced Placement European history research paper.

While visiting Rome, Schiff got an unfortunate reminder of the Anti-Semitism which existed at the time of the Holocaust reminding her of her trip's importance. While leaving the Colosseum, Schiff and her parents saw graffiti on a retaining wall which read, "Did six million really die, or was it just a Zion's lie?"

"Seeing this was unquestionably disturbing, but knowing that I was going to represent the next generation of interfaith leaders in just a few short days, made my whole trip worth while," said Schiff. "My goal was to start bridging the gap between the faiths and to begin opening up the dialogues for interfaith communication. I know this may seem like an awfully large goal, but peaceful coexistence has to start somewhere."

Schiff is hoping that there will be another interfaith conference next year to continue improving interfaith relations around the world. Locally, she has invited Cardinal William Keeler to come and speak in Port Washington to "help augment the relationship between local synagogues and churches."

At the general audience with the pope, Schiff and Lawrence spoke of the importance of their interfaith goals and asked for the Pope's help with these issues.

"The most memorable part of the trip was definitely meeting the Pope and actually being introduced to him by name. Introducing her, Cardinal Keeler said "This is Amanda Schiff, she is from New York and she's 17 years old."

"He was looking right at me, smiling, speaking to me, and thanking me for coming," said Schiff.



Courtesy of Amanda Schiff

Senior Amanda Schiff, Gunther Lawrence (far right), and Rabbi Abe Ingbar present Pope Benedict XVI the Yom Hashoah menorah at the Saint Peter's Basilica.

Facebook leads philanthropy into the technological age

BY Christina Zhou and Sahil Doshi
Contributing Writers

In the age of technological advancements, the social networking site Facebook has offered philanthropy a new stronghold. Current Democratic National Committee Chairman and former Democratic Presidential candidate Howard Dean was one of the first to utilize the power of the internet to raise awareness about issues, raise money, and communicate to large audiences with a simple click of a button. Since his campaign, the internet is playing a more important role in not only political campaigns, but in social actions as well. Facebook and its new Causes application embodies the new convenience, speed, and effectiveness of internet charity.

Causes, an application that provides users with the opportunity to support charity organizations, is different from other Facebook applications because it serves a practical purpose. One can choose to join various causes that they care about or feel are important to society. The feature provides users with the opportunity to affect change. Popular causes include: Stop Global Warming, Support the Campaign for

Breast Cancer Research, and Think Autism.

Each Facebook cause has its own distinct purpose, with the ability to recruit members and raise money. Facebook has familiarized many young adults with causes and issues that they never would have heard of otherwise. Each cause provides website links and background information, familiarizing users and encouraging active participation.

By joining a cause, one is able to increase awareness and become an activist. Supported causes are displayed on each member's Facebook page. Individuals can proudly display the causes they promote using this

feature and learn about other worthy organizations that deserve recognition. Recruiting friends to a cause is another way of spreading the word of an organization and offering one's support.

In addition to spreading awareness, users can go a step further by donating or fundraising. Any cause that is a registered 501(c)(3) or presidential campaign can raise funds directly through the Facebook website. Donations are processed by Facebook automatically and securely via credit card. Causes on Facebook have raised tens of thousands of dollars, solely from user donations.

In addition to user donations, organizations raise money through advertising partners. These charitable groups that members can join include, "For Every 1,000 that join this group I will donate \$1 for Darfur," and "Help someone for free, your click counts." The latter works by asking one to click on websites that are listed and then on a button that says, "Click Here to Give." After this process, advertisements from the sponsors of the site are displayed. The money from these advertisers goes to their charity partners, who in turn, fund programs to provide food for the hungry or donate money for research.

The opportunity to do good deeds

is now here. However, the true effectiveness of these online campaigns is often called into question.

"In theory [Facebook Causes] is good, but a lot of kids probably just hit accept and do not really think about it," said sophomore Soloman Hoffman. "It can be argued that these causes send the message to users that brief, online participation is enough to solve all of our problems, when in reality it is not enough."

Online campaigns, such as Facebook Causes, help bring awareness to important and pressing issues. Information that once had to travel through print or by word of mouth is now available at a moment's notice to the masses with the help of social networking sites and the Web. Instead of only a few dedicated people working together to solve a problem, more people are informed and given the opportunity to do good.

"Online fundraising is here for the long run," said sophomore Rebecca Greenblatt. "Facebook Causes and the advent of web-based philanthropy testify to the ever growing presence and impact of technology in our lives. The ability to help is now at everyone's finger tips. It is in our hands to take action."

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation
www.bcrf.org

Breast cancer research is one of many non-profit organizations which can profile its cause on Facebook and raise money and awareness.

Fashion File

BY Amanda Schiff

Editor-in-Chief

As we have seen time and time again, fashion tends to evolve slowly from year to year. This is especially evident with the highly styled outerwear that is being displayed in windows all over the world. Last year's jackets emphasized the waist and brought back the Inspector Gadget-esque trench coat. Although you could still get away with the traditional pea coat or puffy jacket for this winter season, there are a multitude of alternatives to keep you warm through those snowy days of winter.

Oversized Sweaters

In these, seemingly endless, transitional weeks between fall and winter, you may want to experiment with a new outerwear trend that has been taking the world by storm, literally. These chunky knits seem to resemble that enormous sweater your grandmother knitted for you when you were six that fit up until you turned ten. However, the thick wool and the oversized buttons add character to your otherwise cotton-filled wardrobe. Such sweaters are coming in a variety of lengths ranging from a simple blazer-like sweater with a collar and three buttons, to a trapeze shaped coat with toggles, to the sweater duster that just misses the ground. This is a true fashion meets function look that will last all day. If the traditional sweater doesn't quite work for you, there is always the sweater dress that has been stealing thunder

from popular fall favorites. The sweater dress in cable and plain knits is perfect for day or night and can be paired with a skinny bottom to balance the shapes of such a dynamic silhouette.

Highly Styled Coats

There are many times in the fashion world when buying the latest fad is simply not necessary...but, there's good news for the fashionistas out there. Everyone needs a coat. Ok, it is true

that you don't need to spend all of your money for the month on a single item, but there is no harm in purchasing a coat that is both practical and pretty. This season, the simple navy or black pea coat is being left in the dark because designers have moved on to bigger and brighter things. Some of the most popular models are belted coats, a-line coats, swing coats, trapeze coats, and form-fitting coats—just to name a few. Because coat styles have been stagnant for the last few years consumers are



www.nordstrom.com

A coat can be more than a winter necessity, but can serve as a fashionable alternative when the temperatures drop. Similarly, an oversized sweater does not only keep you warm, but can make any outfit appropriate for the season.

Walking in a winter wonderland

loving every minute of the coat craze of winter '08. Coats in every color of the rainbow, with an emphasis on yellow and red, are making their way to the front of the pack and taking the place of the neutral colors of fall. But color is not the only change of pace this fall...

...and the Short of It

We can all agree the purpose of wearing a coat is to keep our bodies warm when the temperatures start to drop. For this reason, the short sleeved coat may seem a perplexing paradox. However, these ¾ length sleeved jackets and coats are more than what meets the eye. The coats that are starting just under the chin with a mock-turtle collar are ending just after the elbow. What shall we do with our exposed forearms? Well, there are two fashionable options that are affordable and practical. The first is to invest in a pair of long gloves that will compensate for the difference in sleeve length. The other, to layer long sleeved shirts with short or ¾ length sleeved coats to cover your forearms and save you skin from the harmful effects of winter. These coats have been appearing in many different colors and patterns like houndstooth and plaid.

Any way you look at it, you're 'covered' in terms of fashionable options in outerwear this season. Play up the bold colors and know that mixing patterns and colors is not always a bad thing. These are more than just a few ways to stay warm for the winter season.

Restaurant Review Wings Plus opens its doors to Port

BY Dave Marx

Contributing Writer

As its name suggests, Wings Plus doesn't just serve wings. Although the restaurant does have a wide selection of buffalo wing flavors ranging from "Buffalo Mild" to "Buffalo Atomic" and "Garlic Parmesan" to "Jamaican Jerk," there are also selections available to people who are not buffalo wing fans. Other foods available on their menu include fried chicken, shrimp, homemade baby back ribs, an assortment of salads and soups, and various side dishes and desserts to complement any choice of entrée.

When I visited the restaurant, I tried the sample of the week: three complementary cheese-filled jalapeño poppers, which I enjoyed very much. The samples were a sign of things to come, good food and friendly service.

In my opinion, Wings Plus' best feature is its efficient pick up and delivery. Curbside pickup is a convenient service that the restaurant offers.

Although the restaurant, which opened this summer on Haven Avenue, has a nice environment and is relatively

clean and cozy, there are no tables for customers to enjoy their meal. There is one table outside, but the restaurant is primarily an establishment where

customers are encouraged to take food out. What is enjoyable, however, is the friendly service, reasonable prices, and delicious food. The best values on

the menu are definitely Wings Plus' "combo specials." The restaurant gives consumers a choice of four family style "combo specials" ranging in price from \$29.99 to \$39.99 and individual combos ranging from \$6.99 to \$9.99, making the combo the customer's most economical choice.

Wings Plus location right across from the train station makes it accessible to commuters. The store hours of Wings Plus also don't leave much to be desired.

Overall, Wings Plus gets a rating of 4.5 stars out of 5, losing the half star only because of the inability to eat in. The restaurant gets praise for its great food, wide variety of wing flavors, reasonable prices, friendly service, and great store hours. For more information on Wings Plus or to see a complete menu, you can visit them at www.WingsPlusNY.com.



Sidny Ginsberg

Wings Plus, located in a convenient location across from the train station, offers more than just wings. Its wide variety of food includes salads, ribs, and fried chicken.

THE SCHREIBER TIMES

REVIEWER GIVES IT



arts & Entertainment

Call the doctor, it's time to examine your funny bone *Growing up is a major theme in the final return of medical comedy Scrubs*

BY Andy Werle

Senior A&E Editor

The "dramedy" about three doctors and a nurse trying to grow up personally as they grow up professionally is still the most creative show on television. From the quick and surreal cut-aways to the witty repartee between characters, *Scrubs* continues to impress.

The arc of the new season, which began in October, focuses mainly on Dr. John "J.D." Dorian's (Zach Braff) new child with his ex-girlfriend, the urologist Kim Briggs (Elizabeth Banks). J.D. has to grow into being a father while Dr. Briggs and he realize that their relationship is based solely on the child. J.D.'s best friend, Surgeon Chris Turk (Donald Faison), drifts in and out of the spotlight as he and wife Carla Espinosa (Judy Reyes) adjust to being parents. Dr. Elliot Reid (Sarah Chalke), J.D.'s friend and old flame, has to navigate through the mess that she created by dumping her fiancé a week before their marriage.

While *Scrubs* continues to successfully balance drama and hilarity, this season is not the show's best. With the constant stream of amazing re-runs on Comedy Central, it becomes a little too obvious that the writers are fishing

for ideas. Perhaps they are waiting to spring a larger trap later in the season, but the first three episodes have not been mind-blowing.

"I am more of a fan of watching the old ones than watching the new ones," said sophomore Carly Cindrich.

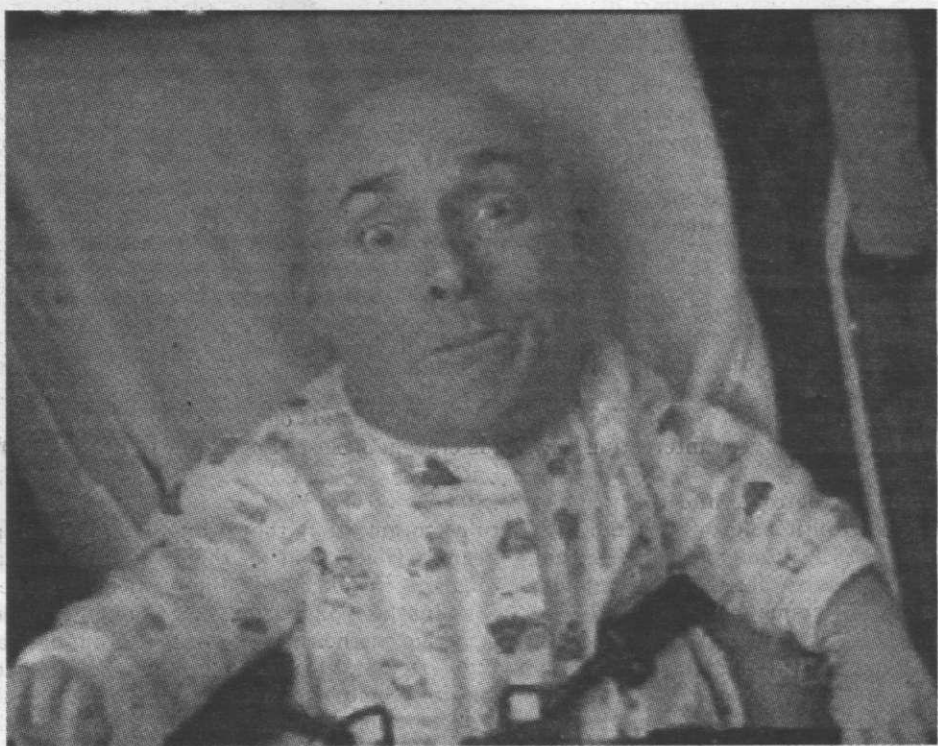
Although the quality of the writing may not be up to *Scrubs*' usual standards, the content is. After clearing away the vestiges of their old relationships, J.D. and Elliot are finally poised to end up together. Although creator Bill Lawrence has promised that J.D. and Elliot's relationship is not the focus of the series, many fans feel that it should be.

"The new season is pretty cool because the previous six seasons have just been building up to this one," said senior Avi Blum. "I just want J.D. and Elliot to get together for good."

Although this is a new and exciting prospect, what is actually happening in the show is rather depressing. J.D. has a baby with a woman in a loveless relationship. Elliot gets insulted constantly by her ex, who cannot get over her. The only real source of joy is from Dr. Perry Cox (John C. McGinley), who just had his second baby with his ex-wife. (They get along great unless they are married.)

One of the new themes of the season is growing up, and J.D. has to do a lot of it. In one of the most recent episodes, J.D.'s brother, Dan (Tom Cavagh), came to town. In the past, J.D. has been successful while Dan has been living in their mother's house. But at the end of last season, J.D. hit Dan with a hard truth, and Dan left in huff. But, upon his return this season, he has become a successful real estate salesman. When J.D. gets jealous and refuses Dan's gifts, he is surprised when Dan tells him to "grow up." It is a moment of clarity for J.D., and he faces his life with new vigor.

Unfortunately, to get their laughs



In one of J.D.'s (Zach Braff) dream sequences, he imagines his unwilling mentor Dr. Perry Cox (John C. McGinley) as a rather rude baby.

this season, the show's writers have moved away from their witty dialogue in favor of cheap jokes. One of the running gags throughout the series is the mispronunciation of the heavily-whiskered Dr. Beardface's last name. The nameless Janitor, the bane of J.D.,

"With the constant stream of amazing re-runs on Comedy Central, it becomes a little too obvious that the writers are fishing for ideas"

has also been heavily featured because he almost guarantees a laugh. Come to think of it, the only characters that have not provided their requisite laughs have been the four main characters. Every body else is doing his or her part.

Despite that, the show remains about J.D. and how he makes it through life. The writing this season has focused a lot on his failures personally as well as professionally. His moves to please Dr. Cox have become more pathetic

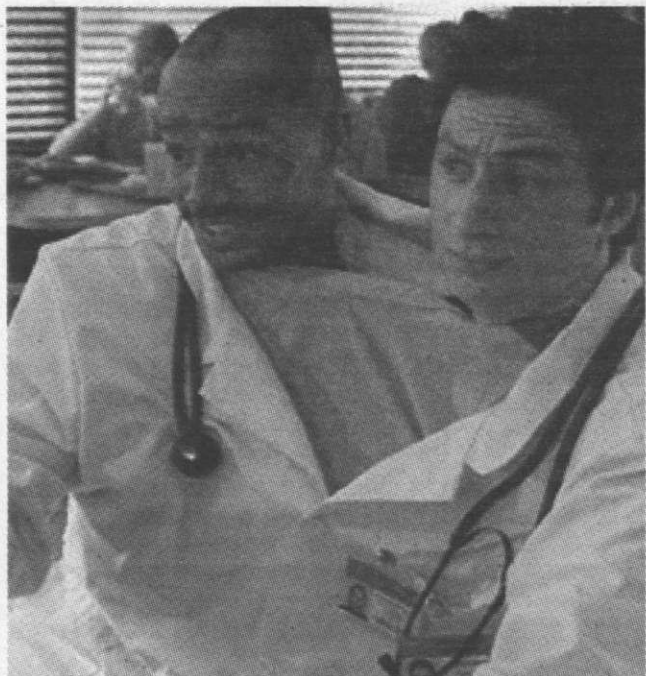
while his romantic entanglements have virtually become non-existent.

Although this is *Scrubs*' last season, I feel that it is timed perfectly. The fate of the characters is still unclear, but it definitely feels like something big will happen. I very much hope that the series will be remembered as one of the most overlooked series of this century. It has rarely been a ratings leader, but it enjoys a large cult following. The fans of *Scrubs* definitely will watch it no matter how bad it is.

The characters are loveable and funny, but most importantly, they are real. The writers do a good job of making J.D. appear like a good person with many faults, and his voiceovers do not seem saintly because he rarely follows his own advice.

"I love the show because I feel like I know the characters," said senior Nina Zorfass. "Turk is my favorite character because he is always hilarious and is an amazing dancer."

Unlike the other medical dramas found on network television these days, *Scrubs* is a light-hearted serial that not only has taught me everything I know about medicine, but also everything I know about zany comedy.



Turk (Donald Faison) and J.D. can sometimes be immature, although their portrayal of a multi-ethnic conjoined twins doctor is spot on.

Denzel Washington shines as the true *American Gangster*

by Nick Pray

Staff Writer

A man sits in a wooden chair, with his hands and feet bound. He is being drenched by gasoline as several African American men stand in front of him. One of those men, is the *American Gangster* himself, Frank Lucas, played truthfully by two-time Oscar winner Denzel Washington. Denzel watches as the man squirms and cries out in his native language while the blood and gasoline journey to the rest of his body and then, with a drop of a match the man is ignited. Without even a glimpse of mercy, Denzel takes out his 9mm and pumps a few rounds into the man. With already one of the most gruesome openings of a movie in decade, *American Gangster* is sure to be a promising tale of truth, family, violence, honor and the American way.

Directed by Ridley Scott (*Alien*, *Gladiator*), Produced by Brian Grazer (*A Beautiful Mind*, *Apollo 13*) and starring not only Denzel Washington but the gladiator himself, Russell Crowe. *American Gangster* is the true life story of the rise and fall of the only black man to ever go above the mafia, and became the biggest drug lord in Harlem during the 1970s.

The film begins, with Frank Lucas as a driver of the previous drug lord Bumpy Johnson as they go from setting a man on fire, to giving a poor and hungry Harlem crowd free turkeys for Thanksgiving. It's very interesting how so many men give back what they take away. From there we find that Bumpy Johnson's health is not so good and with his last words, Bumpy tells Frank that "The world is so big that you get lost in it; make a name for yourself...If you ain't somebody you ain't nobody." With his mentor's last words still in his brain, he takes over and becomes the big man in Harlem.

From there we meet Ritchie Roberts (Crowe), an honest hard working cop, who is studying at night school to become a lawyer. He is also trying to live down the torment of finding one million dollars cash, retuning it, then getting the entire police force hating him. If he didn't have enough troubles, he also has a wife who divorces him and moves with their son to Las Vegas.

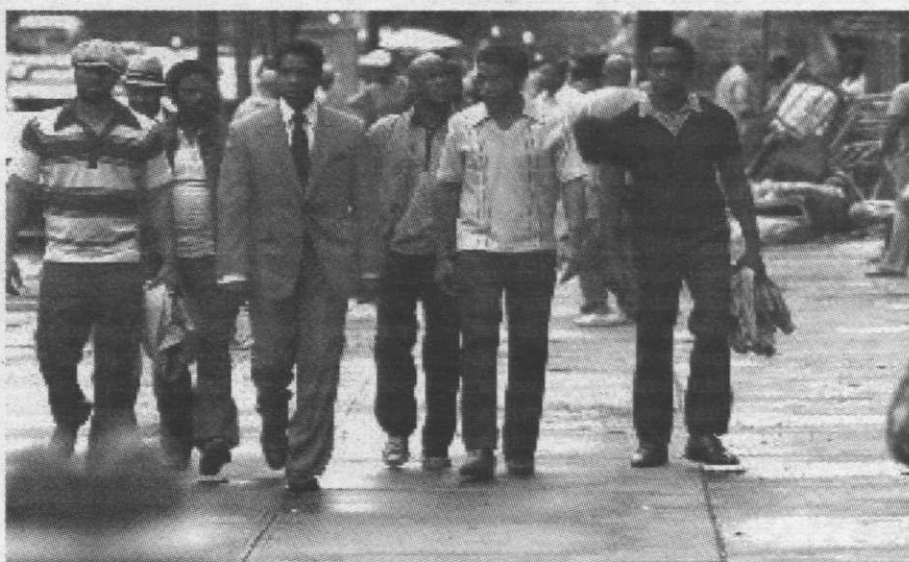
He is a cop who could use a vacation,

but instead he gets to deal with his heroin addicted partner who turns up dead one night, which begins Ritchie's investigation on finding Frank Lucas. But what heroin, where did he get it? The franchise is called "Blue Magic" and it is 100% pure heroine which Frank smuggles into the US through his connection in Vietnam on carrier planes flying in the coffins of fallen soldiers. Soon his empire rise, in a clever montage we see the spread of "Blue Magic," Frank's rise to power and fame and rise of the *American Gangster*. With the rise of "Blue Magic," Ritchie is put in charge of a narcotics team, built to find the big boys in the drug business.

We also meet another enemy, the NYC cops head by Trupo, played to the perfection that a mean and greedy detective by Josh Brolin. Trupo and his gang break up drug deals, take the drugs from the evidence room then they sell it back to the streets to make a whole lot of profit. It's a triangle that gets messy towards the end. As the story unfolds, we see that Frank is much more than a drug dealer, but also a family man who brings his entire family out to New York and shows them and little piece of "The Good life." As Frank's power grows, his grows more powerful that his competition which include the Mob, Trupo and his gang and a rival drug dealer, played by Cuba Gooding Jr. whom decides to try and Kill Frank's wife, but fails in an attempt to settle the score.

The film winds down, as Ritchie and his crew gets closer and closer to Frank Lucas. Trupo and his gang do what crooked cops do best, by breaking the rules to get what they want and raid Frank's House and as the power and reign of Frank Lucas diminishes, so does his family and his American life. Once his mother, played beautifully by Ruby Dee says "I never asked where all this comes from (referring to the his penthouse), I just never wanted you to lie to me...Your wife will leave you Frank...I will leave you." It's a beautiful scene between Frank and his mother.

The film ends in a terrific chase between Ritchie, his men and Frank's brothers as they defend their heroin cutting station, while Frank, his mother and his wife are at church. When the service ends, so does the power and freedom of Frank Lucas. *American Gangster* is a terrific film that truly



Frank Lucas (Denzel Washington) walks the *American Gangster* way by showing his crew the ropes of Harlem.

proves why Denzel Washington has two Oscars. His performance is brilliant and he is sure to receive another for his work. Russell Crowe also shines as the honest and distracted cop that finally gets what he deserves, once he has Frank in his custody.

The supporting cast, including Josh Brolin, Ruby Dee, Cuba Gooding Jr., Common and T.I. truly shine along side their leading actors. The cinematography, by Harry Savides (*Zodiac*, *Elephant*) is sheer elegance capturing the dark and tainted times of the drug infested Harlem during the 70's, the brutal mess of a shootout and the blazing morning sun in the hills of Vietnam. The violence is another aspect of the film that has it's moments that make the film so much stronger. Besides the opening scene and the shootout between Ritchie and Frank's men, there is one scene in particular which along with the other two the only action scenes in the film are, but this one in particular highlights the aspirations and intensity of Frank Lucas as the *American Gangster*. The scene involves Frank, the eldest of his brothers speaking to his siblings about the growth and identity of America. Frank finishes his bite of food, wipes his mouth and says "In America if you ain't somebody, you ain't nobody" and walks out the door. As he walks down the busy market streets on a beautiful, sunny day he asks the man for the money he owns,

but Frank already hates the man and knows exactly what he walked over hear to do... He pulls out his gun and shoots the man in the head. Everyone screams and Frank's image only grows. Despite all the amazing things about *American Gangster*, not to mention the wonderful directing by Ridley Scott who may finally get the Oscar that is way over due; there is only one true flaw in the film. That flaw is that Frank Lucas and Ritchie Roberts do not interact, share a scene or even meet until the very end of the film, which takes away the whole point of having Russell Crowe and Denzel Washington on the same cast.

There was no relationship development between the two incredible actors, and if they were to meet even once before the dramatic climax, the films message and story would have been one of the best in a very long time. All in all *American Gangster* is one wild ride into the complicated, power driven lives of Frank Lucas and Ritchie Roberts and it beautifully portrays the quote "In America if you ain't somebody, you ain't nobody" which brings us back to the monumental reason why this film is, by far one of the best this year...Denzel Washington as Frank Lucas.

If you think charm and wit in one guy is great, how about *Two and a Half*?

BY Alexandra Vojdany

Contributing Writer

All of you seniors out there with college apps, AP class assignments, and essays need to take a little break during the day to relax. I recommend the television comedy series *Two and a Half Men*, the People's Choice Award Winner as *Favorite New Series*. This show pleasantly provides comedy, wit, and sarcastic, caustic attitudes. *Two and a Half Men* was formerly a weekly show, however, people just couldn't get enough of Charlie (Charlie Sheen), Alan (Jon Cryer), and little Jake (Angus T. Jones) and now the show airs twice a week at seven pm and eleven pm on CW11.

Charlie Sheen plays a rich, self-indulgent bachelor who engages in sex as a way of dealing with his problems (such as his overbearing mother). Jon Cryer plays a tightly-wound single

father who gives everything he earns to his ex-wife as alimony, including his house, forcing him and his son Jake to live with his easy-going brother. Jake, who lives with his uncle and father every weekend, picks up on the habits and language of his uncle Charlie (Judith: "How was your weekend?" Jake: Uncle Charlie says I don't have to tell you.") Alan's unsuccessful attempts to shield Jake from his brother's habits do not cover Charlie's authentic care for Jake which make up for his lack of moral behavior. However, the character who keeps you clinging to the show is Charlie and Alan's mother, Evelyn (Holland Taylor).

The repartee between characters Charlie and Evelyn is what gives the show its unique spice. Charlie has resented his mother's actions towards him and his brother since childhood (Evelyn: "I'm not speaking to you."

Charlie: "Ok." Evelyn: "Don't you want to know why?" Charlie "No, I trust your judgment.").

One more character who pulls the show together is Charlie's one-night stand and stalker, Rose (Alan: "Rose?" Rose: "Yes, sweetie?" Alan: "You're a stalker." Rose: "I prefer to be called 'boundary-challenged.'" Alan: "Just go away." Rose: "Go away? Alan, I'm a stalker.") Rose has been obsessed with Charlie ever since he charmed her as he does to every voluptuous woman he encounters.

These characters give the audience charm, wit, comedic performances, and personality. They make the show successful and fun to watch. I



Two and a Half Men shows the glory of brotherly love.

recommend flipping on the television at 7:00 or 11:30, tearing away from your work for a half-hour, and enjoying what these actors have to offer.

Concerts at the Landmark spice up otherwise boring Fridays

BY Morgan Quigley

Staff Writer

It's always nice to experience something out of the ordinary, and going to a rockin' concert definitely qualifies, especially if you have seen the members of the bands walking around your high school. After some technical difficulties delaying the show, the recent concert at the Landmark building Nov. 9 was quite a success.

The concert opened with sophomore band Chronic Downfall. The members of Chronic Downfall include lead vocalist Justin Volpe, drummer John Hurwitz, and bassist Sam Schildkraut.

After their short set, The Shags performed. They played their own great version of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," and just like at the pep rally in Oct., they played "I Believe in a Thing Called Love," by The Darkness. The Shags' members are four seniors.

Ryan Castro is the lead vocalist, Steve Pierce is the lead guitarist, Larry Baglio is the drummer, and Nick Otte plays the bass and sings back-up vocals. Chronic Downfall and The Shag's performances were very impressive and demonstrated their musical skills.

Amongst the bands that played the concert were Break Your Silence, Disposable Heroes and Far from Elysium, who played at last year's Battle of the Bands at Schreiber. The four members (all Schreiber seniors) of Disposable Heroes first got together in 2003. Avi Blum sings lead vocals and plays the guitar, Andy Werle plays lead guitar, Lawrence Plofker plays bass and sings back-up vocals, and Aaron Silberstein plays the drums. Far From Elysium, also made up of Schreiber seniors, closed the set with their own form of metalcore.

"It was a great show and we really enjoyed performing for everybody," said Castro. "All the bands, like Far from

Elysium and Disposable Heroes were really great and The Shags look forward to performing at the Coffee House in December," said Castro.

Another very unique aspect of the concert were things that took place off of the stage. There was everything from skateboarding to back flips going on inside the gym. This concert had a fun atmosphere, and was a great social scene for teenagers.

"These concerts at the Landmark are great," said sophomore David Gueli. "This is a great place for teens to meet outside of school in a nice environment. I think these concerts should be held more often. I also think that they should get more publicity, so everyone knows about them and has a chance to go."

These concerts are not only fun and exciting, but a good way for our schools' bands to get publicity. All of these bands should be recognized by the school and by the community.

"I hope to be in many more concerts just like this, but with a little bit more publicity," said Schildkraut. "Although it was a great show, I would have liked to see some more people there."

These concerts are great because they make an ordinary Friday night, which consists of going into town, getting a slice from one of our many pizzerias, and then going to a movie, into something special.

"Concerts like these should go on more often," said freshman Matthew Small. "They get people to put down their Xbox 360 controllers, and go see a concert for a minimal fee. You get to see high quality music for only five dollars.

It is better than getting a seventy-five dollar ticket to go see some popular band."

These concerts not only give teens an inexpensive form of entertainment, they are also a great way of socializing with fellow students. As more and more people come to these concerts, the bands will receive the publicity they need. The Landmark concert was an amazing idea, and created a good opportunity for members of our student body to get together and share in their appreciation of music.



Eric Glasser

The Shags' Stephen Pierce brings the funk when he delivers a knock out performance at Landmark.

Dan in Real Life disappoints

BY Tatiana Mouarbes

Staff Writer

I must say that after watching *Dan in Real Life*, I was severely disappointed. I had high expectations for the film when I saw that Steve Carell and Dane Cook starred, but the picture failed to deliver and left me bored and uninterested.

Carell plays Dan Burns, advice columnist and widower who struggles with life as a single father of three girls. While vacationing at his parent's house for an annual family gathering, Dan meets Marie (Juliette Binoche), and instantly falls for her. Unfortunately, Marie is Dan's brother Mitch's (Dane Cook) girlfriend and is staying with the family for the week. The beginning of the movie is hopeful, but after the initial awkwardness of Dan's situation is played out, the movie goes downhill. The only part that was somewhat appealing is when Dan is forced to go out on a double date with an old childhood friend, Ruthie Draper (Emily Blunt) and Marie and Mitch. Dan makes Marie jealous by dancing like an animal with her. This scene was amusing but the movie returned to its oppressive monotony soon after. The parallelism between Dan's problems with his daughters and his problems in real life and the big supportive family

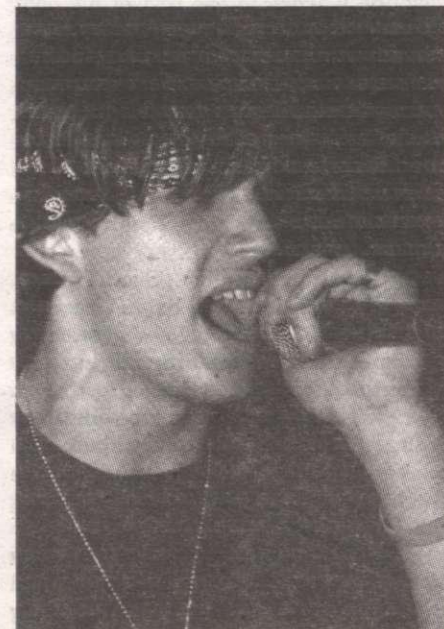
aspect was all too familiar. I felt like I was watching the *Family Stone* all over again. Cook's performance was shameful and I feel that I will never be able to look at him the same, while Carell did the best he could with the unconvincing and predictable script. The acting was mediocre, the plot wasn't strong to be saved by Carell's performance, and the movie turned out to be nothing more than a generic romantic comedy, and even that is saying too much.

Overall, the movie left me on the back of my seat as the mundane and boring love story washed over me.



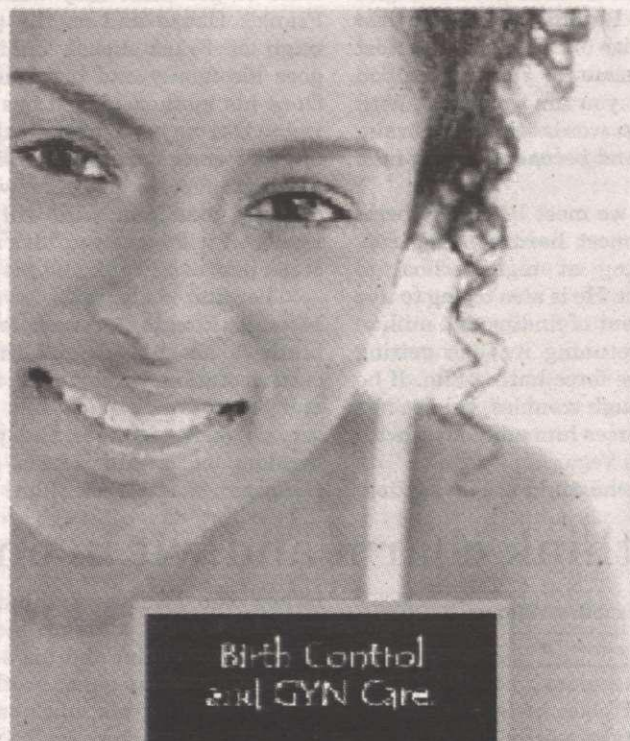
www.imdb.com

Funnyman Steve Carrel, who succeeded in *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, was disappointing in *Dan In Real Life*.



Eric Glasser

Avi Blum of Disposable Heroes rocks in another smash performance as the bands lead singer and guitarist.



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Music Box

Britney Spears: Blackout



BY Christina Vlahos

A&E Assistant Editor

Britney Spears has hit us one more time—this time on her way up from the rock-bottom point of her career. *Blackout* reflects the total deterioration and failure of Britney's past couple of years. However, in spite of this period of overall self-destructive behavior, Spears is making her slow and steady way back onto the charts.

Blackout is entirely pop, and though most of the lyrics are barely coherent, there is a lot of layering of interesting rhythms and beats throughout. Some of the songs sound like music from the 80s.

However, the style of the other songs can actually be likened to the style of fellow member of the music industry, Justin Timberlake. Evidently, Timberlake was able to utilize these techniques with far more successful results, in his album *Future Sex/Love Sounds*.

Some of the sounds are also slightly reminiscent of Rihanna's album

Good Girl Gone Bad, particularly the background beats. Spears' attempt to sing rap-like songs are quite similar to those of Fergie's album *Duchess*, which included the songs "Fergalicious" and "London Bridge." The synth background music is average, but at least some of her songs have catchy tunes that will stick in your head for the rest of the day.

Spears, for some reason, perhaps because she is incapable of writing good lyrics, fills in about three fourths of every song with the repetition of a key phrase, while moaning and sighing. This is apparent in her first two tracks "Gimme More" and "Piece of Me." For example, "Piece of Me" features a sound similar to what one would imagine a dying chicken to sound like.

The lyrics used in *Blackout* very strongly indicate Britney Spears' current attitude towards life. In her sleazy single "Gimme More" she sings, or pants, rather: "Cameras are flashing while we're dirty dancing/ They keep watchin'/Keep watchin'/Feels like the crowd is saying/Gimme gimme more." Furthermore, in the second track "Piece of Me," Spears inarticulately describes how her fame makes her "most likely to get on the TV for stepping on the streets for getting some groceries/are you kidding me?"

Songs such as "Radar" are mediocre and pointless; however, "Break the Ice," though probably one of the least lucid songs, has a good beat for dancing. Actually, most of these tracks are the sort that you would typically hear at a dance club.

The end of the album unfortunately seems to be mostly tracks whose purpose is to take up space on the album. The

song "Freakshow" is irritating and repetitive to say the least. The lyrics of "Heaven on Earth" and "Get Naked" are erotic and overall unimpressive.

Several songs on this album were also collaborations with other artists. These artists include the rapper, T.Pain, who arranged and provided background vocals for "Hot as Ice." She also worked with Pharrell Williams on the last number on the album, "Why Should I Be Sad."

In most of the tracks on *Blackout*, Britney sang breathily or spoke the lyrics, which wasn't that far a reach from her previous albums, *Oops I Did It Again* and *My Prerogative*. However, whereas those albums were pure pop, these have a little more of a techno vibe, and the mood is a bit darker and moodier.

"I really love Britney's new album. It is some of the best dance music I've heard in a while, and I'm happy to see that she's making her way back to the top. The music is really different from her other work, and whenever I hear these songs at dances, I am the first on the floor. My friends and I get really excited when we hear it on the radio too," said sophomore Despina Haralampoudis.

It would seem that throughout this new album and attempted comeback, Britney seems to be very dependent on the reputation she acquired before she married and had children. Britney was a superstar back then, and she was truly on top of the music business. Britney went from toting snakes around a stage to toting tots on the street—and nearly dropping them.

Her disastrous union with Kevin Federline was the downhill turning point of her career, and she could only

get worse. Long gone are Spears' glory days of the Mickey Mouse Club and *Baby One More Time*, but hopefully this album will serve to stabilize Spears and keep her out of the tabloids for her social life and more for her music.

Overall, the album *Blackout* starts out strong but then resorts to weaker filler songs. Whether this album will be the spark to set Britney's career rolling again only time will tell. It is doubtful that she will ever again reach the high point of her earlier years, but this album is definitely a significant turning point in the life and legacy of the infamous Britney Spears.

Schreiber teachers recommend:

1. Mr. Reynolds: "Master of Puppets," Metallica
2. Mr. Pichkur: "All Along the Watchtower," Jimi Hendrix
3. Ms. Brenner: "At Last," Etta James
4. Ms. Serfaty: "Strawberry Fields Forever," The Beatles
5. Dr. Lindemann: "The Times, they are A-Changin'," Bob Dylan
6. Mr. Ferruso: "When I Come Around," Green Day
7. Mr. Gallego: "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," Green Day
8. Mr. Santoro: "Night and Day," Cole Porter
9. Mr. Schineller: "Yellow," Coldplay
10. Mr. Johnson: "Love Supreme," John Coltrane
11. Ms. Cerny: "Layla," Derek and the Dominoes
12. Ms. Klotz: "The Heart of the Matter," Don Henley
13. Ms. Jaworski: "Brighter than Sunshine," Aqualung

Classic Album Backstreet Boys: Millennium



BY Melissa Quigley

A&E Editor

On the verge of the new millennium, five less than mediocre pop artists found out what it was like to be 'larger than life.' The Backstreet Boys got ready for the year 2000 with the release of their album *Millennium*, on May 18, 1999.

The Backstreet Boys' original members included Nick Carter, Howie Dorough, Brian Litterell, A.J. McLean, and Kevin Richardson. However, Kevin Richardson soon left the band.

This album marked a crucial time for the band. It is considered the climax of the band's career by many; *Millennium* broke many records for the Backstreet Boys. The album was nominated for five Grammy's, sold 1.13 million copies,

certifying the album platinum thirteen times over. If that wasn't good enough for the 90s bleach blonde (or brown haired) boy band, *Millennium* reached the number one spot in twenty-five countries. Seriously, who wouldn't enjoy such great success?

As soon as you put on the album it creates a sense of nostalgia, as many of us remember our first childhood concerts of Britney Spears, Backstreet Boys, or 'NSYNC. The Backstreet Boys released their first self-titled album in 1995. *Backstreet Boys*, was internationally released in Europe, Canada, and Asia, selling an estimated 8.5 million copies. Two years later they re-released *Backstreet Boys* in the United States. *Millennium* was their first album to be released in the U.S. and internationally.

The Backstreet Boys set some of their highest records at this point. They set unprecedented records for themselves in the second and third weeks the album was on the market. Many stores ran out of their CD, because of its huge popularity.

The track list consists of some of the bands most monumental songs including, "The One," "I Want it that Way," and "Don't Want You Back." Many people feel that "I Want it that Way" was probably the band's largest success out

of any of their singles. Personally, I feel that the 90s retro-pop boy band produced a level of music that is easy for everyone to listen to. Whether you are taking a drive, running at the gym, or studying, *Millennium* is actually an ideal album. The catchy poppy tunes, and the somewhat computerized voices are truly entertaining as well.

Millennium can mostly be appreciated by those of us who grew up during the 'boy-band' era. There are few people who can honestly say they detest the trek of these five boys

as they go through love, relationships, and of course the always hurtful break up. It was one of the first true successes of the 90s boy bands, and has left an impression of immature lyrics, and audio mediocrity.

"The Backstreet Boys are the pop icons," said sophomore Eunice Kim.

Although the boy band era by many has been declared over, it has not stopped the Backstreet Boys from producing several disappointing albums including *Hiatus*, *Never Gone*, and *Unbreakable*.



The Backstreet Boys tell their fans why they're "Larger Than Life" during their world tour in 2000.

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Athletes of the Month

Amanda Cohen

Steve Kaufman

BY Harrison Remler
Business Manager

Although she is only a junior, Amanda Cohen has been an integral part of Schreiber's girls varsity volleyball team for three years.

Cohen competed in her first varsity season as a freshman, and she became accustomed to the winning style of the girls varsity volleyball team. Cohen was part of an undefeated, 13 win Vikings squad which won their conference in her first year, led by Schreiber alumna Burgandy McCarty.

"The team's success during my freshman year convinced me we could have great seasons," said Cohen.

After a disappointing sophomore season, in which the team finished 2-13, Cohen led the team to a winning record this past fall.

"We worked hard in practice during the year and made an improvement from last season," said Cohen.

A team effort, the Vikings compiled a 7-6 record this year. Cohen set a career high twenty two kills in a win against Farmingdale during September.

Cohen also participates in club volleyball, playing with the Long Island Junior Volleyball Club.

She has played with this competitive club team for the past two seasons. Cohen and the team set their hopes high every season, with the ultimate goal of making the Junior Olympics.

"Club volleyball has been an excellent way to keep me in shape for school volleyball," said Cohen.

Not only has she competed at the club level, but Cohen was also nominated to represent the United States in Holland on an international stage.

"This was an incredible experience. I was able to experience other cultures and make great friendships through volleyball," said Cohen. "It was truly an experience of a lifetime."

Even though she is in the early stages of the recruiting process, Cohen has already drawn interest from college programs. She has received letters from schools such as Cornell University.

She also looks forward to more success next year.

"We're only graduating one senior and I'm sure it will be a great experience," said Cohen.



EP Beyond

Cohen was nominated to represent the United States in Holland.

BY Al Ades
Contributing Writer

In his final year at Schreiber, senior Steven Kaufman has proven himself as one of the many stellar athletes in our football program. The Vikings varsity football squad finished with an impressive 5-2 record in the regular season.

Kaufman did a great job replacing the injured junior Jeff Frocarro at tailback, and his impressive season was highlighted by his four-touchdown performance in a win against Oceanside. He went on to score twelve touchdowns during the entire season.

The Vikings came into the playoffs content with their regular season, but they wanted more. However, in the playoffs Port lost in the first round against a difficult Freeport team.

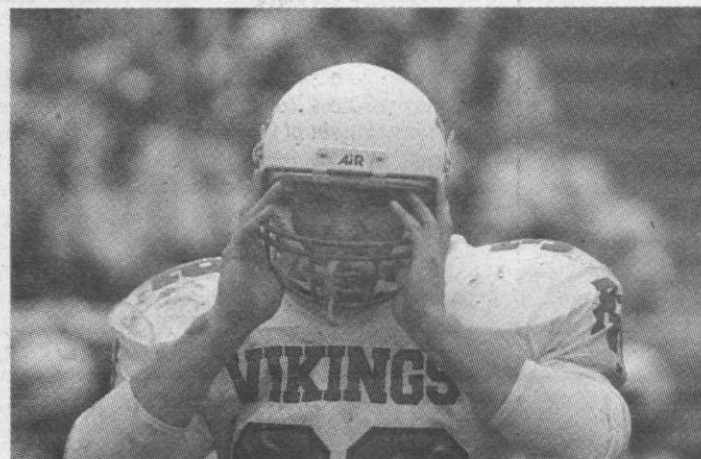
"Sometimes things just don't work out, but it was a great season nonetheless," said Kaufman. "This was the best football team that I had ever played on. We had a great quarterback, running backs, receivers, and an unbelievable defense. We were very balanced I

can't think of any weaknesses."

Like the team, Kaufman is well-rounded in all aspects. He has high expectations, excelling at lacrosse and basketball in addition to football. In addition to being captain of the football team, he is the captain of the lacrosse team and many people say that lacrosse is his best sport.

Because of his athletic achievements, Kaufman has many options when it comes to college. According to him, lacrosse is his real dream and he is currently being recruited by colleges from all across the nation. This last year was his last time playing football.

Steven Kaufman has already proven himself as a great football player, and is very excited for what his last seven months at Schreiber will bring.



Gab Balaban

Kaufman helped lead the team to a 5-2 record after replacing an injured Jeff Frocarro at running back.

Football eliminated in first round of playoffs

BY Steven Geisenheimer
Staff Writer

For the second straight season the Vikings were defeated by Freeport in the Nassau Conference 1 quarterfinal.

"I am very proud of the way we played, especially the seniors, during our final game for Port," said senior linebacker Ryan Castro. "It was definitely a tough way to end our football careers at Schreiber, but we hope the juniors can carry on this new winning tradition."

Port got off to a fast start in the opening quarter of the Freeport game. Port started with the ball and had a solid touchdown drive lasting five minutes ten seconds.

Led by senior running back Steven Kaufman, and junior quarterback Mike McCabe, Port moved the ball down the field. On the drive, Kaufman ran the ball seven times for fifty one yards and also had a reception for seven yards, already proving himself in only the first quarter.

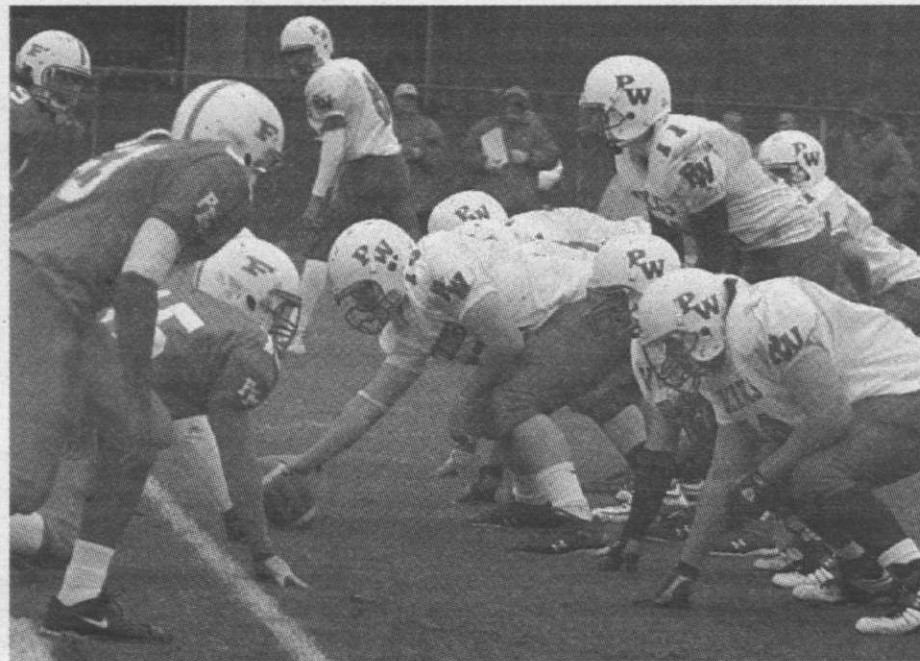
However, it wasn't Kaufman who put the ball into the end zone. The drive resulted in senior Zach Ross breaking loose and avoiding Freeport defenders on a sixteen yard touchdown-run. On the play, Ross fumbled, but fortunately, the ball bounced right back up into his hands and he ran into the end zone, giving Port an early 6-0 lead.

After their first and only score,

the Vikings quickly got the ball back on junior Nick Omeltchenko's fumble recovery.

Port drove down to the 14 yard line but eventually turned the ball over on downs.

Again, Port shut down the Freeport offense, and senior Jeremy Gurewitz's clutch sack on third down forced them to punt.



Gab Balaban

The Vikings were previously defeated by Freeport. They were able to start the first quarter strong. However, it would be the only touchdown Port would score.

Freeport's defense held, and Port ended the first quarter up 6-0 in what seemed to be a defensive struggle on both sides of the ball.

Early in the second quarter, Port forced another turnover, this one, a fumble which was recovered by junior Mark Brewster.

Port eventually got a first-and-goal at the four yard line, but after three

straight runs by Kaufman and a QB sneak by McCabe, Port failed to get in the end zone.

"This stop was the turning point of the game," said Coach Mr. Ken Case. "The drive shifted the momentum to Freeport."

On the ensuing Port possession, the team took a big hit, as McCabe limped off the field with an ankle injury after he was tackled. Port was forced to punt without McCabe leading them.

Freeport eventually got the ball into the end zone again with 30 seconds remaining in the half and took a 13-6 lead into the locker room, a lead they would never lose.

Freeport started the third quarter with a quick scoring drive to take a 20-6 lead.

Freeport added 14 more points in the quarter while Port struggled offensively. Freeport added another touchdown in the fourth quarter to give them a 40-6 lead, which would be the final score of the game.

The Vikings struggled against the run, allowing 305 rushing yards. However, the pass defense proved itself very worthy, as it allowed only eleven yards in the air.

In their final game, seniors Castro and Kaufman led the team in tackles.

"We don't like losing, we lost to a better team. We hope we can continue to improve as a team and come back strong next year," said Brewster.

Varsity girls tennis finishes best on Long Island

Team defeats Westhampton in finals of Long Island Championships

BY Graham Potters

Staff Writer

The Long Island Champion girls varsity tennis team succeeded beyond its modest expectations at the start of the season.

The team was able to earn its title after diligent training and significant improvement. Indeed, this group of girls distinguished themselves in a way never before accomplished in Schreiber's history.

"I am extremely pleased with myself and my team," said sophomore Jennifer Friedman. "We have overcome so much this season that that the Long Island Championship feels that much more rewarding."

The girls completed the regular season with a 12-2 record, putting them a single win in front of Roslyn for the division.

A major contributing factor to the success of the team this year was the return of injured players and the acquisition of new freshman talent.

Sophomore Jessica Podlofsky returned from a groin injury that ended last season early for her.

Similarly, the freshman doubles team consisting of Alexa and Jackie Froccaro played a major role in the success of the team during both the regular and postseason.

The team was led by junior Kristin Norton, who demonstrated her gripping

command by winning every single set throughout the entire regular and post season.

The team's morale also played a key part in clinching the Championship title.

"Team spirit kept us together and we tried to stay focused on one game at a time," said sophomore Katie Stack. "Even when we lost, we remained positive, which enabled us to bounce back quickly from our losses and maintain our record."

All of these different components were important factors that led to the team's victorious finish. The County final was a challenge that nearly eliminated the Lady Vikings from their post-season bid.

The Jericho Jayhawks proved to be a tough opponent, keeping the final score close.

After a tight back-and-forth battle, Port was victorious by only one match, taking four of the seven total matches.

Sophomores Podlofsky and Emily Szulman, who played second and third singles, were both defeated by Jericho. Similarly, the fourth doubles team, consisting of seniors Julia Catalano and Sidney Ginsberg were defeated by Jericho.

However, the bleeding stopped there, and Port was able to clinch the County Championship on the heels of very competitive play by the team.

The team's coach, Mr. Stan Makover, expressed his gratitude toward the

team's effort and praised their success in the season.

"This has been a first time experience for me in my forty three years of coaching sports," said Makover. "The Girls played exceptionally well this season, and with the acquisition of new and previously injured players, we were able to take the Long Island Championship. It was a real accomplishment; it is something

"This has been a first time experience for me in my forty three years of coaching sports. The girls played exceptionally well. [The Championship] was a real accomplishment; it is something to be very proud of."

to be proud of."

Port played with authority during the Championship game and they defeated Westhampton Beach High School with a final score of 5-2, dealing them their only defeat of the season.

In the deciding match of the competition, the senior duo of Ginsberg

and Catalano were able to reverse their previous loss to Jericho.

This doubles team came through in the clutch and was able to defeat Kelly Westfield and Rachel Paoletta of Westhampton 6-2, 6-4 to close out the match, and the title.

"Our loss to Jericho earlier in the season was obviously a disappointment," said Catalano. "However, I think that we were able to remain confident. The fact that we have a strong team around us helped us rebound from our loss. We are truly a team."

Kristin Norton finished out a strong season individually with a resounding defeat over Lindsay Kantor, 6-0, 6-2. This victory completed an undefeated season for Norton, who finished 17-0 overall. She did not lose a set over the course of the season.

The girls had surpassed Coach Makover's expectations for what the team would accomplish this season. All in all, the girls completed the season with a 15-2 record.

"We have come a long way this season. I am very proud of both myself and my team because of our exceptional tennis skills and our ability to win," said Friedman. "I hope this success continues into next season, and I think that it will. We are only losing two players from the starting squad, and there is plenty of underclassmen talent to fill the spots. I am excited for next year and beyond."

Girls swimming finishes 14th in county

Thirteen swimmers qualify for Championships

BY Blake and Reid Mergler

Staff Writers

With thirteen swimmers qualifying for the Nassau County Championships, the girls varsity swim team achieved many of its goals this season. During the championships, the team showed its ability and finished in 14th place out of 29 swim teams in the county.

The coach, Mr. Joe Lennon, helped the swimmers reach their personal best times by teaching them new strategies and techniques.

"I am happy with the number of swimmers who qualified for events today, as it is double the amount of swimmers last year," said Mr. Lennon. "It is clearly evident that the team has grown personally and competitively during my three years of coaching."

To prepare for the meet, Lennon eased up the practices and focused more on technique instead of endurance due to the fact that individual swimmers have different ways to prepare.

The swimmers performed well in multiple events at the meet, including the two freestyle relays and the 100 yard breast stroke.

In the two freestyle relays, the swimmers posted their fastest times of the season and they managed to improve their total time by five seconds.

Vikings swimmers junior Liz Jester and sophomores Jenne Biunno and Gabby Borutecene ranked among the top 25 for the 100 yard breast-stroke.

Among the thirteen swimmers who qualified for the Nassau County

Championships, there were two middle school swimmers, Bridget Moody and Emily Tierney.

"I like being a middle school swimmer on the team because it gives me a goal to reach in future years of swimming," said Tierney. "I am really excited to swim today, as I worked extremely hard throughout the season, and it paid off."

As a sophomore, Borutecene earned the team MVP award for the fourth consecutive time. At the meet, she took five seconds off her best time in the 200 yard individual medley. Unfortunately, she did not qualify for high school states, but she hopes to do so next year.

Another swimmer who qualified for the counties is Biunno, who hoped to reach her goal for the season.

"I am the most nervous for the 100 yard breast stroke," said Biunno before the race. "My goal is to finish in 1:18 for the race. Coach Lennon has helped me attempt to reach this goal by showing me new strategies for the stroke."

With Lennon's assistance, Biunno achieved great success and ranked 24th in Nassau County for the event and earned her best time of the season.

In addition to having a winning record, it was important for the Vikings to beat Syosset at the Nassau County Championships. Although Syosset beat the girls swim team during the season, Port swam better during the counties.

"Hopefully next year, Port swimmers will make states," said Lennon. "I think it will be our year."

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Calling The Shots

A-Rod and Torre vs. the Patriots and Red Sox *Can the offseason be more important than the season? I doubt it.*

BY Lane Mergler

Sports Editor

Have you been reading the sports sections of major newspapers in the past few months?

If you have, you might have noticed one thing: a quarter of a billion dollars isn't quite enough for Hall of Famer-to-be Alex Rodriguez. You might have also noticed that Joe Torre was sick of being spoiled and decided to reunite with the only guy who can compete with Aaron Heilman for worst reliever in MLB history, Scott Proctor.

If you study every nook and cranny of the daily sports section, you might have noticed that the Red Sox swept the red-hot Rockies in the World Series.

Don't feel stupid if you didn't know that; it seemed to take intense research deep into sports sections across America to discover that small bit of information.

As the Rockies were about to be put out of their misery in the "boring" month of October, the anticipated news of A-Rod opting out was finally released. If you didn't see that coming, I suggest you never contact a bookie.

The only result of this announcement was Bud Selig getting angry at Rodriguez for marginalizing October baseball since the Yankees faced an early exit against the Indians. The

whole A-Rod/Torre commotion, which immediately took effect when the Red Sox clinched the World Series, brings up a major issue: what matters more, the season itself or the offseason?

In addition to Boston winning it all, many other things are going on in the sports world. The New England Patriots are chasing the '72 Dolphins without bothering to look back now that they have gotten past Peyton Manning's Indianapolis Colts and their foolish attempts at "cheating."

In all seriousness, who actually stands a chance of beating the Patriots? The Giants? The Steelers? I'd like to see Pittsburgh try on a December day in Foxboro, especially after they lost to the Jets.

On the opposite pole of the football world, the Miami Dolphins are hoping to avoid being the first team to go 0-16.

Have I mentioned that the basketball and hockey seasons have just started? With all the media focus on the Celtic's future success over the summer, real talk about the start of the season, where Boston can prove what the real outcome will be, is completely shadowed.

We seem to be living in a world so preoccupied in speculation that current play is irrelevant and it's all about predictions. It's okay if you didn't know the seasons started, just go back to

following news about A-Rod and Torre.

When the Yankees choked, ending the baseball season in New York, did you care more about where A-Rod was going or where the ring was? Were you even able to name the top three pitchers in Colorado's rotation before the World Series started? Do you even know who they are now? (Jeff Francis, Ubaldo Jimenez and Josh Fogg).

However, you most likely know three coaching changes that happened so far this offseason, Girardi to the Yankees, Torre to the Dodgers, and Little getting the boot.

Why does the media do this? All of the A-Rod news that occurred during the postseason is rumors, while the World Series news is cold hard facts. Does the media prefer saying 'I called it!' when predicting A-Rod going to the Yankees and being booed to covering Colorado's potential in the World Series?

Nobody could have even thought for a millisecond that Colorado was going to be in the World Series, a groundbreaking event, masked by whether Torre was going to get fired and the speculation of what sum of money A-Rod will find on his check come October 2008.

In fact, this has been going on since the start of the season. Anyone can easily go to Yahoo and find an article about who becomes a free agent in the NBA at the end of this year. The season

has barely begun and already we're looking forward to the next offseason where we can improve our teams even more.

People are talking about tactics their far-from-playoff-worthy favorite football team ought to follow, and looking forward to starting a dynasty revolving around Darren McFadden. I will admit that I am a victim of such a realist act, and I am proud to see Kellen Clemens taking snaps now.

Perhaps everyone prefers the offseason to the season because no one knows what to expect. Entering the postseason, you would have to been either an ignorant Yankees fan or have lived under a rock for the last decade to not be surprised if Boston won it all this year.

Granted, there are always those surprise teams, but predicting the offseason perfectly is harder than anything else in the world of sports. For all we know, an expansion team in Boise could be created and have Sal Fasano and Neifi Perez be its first major signings.

The offseason has a lot to offer with media attention. With players changing teams, each year is different. But, tell me, have you ever stayed up until one in the morning, with a good three hours of work left, just to watch a free agent signing?



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Boys cross country places ninth in state

Runners have best finish since 1964 and win division for third straight season

BY Myles Potters
Sports Editor

The boys varsity cross country qualified for the state championship meet for the first time since 1964, a visible difference from last year, when the team finished fourth in the county.

"The state meet was really thrilling for all of us," said sophomore Jake Levine. "It was a new experience, obviously, and a little bit intimidating to be honest. However, just the fact that we made it is a testament to the hard work we put in over the course of the season. Just look at the times; they kept dropping as the season went on."

This year, the team also finished first in its division for the third straight season, a rare event in the cross country world.

The top three runners on the team were senior Ignacio Del Valle, junior Noah Bondy, and sophomore Marco Bertolotti, who contributed to the team's ninth place finish in the state among the select teams in the Lake Placid event. Bertolotti and Del Valle both earned All-County recognition.

Also competing in the state meet were seniors Robbie Rubinstein and junior Jeff D'Elia.

Leading the team were captains seniors Del Valle, Kevin Ouyang, and Eric Ruvio. Assisting them were senior Gary Cruz and junior Pierce Wezenaar. The team began the season strong with a Sept. 15 victory at the Wheatley Invitational.

Levine broke eighteen minutes in his 5K (3.1 miles) time, and Bertolotti was among the leaders of the race, a position with which he is familiar. Also finishing strong was eighth grader Ryan Schwartz who qualified for the team at a young age.

"This meet was an important starting point for us," said junior Noah Bondy. "It represented a strong start that really built up momentum for the team. It gave us a boost of confidence and morale, and it started the season on the right foot. It kept us running hard during the entire season and all the way through the state meet."

The team had a repeat success on Sept. 24, when the squad defeated Massapequa, Valley Stream Central, and Hempstead.

At Sunken Meadow, the team competed on the toughest course in the state. As if to prove his resilience, Bertolotti set a school record at the course with a time of 17:20.

Bertolotti's time led the team, but many other teammates finished fast enough to place.

Ouyang ran with a time of 18:42, and Wezenaar finished with a time of 19:04.

"Sunken Meadow is one of the hardest courses in the state, and to be able to run these times is really astounding," said Ouyang. "I am proud of the team for accomplishing these times at this particular meet, especially because it was so early in the season."



Senior captain Ignacio Del Valle hoists up the plaque naming Port Washington county champions. This was the first time that the Vikings won the county since 1964. Del Valle has led the team and won the team's Coach's Award, a title given to the captain who shows the most leadership and devotion to the team.

Although we did not know it at the time, I believe that it was a good indication of where we finished at the end of the season."

The boys displayed their success on Oct. 20 at the Nassau Coaches' meet, at which a win gave them their third division title. Many individual successes contributed to the combined result.

The team then went on to take the county title by a narrow two points, beating out Syosset.

The team achieved this award for the first time since 1964.

"Our hardest defeat was definitely to Syosset in the Conference," said Levine. "Outside of our tough loss to Oceanside which we were able to overcome, it was the first time we faced a surprise defeat. I thought that we would win the Conference, but we did prove ourselves when we won the Counties over both of them. This was a great season and I can only look forward to next season, where I hope we can have an even better finish."

Bertolotti led the team with a time of 16:29, followed by Bondy who finished with a time of 17:41.

"This trophy of excellence really added a lot to my season," said Bertolotti. "It really proved that the time we put in was rewarded. It also felt really good to help return Port to the top ranks of cross country in the county, and eventually the state. It is an experience I hope to continue throughout high school and hope for an even better finish next year."

After the dust settled, Bertolotti was awarded team MVP. Not only did



Senior Robbie Rubinstein finishes his race at the New York State Championship in Lake Placid. Port Washington finished ninth place at the meet. Rubinstein has improved his time by almost three minutes as the season progressed, starting at 20:59 and ending with the time of 18:01.

Bertolotti lead the team this season, but he improved his time from last spring, when he went to nationals and placed second in the freshman class. This season alone, he dropped twenty seconds off his time.

After improving his time by over thirty five seconds, Bondy was awarded MIP. Coach Jeremy Klaff gave Del Valle the Coach's Award, for his leadership.

This year, Coach Klaff unveiled a new award for the team, named after former runner, Wilmer Chamul ('07).

As a sophomore, Chamul ran a sub-par time of over twenty seven minutes, but he grew as a runner over the course of his high school career to become a member of the varsity team by senior year.

The award, with the name suggested by Mr. Doug Matina, was named "The Wilmer Warrior Award," and was given to the runner who has developed over his career as Chamul did.

In this inaugural season, senior Jacob Friedman earned this award, running a varsity level time of 19:08. Friedman joined the team last year, and his first time of his junior year was 22:11.

"Cross country, more than any other sport, shows that the more you put in the more you get out of it, and the fact that we made states shows how much work we put as the season went on," said Friedman. "I am really happy about our team's finish and I give a lot of credit to Marco and Ignacio on making counties. I think that our team's success happened because of both individual and team efforts."

Many people on the team believe that this is only the tip of the iceberg in Port's success.

"I am sad to be leaving this year because I know that there is so much in store for years to come. There will be much more success for this team," said Ouyang.

"We have tons of great runners who aren't graduating this year," said Coach Klaff at the team's pot-luck dinner to celebrate the end of the year. "We have guys like Bertolotti, D'Elia and Bondy who will lead the way next year, and I think that we have more of a chance of making states next year than we had this year. There is a lot of potential for the future. You have not seen the end of the Vikings on the state level."