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THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LVIII No. 4 December 2007

IT CAME
FROM BENEATH
THE TURF!

Is our playing field
harming our health?



New Spots Added
to Monfort
News



Coffee House
Rocks
A&E

Are Teens Politically Apathetic?
Opinions
Change Needed for BCS
Sports

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Employing hard pastel and charcoal, senior AP Studio Art student Maryann Vlahos creates a still frame juxtaposing images of life and death. The sharp angles and bleak colors of the skull depicted simultaneously with the life-like and vibrant roses portray the intrinsic connection between animation and torpidity.

NEWS BRIEFS

Art Field Trip

As a part of an in-school field trip, the students of the Drawing and Painting classes participated in a series of hands-on activities aimed at learning about the development of painting during the Middle Ages.

On Dec. 10, art students created pigments in the same manner as Renaissance artists once did. Hosting the event was visiting artist, Ms. Patricia Miranda, a specialist in Renaissance art and technique. There were two workshops during the course of the day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

"I thought it was a really interesting program and I enjoyed learning about how different paints were made from natural products," said sophomore Regan Nebenhaus.

The types of paints and techniques that Ms. Miranda used were much different from what students are accustomed to. The disparities between modern and ancient art were seen in the preparation of paints and canvases. Renaissance artists created paints using natural products, such as egg yolks, animal skins, and minerals due to the lack of technology that exists today.

Students were given an assignment to sketch a portion of a biblical scene, figure, or work from other European cultures prior to the event. At the workshop, the sketches were transferred onto authentic parchment paper made from animal skins.

"It was a good way to learn about Medieval art and the interesting

methods that were used back then," said sophomore Violet Lee.

- Ryohei Ozaki

Toy Drive

This month, the Key Club collected new and used toys for foster children in Nassau County as part of its annual Toy Drive. Nassau County's Social Services then presented the toys to the children at its yearly holiday celebration.

The Key Club's hopes of collecting more than 500 toys appears to have been fulfilled, as more than 35 shopping bags were donated, packed with toys. Students and staff deposited the toys in a large, gift-wrapped box which stood in the main lobby. The Key Club also accepted monetary donations.

Health teachers encouraged their students to donate, and collected toys in their classes and offered five points extra credit per gift to those students who contributed.

"Special thanks to the faculty, staff and students who have donated both money and toys to our drive. Their generosity will indeed make a foster child's holiday very enjoyable," said Ms. Jeanine Kalinowski, health teacher and Key Club adviser.

- Jonathan Heiden

Model UN

Approximately 20 Model United Nations club members traveled to Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School to discuss political issues with students from other Long Island schools from Dec. 7-8.

The club, led by adviser Mr. Craig Medico, received five Best Delegate awards and three Honorable Mention awards, which were presented based on resolutions that students at the event created. Juniors Steven Alpert, Taara Sajnani and sophomores Brian Kennedy, Nicole Meyers and Neal Plofker each won Best Delegate, while senior Eric Glasser, junior Kyle Warner and sophomore Christina Zhou won Honorable Mention.

Club members had prepared for the event since Oct. when students were assigned by Mr. Medico to a committee and a country. Each committee discussed certain global issues, such as the environment, public health, security and human rights. Club members then researched their issues, acknowledging the different factors of their assigned country and how they relate to certain global issues.

At the event, club members gathered with their assigned committee and presented their ideas, which took the form of proposals intended to improve the issues. Together, the students assigned to a specific country then debated the best solution to the issue until an agreement was reached.

Students also wrote their own resolutions, a conclusion which states their issues and how their country and other countries could resolve the issue.

"I thought it was a great experience and it was really interesting talking with other students about issues that concern the world today," said Zhou.

- Lauren Effune

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New parking spots alleviate the morning rush for seniors

BY Laura Werle
Staff Writer

Early in the morning, dozens of teachers and students drive into the Monfort parking lot off Port Washington Boulevard. The Monfort lot is usually used for student drivers and some teachers, but this year, as a result of the closure of the Campus Drive parking lot, the number of student parking spaces are limited.

In the middle of November, 31 more spots were made available for students parking in the Monfort lot, as it was discovered that some teachers opted not to park in their Monfort spaces. This resulted in an increase in student parking spaces to 60 spots.

After almost three months of students racing to school for parking spots in the morning, student drivers have been provided an additional row of spots which is now indicated by the yellow paint that outlines them.

"I'm really glad that we got new parking spaces. It's not just about starting my day and getting off campus, but just being able to know that my school values its drivers," said senior Julia Goorin. "Still, I think there should and could be more spots. I continue to see vacant teacher spots."

When the lots and parking places were first remodeled, each staff member was assigned a spot. However, many spots in the Monfort lot were unused each day.

"Many of the spots reserved for the teachers were unused on a regular basis. So we decided that if the spots were unused, we should provide more for the students," said tenth grade

Ceremony held in honor of Mr. Biro Gym is dedicated to teacher and coach

BY Jeremy Cohen
Contributing Writer

In 2006, former Schreiber teacher and coach, Mr. Dan Biro, passed away. Last month, on Nov. 28, a dedication ceremony was held to honor the 76 year-old, who had taught for 50 years and coached for 20.

At the ceremony, Schreiber's band, directed by Mr. Jeff Byrne, played the "Star-Spangled Banner" as well as the school's fight song, "Washington and Lee," in Mr. Biro's honor. Some of Mr. Biro's former students sang along with the band as it played.

An array of pictures was also displayed to exhibit Mr. Biro's lifelong accomplishments in Port Washington and a memorial plaque was dedicated to Mr. Biro, and will be displayed in the gymnasium, where the service was held.

Speakers at the ceremony included Mr. Harry Anderson, Mr. Ken Case, and Mr. John Broza, all of whom were colleagues of Mr. Biro. Mr. William Cronin, who graduated in 1970, Ms. Christine Vasilev, of the Port Washington Teachers Association, and Principal Mr. Jay Lewis also provided anecdotes about the beloved teacher. New York state senator Craig Johnson was also in attendance.

Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres, who is also the AP in charge of the parking situation.

Until the beginning of this school year, many of the Weber teachers had parking spaces in the lot off Campus Drive, next to the turf field. Over the summer, however, this lot was shut down by the school district due to risk of

only other option for the school district was to take away some of the 69 student spots from last year and allocate them to teacher spots.

Because of this change in parking conditions, students were left with only 29 spaces at the beginning of the current year. This was hardly enough parking for the 111 seniors who applied and



Gab Balaban

Stress has been a part of many seniors' mornings up until the middle of November, when 31 more spots were added to the Monfort Lot. As a result, fewer students are forced to park their cars in the neighborhoods near the Park Avenue area.

potential accidents.

"With the students walking up and down Campus Drive, the cars pulling in and out, and teachers walking to their own cars, it created unsafe conditions," said Ms. Torres.

The Campus Drive lot had had 60 tandem parking spots for the Weber teachers. Because of the closure of the Campus Drive lot, those 60 cars had to move elsewhere on school property. The

obtained parking permits at the end of August. As a result, many seniors found themselves racing other students to get a spot in Monfort early in the morning, the only school-monitored parking option at school.

"It's nice because now I can come to school late and don't have to wake up so early because I know I'll get a spot," said senior Dani Sofen. "Altogether, it's made quite a large difference. I never

really go off [for lunch], but if I have to go off to go home, I never have to freak out because I know I'll get a spot."

Often, student drivers who arrived at the lot after 7:30 were forced to park on the side streets around Park Avenue and Bogart Avenue in front of houses. This led to the annoyance of residents.

In the worst case scenario, some students who did not have time to go search for a spot on these side streets had to illegally park behind Rite Aid until they could move their cars during an off period.

Over the years, the number of spaces available for students to park has fluctuated greatly.

"The most spots that I have heard available for students was 87, years ago," said Ms. Torres. "We always try to get as many spots for students as is reasonably possible."

At the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year, the students had only 37 spots; by the spring earlier this year, this number had increased to 69 after construction was finished on the turf field.

As of now, the school administration does not anticipate any other drastic changes in the parking situation this year. However, while school officials do not plan on making any changes, the students know that conditions will change as the current juniors begin to receive their licenses.

So far this year, there have been no reported car accidents in the Monfort lot. The administration hopes to maintain this positive record and to make driving to school beneficial and convenient for all parties involved.

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AP Art exhibit features students' portraits *Wide variety of artwork promotes individuality*



One project that the students in AP Studio Art classes created was a composition of the human figure using any media.

BY Ryan Larkin

Contributing Writer

Parents and students alike gathered in the atrium to browse the work of the students in AP Studio Art classes. The show was held on the busy evening of Dec. 12, competing for guests with the winter concert. Despite the bustling night, there was a "wonderful turnout," said AP teacher Ms. Miranda Best. The crowd contained not only the families of the student artists but also Principal Mr. Jay Lewis and Dr. Geoffrey Gordon, Superintendent of Schools.

AP Art students recently studied the creation of portraits and self-portraits and many samples of this genre appeared in the exhibition. Different colors and lighting reflected the various moods captured by the artists and

different perspectives emphasized the artists' personal views of their subjects.

The pieces themselves were based on highly varied subjects, portraying everything from iPods and cell phones to figure drawings and landscapes. Each variety contained a certain element that made it unique; it was this that captured and held the interest of viewers.

Many of the paintings that were not of the portrait genre focused on unusual subjects that highlighted the artists' beliefs. Among the most frequently recurring of these subjects was a focus on the skull. The artists were able to use their individual styles to expand upon a common focal point, as was done with the portraits. In doing so, color and shading became strong and noticeable factors. One student surrounded the free-floating skulls in her painting with

roses, while another chose to mount them on living bodies.

Additional works of art revealed the interests of their creators. One work of art in the exhibit was a sculpture of an elephant head, which was from felt and copper tubing crafted by senior Max Garrett. Another piece displayed was a multiple paged, manga-styled story called "L.O.S. II - Darkness" by senior Pablo Castro, which was a story about a boy struggling against his own dark nature.

Although the exhibit was only on display until Dec. 13, the teachers were pleased with the turnout and plan to hold another show in the spring.

"The show was successful because it was really well put together," said senior and AP Studio Art student Aishu Parker.

How to save a life for three dollars *Student donations help protect Darfuran women*

BY David Yedid

Staff Writer

Schreiber's Stand as One club was organized to inform students of the ongoing genocide in Darfur. On Dec. 5, approximately 250 students and faculty participated in "Dar-Fast," an event to provide petroleum stoves and firewood for those in refugee camps.

Each day, as women in Darfur travel out of the refugee camps to retrieve firewood for their families, the Janjaweed (Darfur's government militia) waits to rape and attack these women. One hundred percent of the profits made from "Dar-Fast" were donated to the Genocide Intervention Network (G.I.N.) to provide these refugees with the proper tools they need

to cook and prevent rape and attack. A donation of just three dollars is enough to protect one woman for one year.

Juniors Gabby Brilliant, Melis Emre, Hayley Fuchs, Tatiana Mourabes, and Vickie Roedel and adviser Ms. Anne Pellett brought this nation-wide fundraiser to the school. The goal was for an individual to pledge to give up something that he or she would normally purchase, such as a Starbucks drink or dessert and to donate the money that would have been spent to the G.I.N.

In total, Dar-Fast raised over \$1,500. If a student or teacher donated money toward this cause, he or she received a Darfur pin and sticker stating his or her donation.

The founding members explained to students that by easily sacrificing something small, one can really impact

the lives of many people in need.

"It was so surprising how generous people were towards the cause," said sophomore and club member, Danielle Leibowitz. "Both teachers and students seemed to be very concerned and felt for the cause."

Club members hope to host similar fundraisers in the future to improve the situation in Darfur.

"Hopefully, we can host a fundraiser every week, even if it is just a bake sale," said Stand as One officer Brilliant. "The amount of aid and protection needed is in our reach. By encouraging government bodies to urge the president and higher government officials; we can significantly decrease the injustices that occur in Darfur."

Second vegetarian dinner held

Two clubs merge to help animals

BY David Becker

News Editor

The second vegetarian dinner proved to be a success with the union of the Animal Rights Club and the environmentalist Treehugger Club. The dinner featured local bands and a large array of pizzas, rice dishes and desserts.

The dinner was the first successful event of the Animal Rights Club, which has been struggling to gain membership since its introduction to the school this year.

The dinner featured music from Zeno's Paradox, a group composed of seniors Mike Cicchetti, Zach Hirsch, J.P. Arias Muñoz and Ben Perlman. Zeno's Paradox has performed several times this year, including one performance at Student Outreach's Dec. 6 Coffee House. Senior Tim Sherman also performed at the dinner.

The dinner was not just an outlet for local artists but also a forum for the environmental activists of Schreiber. During the dinner, sophomore Christina Zhou sold indestructible water canteens that decrease plastic waste and use environmentally-healthy aluminum.

Zhou is not a member of Animal Rights Club, but used the dinner as an opportunity for her activism.

The Animal Rights Club is currently taking steps to increase in size. It was originally an outgrowth of the Treehuggers Club, supervised by Ms. Julia Brandt.

The Animal Rights Club focuses specifically on promoting vegetarian lifestyles and advocating a ban on animal testing and animal-tested products.

The two presidents of the club, juniors Ariana Gould and Chelsea O'Lansen, delivered speeches about the virtues of vegetarian diets between the musical breaks.

"Eating a half pound of beef is as environmentally wasteful as leaving the motors of two Hummers on overnight," said Gould to a silent audience.

Gould and O'Lansen are still trying to recruit members for their club, advised by Dr. David O'Connor, but attempts have proven unsuccessful as of late.

In an effort to gain new members, the club is moving their meetings from Tuesday mornings to Monday mornings. The presidents are also considering hosting another dinner.

Monday mornings have proved to be a competitive time slot for clubs due to the success for the pro-Darfur club, Stand as One, which has also successfully launched their first event this month.

"As an avid meat-eater, it's been an interesting experience," said Dr. O'Connor. "I admire the students' commitment and hope to see the club grow."

Senator speaks to government classes

BY Sarah Scheinman
Staff Writer

Schreiber's government and AP Government students were provided with a firsthand account of life as a politician when New York State Senator Craig Johnson addressed them in the auditorium. On Dec. 3, Senator Johnson spoke of his experience both as a State Senator representing New York's Seventh Congressional District and as a Nassau County Legislator, his previous occupation. Senator Johnson, a Schreiber graduate of the class of 1989, gave the students insight into government and political leadership.

"He was well spoken, and made some good points. He explained the political workings in Albany well," said senior Neel Doshi.

After giving his basic background and job description, Senator Johnson fielded questions from the students of the government classes on a variety of issues.

People "still don't come out to vote enough," said Senator Johnson who encouraged all high school students to register to vote upon their eighteenth birthdays.

Senator Johnson articulated his position in regard to Governor Eliot Spitzer's recent controversial driver's license bill, one that has received national attention as a result of Senator Hilary Clinton's ambiguous answer during a nationally televised Democratic Presidential debate.

"I did not support the governor and I was the first Democrat to oppose it," said Senator Johnson. He explained that the plan was still undeveloped provided no

way to ensure that illegal immigrants would not be granted the right to vote.

"The real problem is the federal government," added the senator in regard to immigration. Senator Johnson contended that the federal government has not done a good job of providing fair and intelligent discourse on the issue of illegal immigration.

When asked about his future aspirations Senator Johnson replied, "I have no further political aspirations at this time," a response that left Schreiber students laughing as Senator Johnson elaborated on his love for his work, and how he is content with his current position.

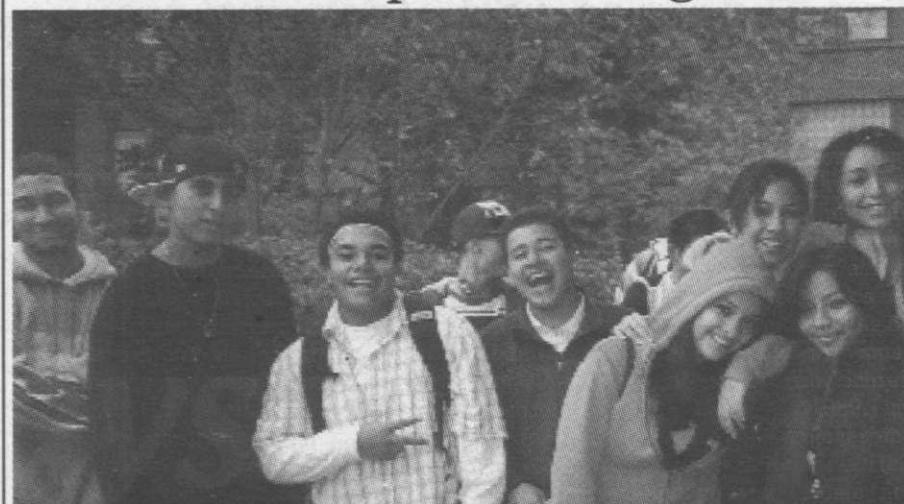
Senator Johnson, a Democrat who grew up in Port Washington, took over his mother's position as County Legislator in 2000, after she passed away. Following his tenure as County Legislator, in 2007, Senator Johnson ran for New York State Senate, after the seat was vacated by current Deputy of Public Safety, Republican Michael Balboni. Some Schreiber students were even involved in his campaigning activities.

"The race was the most expensive in state election history," said Senator Johnson. He and his opponent raised a total of six million dollars in twenty-eight days.

Overall, students had positive feedback about the assembly and many thought it was a worthwhile experience to hear from a member of the state legislature.

"It's always interesting when a Schreiber alumnus comes back as a guest speaker in a powerful position," said senior Ricki Segal.

Schreiber students visit National Hispanic College Fair



Courtesy of Ms. Cerny

All of these students attended the National Hispanic College Fair at Molloy College. Over fifty college representatives were there to answer all of the students' questions concerning their educational careers after high school.

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Tapeire dances, fiddles and drums for morning crowd

Tap dance record holder and troupe make high school debut at Schreiber

BY Dahlia Hassan

Staff Writer

Each year, the district puts on a cultural arts performance in order to pique student interest in the arts. This year, Cultural Arts Committee invited the internationally renowned Celtic inspired dance troupe Tapeire to take the stage.

The group, featuring the world renowned tap dancer James Devine, performed for a school for the first time with its Dec. 7 performance. Tapeire has appeared on "Live with Regis and Kelly" and has been featured in *Newsday* as well as in many international publications.

The group consists of tap dancer Devine, drummer Paul Jennings, and fiddler Duncan Wickel and harpist Phamie Gow, who was unable to attend the Schreiber performance. Devine, the creator of Tapeire, performed in many shows before putting together Tapeire. He holds the Guinness World Record for most taps per second, 38.

In creating Tapeire, Devine hoped to put on an alternative, theatrical show with a "raw element and room for improvisation."

Paul Jennings delighted the audience with his innovative percussion techniques as well as his usage of everyday items to create sounds

and rhythms. In the show, Jennings incorporated a typewriter, pots, and a drum called the cajon grande, meaning "big box," into his performance.

Jennings and Devine stress that they will always keep in mind what culture their rhythm and dancing came from, but at the same time they wish to "move the Celtic genre forward."

Wickel, a freshman at the Berklee College of Music, is Tapeire's most recent addition. Upon hearing about the group and being presented with the option of joining and playing the fiddle, Wickel embraced the opportunity with open arms, even though he emphasizes the importance of classical training. Wickel has also, like his Tapeire colleagues, pursued alternative and jazz influences.

"School is important to me, but it can wait. However, once in a lifetime opportunities like this one won't wait," said Wickel.

Tapeire shows usually include mixed media, such as video projector; however, a high school stage could not accommodate these accoutrements. Nevertheless, these last minute accommodations were not a new thing for the group.

"We have to improvise in order to maintain focus," said Devine. "We never want to cheat the audience by presenting them with an unfocused, over-rehearsed performance. We want to keep the audience on their toes."

Students mock drug and alcohol survey

State sponsored survey fails to gauge the prevalence of substance abuse

BY Laura Werle

Staff Writer

Students of Schreiber High School and Weber Middle School took a survey about drug and alcohol use and prevention. However, many students

“The main point of the survey is not to find out how many kids are using, but why they start,” said Mr. Weiss. ”

failed to take it seriously, and now, there are many reports of nine-year-old Eskimos in Schreiber.

Every three years the school districts around New York give a survey about drug and alcohol usage in high schools.

"We are not really required by law," said Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss. "But if we want federal funding, we have to give a survey. The results come from virtually every high school in New York."

The survey given this year was the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey, a nationally published survey designed to assess not only the range of drug use, but also why teenagers abuse substances and partake in destructive activity in the first place.

"The main point of the survey is not

to find out how many kids are using, but why they start," said Mr. Weiss.

With this information, the schools and government can set up prevention programs. This work is all part of the quest to stop teen drug and alcohol use.

The current survey they administered was slightly different from the one used three years ago.

"The results from the last one weren't quite accurate," said Mr. Weiss, about the innumerable number of students who make up answers to entertain themselves during the survey. A number of students that Mr. Weiss was unable to reveal said that they lied on the last question that asked whether they had been honest while taking the survey. The survey also asked about the use of a fake drug, to see if students were taking the survey seriously or just making up answers.

The results have been sent to Bach Harrison, a research firm which specializes in tabulating this kind of survey. The results are then collected and assessed by the OASAS, the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.

Schreiber is not alone in taking the survey, however. Weber was also given a survey, albeit a slightly different one.

Ken Marlborough, the director of athletics, was also involved in the organization of the survey.

Mr. Weiss was unable to tell whether the same survey will be used next time. "As of yet, it's just too early to see."

The members of Tapeire did not know what to expect when they were told they were to be performing in a high school, but they "fully enjoyed the experience."

Wickel, who is only one year older than the seniors at Schreiber, fielded questions about pursuing a music career after high school in a question and answer session.

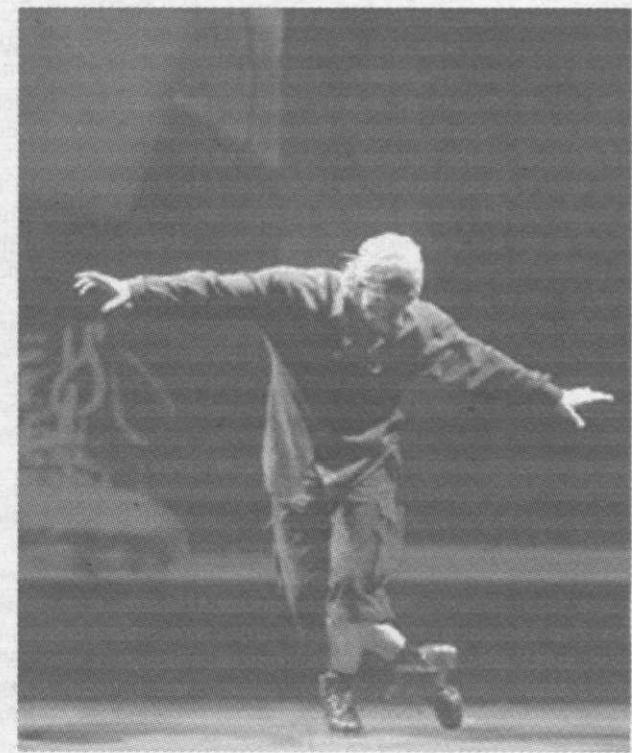
"Give yourself space and time to find out what you want to do," said Wickel. "Explore through your education and, at the same time, make sure to live your life."

Usually, the troupe performs in professional theater shows. Tapeire has been on tour for the past two or so months. The group spent three weeks in Canada, then three weeks in New York City performing at the New Victory Theater on Broadway, and one week in Miami. The group returned to New York to finish their tour, and found that performing at a high school was a good way to wind down after such a long tour.

In the near future, the group will be touring in Europe, Asia, the Western region of the United States, and

Australia.

"I thought the members of Tapeire put on a really interesting show for us students," said freshman Tommy Doyle. "It was cool how they incorporated unexpected objects, such as typewriters, into their performance."



Courtesy of www.tapeire.com

World-renowned tap dancer James Devine in a performance that expresses energy and emotion. The dramatic movement in his distinct dance style merges traditional Irish step dancing and modern tap.

Driving laws may change for students

Recent accidents trigger discussion of legislation

BY Sam Rosenberg

Staff Writer

school district is unique and has their own distinct requirements and problems. That kind of law will not meet the individual needs of each district.

For example, is there enough space in the school to accommodate all students if they are not allowed to leave campus by car?" he added. "Would this restrict students in internships and other types of work? Is there an actual problem in the district that would warrant a ban of this type? How would it be enforced?"

Even in considering the answers to these questions, the Port Washington School district would have to deal with the likely angry response from seniors who were recently granted extra parking spots.

In addition, there is a lack of support for Mr. Gianaris' legislation from Long Island public high school administrators. Ms. Rosemary Jones, the superintendent of the Sayville School District and President of the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association, believes that there are practical implications to having a closed campus that must be considered. Such factors make it doubtful that legislature will affect Long Island high schools any time this year.

"Really it is a matter of incident after incident," Mr. Gianaris said. "There have been students being allowed off campus in their cars ending up in horrible traffic accidents. It seems like a wise policy to keep them closed for the lunch period."

Still, technology teacher Mr. Neil Miller, a Driver's Education instructor, does not believe that the incident in Smithtown should affect the policies of schools elsewhere.

"One should not jump to conclusions and overreact," said Mr. Miller. "Each

Point Counterpoint

Are students only charitable around the holidays?

BY Morgan Quigley

Staff Writer

The other day in health class my teacher handed out a sheet entitled "Holiday Challenge." The sheet was basically a list of various good deeds. In essence, the goal of the "challenge" was to do as many good deeds on the list as possible. When you did the good deed of your choice, you were supposed to write the date next to the activity name. After thinking about the sheet for some time, I began to wonder why it was handed out now, at this time of year. Of course, I realized the obvious answer: students are far more driven to do good deeds during the holiday months than during any other month of the year.

Around Christmas and Chanukah, it is expected that everyone be charitable. Everybody knows that the holidays are the time of year to give and do good. However, few people are as generous after the "spreading of the joy" ends in December. In fact, the majority of the population does not take the time to perform charitable actions for the rest of the year, as sad as that may sound. But what is even more upsetting is the fact that many people think that one month of good deeds is enough to justify eleven months of selfish behavior.

People may argue that there are people who do good deeds all year around, and there are. But there are many more people who don't even do good deeds around the holidays. With that being said, the majority of the population either do good deeds during the time of the holidays or don't do good deeds at all.

If anyone has been crazy enough to go to a mall recently, you will see donation boxes from a group called the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army is a group that collects donations and distributes to the needy. During the year, you will see a few of these people from the Salvation Army collecting donations at different locations. At the mall during the month of December, there are numerous stations set up for donations to be made. Come January, most people will just walk by the donation boxes without giving it a second thought.

On the streets, in the newspapers, and on television, one can see many signs along the lines of, "This holiday season, give to the needy," or "This Christmas, give to the poor," because advertisers know that people are more willing to donate money during the holidays.

During the holiday season, many temples and churches collect donations and plan charity events. Again, this is because people feel obligated to donate more during the holiday season. If you have not noticed, in the school lobby there have been several drives. These have included the toy drive, the toiletry

drive, and the Dar-fast. These drives are all happening during the month of December, which clearly cannot be seen as some coincidence.

People may say that there are "so many clubs" in the school that students belong to that do charity. The truth is that most kids are in these clubs because their parents are making them, they are doing it for college, or their friends are members so they join too. There are only a select few kids who join because they genuinely care about doing good for society.

Another reason why people only donate during the holiday is because of a natural greed for money. People earn money for themselves, and then constantly spend it on themselves. Not many people are just going to give away their hard earned money. So this one month out of the year people donate to simply feel good about themselves, and for the rest of the year, their money is spent on themselves. Because really, who will be happy giving away their money without anything in return?

The only reasons that people do good deeds during the holiday season is because they feel obligated to or to feel better about themselves. Most good deeds are done during the month of December because of the several obvious opportunities and "so kids will have a present underneath their tree" when it comes time for Christmas.

GOLLY, I'M
SO GENEROUS!



Andrew Martinolich

Schreiber Speaks

"Yes, people tend to give more during the 'season of giving.' But I don't necessarily think that they really understand the cause they are helping. It's all about personal satisfaction."

-Miriam Botros, senior

"The holiday season calls your attention to charities. But you probably won't donate a toy during any other time of the year, even if they are needed."

-Molly Fried, sophomore

it or because their parents wanted them to participate in some sort of festival of good cheer; it's because now is the time of year when *other people* (cough, the adults who actually earn money, cough) are most willing to make donations.

Schreiber students themselves partake in charity events throughout the school year. For example, for several years now our school has participated in Relay for Life, a twenty-four hour walk that sponsors cancer research, and has managed to collect thousands of dollars for a good cause. Also, students annually donate blood to the Red Cross, aiding in the medical care of thousands of individuals in need of transfusions. These events are held for a very simple reason; students merely want to help those who need assistance. In these cases no personal gain (aside from a feeling of general benevolence) is achieved by doing a generous thing.

In addition to participating in yearly events, students also give back to other students in Port Washington and the community itself on a weekly basis. There are several tutoring programs in which senior students help kids in both middle and high school attain better grades in difficult classes. For the most part, such year-round tutoring programs do not offer the students who volunteer their time any benefits or kick-backs. Again, students simply help others because they feel they should.

Often, students participate in goodwill projects on their own time. Occasionally, students even go so far as to spend weeks or months of their vacations helping others who are less fortunate. For example, several Schreiber students have chosen to spend their summers (or school holidays) in areas of poverty, like parts of New Orleans or Jamaica that have been devastated by natural disasters, building houses and schools for children in need. Though these individuals may travel to such locations with larger groups or organizations, the motivation to aid fellow human beings is their own. No one forced them to give up luxury time; they volunteered their time out of the goodness of their hearts.

Those students that stay close to home also spend their time helping others. Many volunteer over the summer at libraries, hospitals, animal shelters, or community centers. Some help out at their synagogues, churches, or mosques by spreading knowledge of their culture among the population.

Students are always ready and willing to lend their time, money, energy and dedication to a charitable cause. Contrary to popular belief, the holidays are no different from any other time of year for many do-gooders, and most teens do not treat altruism as some sort of fad. Charitable teens are active all year long, and judging by the past, you can count on a comparable amount of fundraisers after Christmas.

Political apathy plagues America's youth

Why students seem to be so unwilling to take part in global current events

BY James Krellenstein

Contributing Writer

In the 8th grade, my history class learned about the Holocaust. Our teacher, Mr. Ehrlich, explained to us that the German people were fully aware of the situation at hand and did very little to stop it.

One student, in an exasperated tone, asked how the German people could stand by and let their fellow human beings be exterminated, and not "stand up and do something." Although some may contend that the current international environment is not nearly as dire, it seems as if we have forgotten the lesson we so harshly learned the first time around.

America's youth has historically been one of the most politically active and progressive sections of the American populace. A perfect example of this is the youth of the late sixties and early seventies.

At this time, high school and college students often expressed their extreme contempt for the Vietnam War, and the administrations of Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon through protests, the arts, and their power to vote. Political issues became an integral part of youth culture, heavily influencing popular music and other essential elements of young people's lives. Today it appears that most high school and even college students are generally apathetic towards political and international affairs.

Take for example the conflict Darfur. For the past four years, genocide has ravaged the Sudanese population, resulting in over 450,000 deaths and the displacement of more than 2.5 individuals. Despite the fact that the

conflict in Darfur has been widely reported in the mainstream media, most of America's youth are unaware or even worse, indifferent, to this crisis that is so brutally affecting the lives of so many.

Even high school campuses, once considered centers for political discourse, dissent, and expression, have been relatively silent on the multitude of issues that plague America and the world at large. For example, although many people are personally against the Iraq War, in which over 3,000 of our fellow young Americans have perished, there seems to be few if any, public displays of disapproval of the War among our generation. It's not even that there are no outright picket lines and protest against these specific issues, it is the fact that young Americans seem to be ignorant, at

best, of worthwhile causes.

Where are the outraged student who once marched on Washington? Are we so busy overachieving in school, going to a million extracurricular activities and worrying about how we are going to get the latest pair of Abercrombie & Fitch jeans that we are unable to take a stand on issues that affects us and our fellow human beings?

Even if individuals do not wish to protest in the streets of their city, they should still engage in robust political discussions that actually question established institutions and practices; basically, people should attempt to improve, at least through conversation, the status quo. Of course, not all discourse has to center around genocide and Bush's international policy; such narrow mindedness would undoubtedly produce a nation of manic depressives.

The problem lies in the fact that the majority of discussions that do take place are shallow. This is especially true in schools, where attempted discourse among students and teachers is actively censored by the force of political correctness and the desire to maintain an "unbiased" position on global and domestic circumstances.

Many believe that the primary goal of schools is to get students thinking. How is this goal accomplished if active expression of independent and controversial thought is often suppressed? Because heated debates are usually stifled, we, as America's youth, can no longer tout our supposed "rebelliousness" that once separated our demographic from all the rest. Moreover, it seems that we do not even care about instituting change, forming novel ideas, and making our voice heard.

Of course, this is not a call to arms; I am certainly not encouraging the overthrow of the federal government or the formation of a guerrilla militia. What is essential to the activism of students is maintaining a certain vigilance without jeopardizing their mission to be taken seriously. In the past, America's youth perhaps was too overzealous in their attempts to institute change. Today, the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction; we are far too passive. What we must now do is attempt to find a happy medium, in which we can adequately form and express our views while simultaneously maintaining the civility of intellectual discussion. The involvement of younger generations in politics has long been a safeguard against despotism and tyranny; the burden to be socially and politically aware now lies on our shoulders.



Max Garett

The death of childhood innocence and Father Christmas

BY Melis Emre

Opinions Editor

When I was five years old, my older sister managed to convince me that Santa Claus was real. Now, though this may not sound like any sort of accomplishment, it took a considerable amount of skill. For starters, my family has always been comprised of atheists and agnostics. We also never celebrated any sort of traditional holiday. Add to this, my natural inclination towards disbelief, and you can see why I trusted her only after many hours of detailed interviews and assurances that Santa never responded to the letters children wrote him because the postman kept getting lost on the way to his factory.

Despite my better instincts, I believed her. And to be honest, the few memories that I have of that period in my life are quite pleasant. With a guy like Santa in the world, everything seemed much rosier. No longer did I feel alienated from my classmates due to my lack of holiday cheer. In fact, I distinctly remember baking about six dozen batches of cupcakes as a result of my newfound optimism. After all, with generous and jovial Santa around, the world as I knew it at five years old was one giant grab-bag of holly-jolly fun.

Of course, my feelings of ebullience only lasted until Christmas day, when

my sister decided to reveal the truth: not only was she not one of Santa's little helpers, but this man I had come to know as Mr. Claus did not exist. Naturally, I was disconcerted. I felt betrayed, but more than being angry at my sister, I was grievously disappointed with the lack of a pleasantly plump old man in a red felt suit who was inclined to bring me gifts for something as simple as my good behavior.

After I learned the truth, I berated myself. How silly I had been! No one like Santa Claus exists in the real world! Who could ever be so naive as to actually believe that a complete stranger would drop expensive goodies down their chimney?

Years later, I understand that my feeling of bitter hollowness was not really caused by Father Christmas himself. What I was really upset about was the fact that I had been lied to when I was too young to know any better. Don't you think it is unfair that children grow up believing in a benign, all-knowing saint who rewards them for their goodness until one day, they realize that it was all a hoax? Surely knowing that someone's pulled the wool over your eyes for several years is not an enjoyable state of mind. And so I've built up my case against Mr. Claus, and all his fellow fantastical figures too. Say goodbye to the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy, and the rest of their like

and join me as I detail my denunciation of the bandits of childhood innocence.

First, though parents may not realize it, they do their children a disservice by telling them that Santa is real. This is true mainly because a) children feel upset when they learn the truth about Claus and b) kids shouldn't be raised to believe that there is some sort of reward (other than personal improvement) for doing what they're supposed to be doing.

"I guess that Santa is a fun idea for children when they're young," said junior Emily Weinstock. "The problem is, kids are probably upset when they find out that their parents have been lying to them. Also, kids can become kind of spoiled when they are given presents for simply behaving well."

Another criticism against Santa is that he detracts from the actual importance of the holidays. In addition to being a gross deviation from Saint Nicholas of Catholicism, modern day Santa Claus has made the wintertime less happy and more harried. Parents are stretched thin as they try to buy presents for their children without letting them in on the secret of Santa's real identity. More importantly, kids are taught that "Christmas spirit" means exchanging things of material value. This is not at all what the holidays are about. Sure, presents are a way to show your appreciation of an

individual, but the thing that makes the winter season special is the sharing of good times among family and friends. This bonding should not be based on acquisitive grounds, but rather on goodwill and kindness.

"Kids receive gifts for both Christmas and Hanukkah, but I don't necessarily think that's a good thing," said junior Abbie Kagan. "Greed and materialism shouldn't be promoted during the holidays."

Finally, there are those who believe that in this day and age, Santa Claus is basically an over-hyped obese alcoholic. As far-fetched as it may sound, the Surgeon General, Steven K. Galson, was interviewed by the Boston Globe several weeks ago, and was quoted as saying that Santa needed to lose the eggnog and cookies and abandon his sleigh for a mountain bike. "It is really important that the people who kids look up to as role models are in good shape, eating well and getting exercise. It is absolutely critical," said Galson.

Though it may seem too radical to simply nix old Claus next Christmas, parents should definitely reconsider what they are teaching their kids by including him in the holiday festivities. And while there are always those who will argue that there is no harm done by praising Santa, popular societal trends should make them seriously reassess this view.

How do you measure intelligence?

BY Sidney Ginsberg

Features Editor

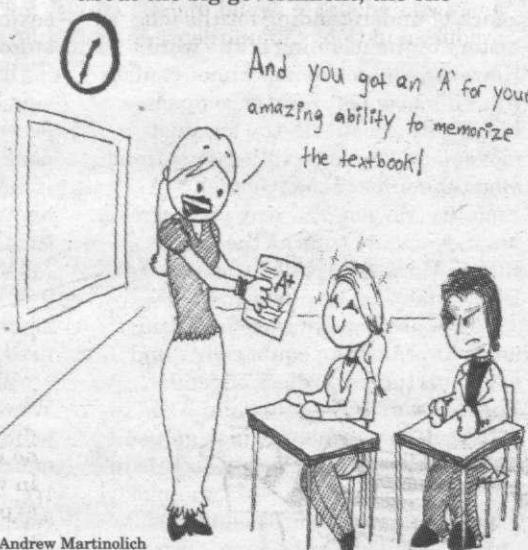
In my Psychology class the other day, we discussed what it means to be intelligent. I don't believe that it's possible to define "intelligence." My teacher tried to tell us what intelligence is by providing us with its definition (individuals' abilities to understand complex ideas, to adapt effectively to the environment, to learn from experience, to engage in various forms of reasoning, to overcome obstacles by careful thought) and by showing us multiple theories and articles by famous psychologists.

But I still don't buy the idea that intelligence exists. What does it mean to be intelligent? If you lock someone in a room with a math problem and several sources of nourishment, are they intelligent if they've figured out the math problem by eight o'clock the next morning? Judging by our three high school research programs, I would say that the majority of Port Washington residents would agree that the individual is intelligent, although the number of people who would actually enjoy being locked in a room with a problem may be smaller than we think... just ask those students who were involved in the "thirty-six hour math competition" from November 16th through 17th.

Okay, so maybe I'm just bitter because math isn't my forte. But I'm curious to know, how many

of you would trade the "intelligence" required to figure out a difficult math program for "natural intelligence" or "street smarts?" Would you rather be able to survive in the woods or score a five on an A.P. exam? Are good grades the only factor we have of measuring intelligence?

Unfortunately, I believe in high school they are. It's possible that a student can receive a great grade even when they don't understand the material. Taking myself, for example, I don't really understand the way government works (I know many people who would argue that even the ones running our country don't, but that's another story). I've been involved in student government for four years, but I'm not talking about a club which formulates school policy, I'm talking about the big government, the one



Andrew Martinolich

Life on the other side of the Equator

BY Andrea Ortega

Contributing Writer

I'm home for about eight hours a day during the week, of which I am sleeping for four, if I'm lucky, five. I see my dad briefly when I leave my house at 7:30 a.m. and when I come home around 6 or 7 p.m. My mother, I see even less because she leaves for work before I wake up. However, when I am home, I'm bombarded with reminders of future commitments, past commitments I've forgotten about and anything that my parents choose to yell at me for. That is, until, the second week of August rolls around, and my mother, sister and I make the eight hour trip to Guayaquil, Ecuador. Here, life is centered on family life and although our stay is brief, you can measure how my family adapts to it for the time being because my mother is less stressed out.

In Ecuador, I have countless cousins, second cousins, aunts, uncles, and people I'm introduced to as my cousins and aunts who really have no relation to my family. In all my summers of going to Ecuador, my mother has never given us the option of staying in a hotel, because the point is to, "spend time with our family, and how are you going to do that from a hotel?" Thus, we stay for four weeks at my mother's third cousin's house. This household was never introduced to the term a nuclear family, and every time I visit there is a cousin of a cousin, or the one year newlywed son with his family who has yet to move out. My uncle,

as I am supposed to call my mother's third cousin's husband, bought the two adjacent houses, and is fixing them up so even more family could live nearby. However, by no means should they be considered well off. My uncle owns two vans which he uses as taxis at his leisure, and the discretion of the city police. He makes about thirty dollars a day, which I found inconceivable. Regardless, he spends a large portion of the day at home, with his family. I would wake up at one in the afternoon to all my cousins and my aunt and uncle sitting at the dinner table, having lunch. The last time I ate a meal with my family at home was when my older sister visited us, in May.

Because of this, trust is more apparent in parent-child relationships. While I would have to fight my mother to come home at 1 a.m. at home, my cousins would come home at 3 or 4 in the morning to their father on the porch, drinking with his friends. More specifically, father-daughter relations are more at ease. Whereas my father and I limit our conversations to school and home, my cousins talk about everything with their fathers. This I find disconcerting. Also, parents and their kids are rarely separated. While I spend the majority of my everyday life away from my parents, and we have things such as sleep away camps where kids leave for weeks at a time, I find that my cousins view their first real separation from their parents as when they marry. Families really look out for the good of the entire family unit, and children are expected to help their parents at their jobs, cooking

that controls you, me, and the people who work at the In and Out Burger chain in California. I'm not claiming to be an expert on pop culture, sports, or mathematics, but there are a few things that I know a lot about. When it comes to national government though, I find myself re-reading the text book.

So why is someone who doesn't understand government able to pass an AP Government class? Class discussions and good teachers help a lot, but the main reason I'm able to pass is because I can memorize large quantities of information about a subject I previously knew nothing about. The ability to learn information and regurgitate it on the day of a test is a useful one, and I have been perfecting it for the last twelve years, but does having this skill make me intelligent?

I think I'm an intelligent person, but if we had a conversation about the current situation in Pakistan or what the last piece of legislation Congress enacted was, you would walk away shaking your head. The psychologist Howard Gardner believes there are seven kinds of intelligence. Everyone is good at something; anyone can be a "genius" at fixing cars or cooking dinner (whether or not they got good grades in school) or even computing a mathematical equation. If we were graded on our life skills, or tested on our ability to make people feel comfortable in awkward situations, or our compassion or knowledge of pop culture, instead of our ability to memorize and regurgitate information, my report card would consist of several A pluses and a few red Fs.

Schreiber Ethics

BY Adam Vojdany

Staff Writer

The holiday season is known for good food, general cheer and, above all, the giving of gifts. With Christmas and New Year's celebrations just around the corner, many people are feeling the stress as they search to find the perfect gift for that certain someone. But truthfully, you shouldn't feel pressured when it comes to exchanging presents.

First, not all friends need to buy each other gifts. If you happen to be low on time and money, and don't particularly feel like buying goodies for friends, there is nothing wrong with making this sentiment clear. No one likes the feeling that they get when they receive a gift from someone they did not purchase anything for, so it's best to make sure you and your friends are on the same page. If you and your friends do decide to exchange gifts, choose an appropriate price range for presents. If you have many close friends and do not have the resources to buy all of them gifts, "Secret Santa" is your best bet. Basically, this arrangement ensures that each person buys and receives only one gift, guaranteeing that no one gets their feelings hurt or breaks the bank.

If choosing out gifts isn't exactly a personal strength, it may be a good idea for you to consider purchasing gift cards. Contrary to the belief that gift cards are impersonal or meaningless, many people feel that certificates are the most accommodating presents. In fact, a gift card is often the best and most useful thing to get someone.

When buying a gift like clothing where there are a great number of options to choose from, the personal style of the giver can often differ from the likes of the receiver. It is far more practical to give someone a gift card than it is to buy someone an article of clothing; that way they can buy something that they actually love rather than being stuck with a sweater that will most likely have a permanent position in the back of their closet. Obviously that's not to say picking out personal gifts for your friends is a bad idea, but if you don't find anything in particular that you think they will love, then giving a gift card might be the best option.

If you decide to buy something other than a gift card, it is proper etiquette to enclose a gift receipt with the gift. That way, if your friends or family members don't like the presents you've given them, they can return the items and buy something they enjoy. Furthermore, if you receive a gift that you do not like, it is perfectly ethical to exchange it for something else.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is regifting. Here are the rules: if the present you plan on rewrapping is in brand-new condition, then there is nothing wrong with giving it to someone else. However, if the gift has been tarnished or worn in any way, then it is a good idea to keep it for yourself.

It is always nice to get the people that mean something to you a little gift to show them that they are on your mind, but the holidays are about being with the people you love, so don't stress the material stuff. Just remember, any effort is commendable, and when in doubt, go for the always suitable gift card. Happy holidays!

Editorials

Politics becomes more friendly

The time has come where people really do have power in politics and elections. With the advent of YouTube, campaigning has taken on a whole new level, as has civilian involvement. While older generations mock younger voters and mark them as being disinterested or indifferent, the recent rise in internet networking is proof of a change that has created savvy new voters, eager to participate in the 2008 presidential election. Political candidates have turned to new internet media aimed at teenagers and twenty-somethings in hopes of gaining a new demographic. Log on to any official campaign website to see a slew of buttons allowing you to share your new political interest with friends via MySpace, Facebook, YouTube or Flickr. Politicians have transformed campaigns to facilitate a new era of conversation and sharing, making voters more knowledgeable and extending campaigning tactics to new timers.

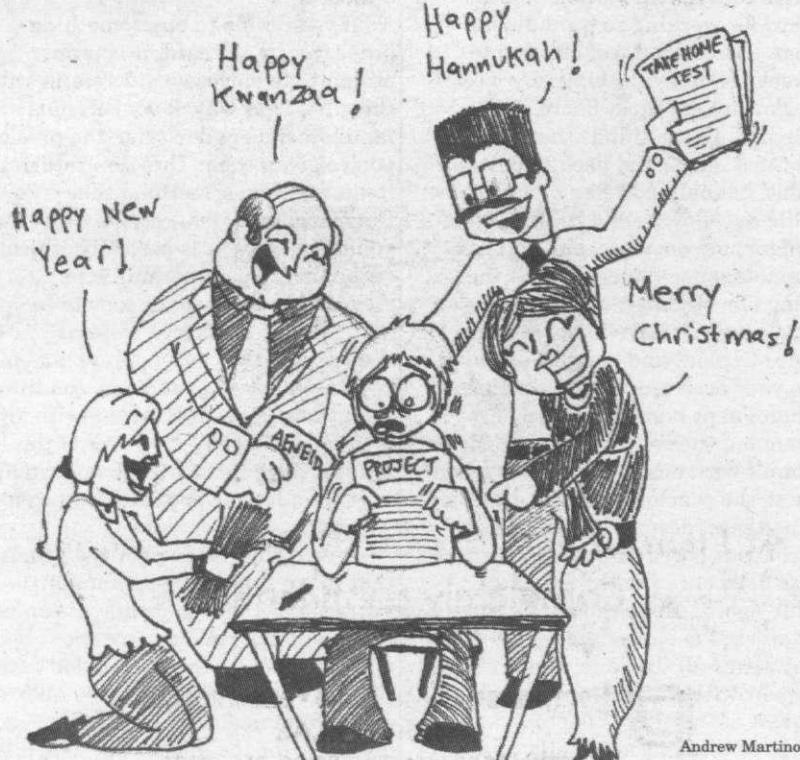
YouTube has become the go-to site for the eager, politics hungry "everyman" who is not so election savvy. Members of YouTube who post videos aim to expose the "truth" behind new candidates. Clips and interviews with candidates and established politicians can be found all over the website and YouTubers urge viewers to be careful who they vote for. Visual media has transformed politics since the presidential debates of Nixon and Kennedy, and YouTube has marked the most controversial campaign season since the election of 1960. YouTube is the next biggest craze, and users are even creating their own campaign

videos. Especially when studies have shown that Democrats have been less successful than Republicans because of the way they pay their advisors, the power is going to the people. Everyone is familiar with mudslinging on television, and now it's making its way to the internet. Some claim that positive and negative campaigning has allowed voters to more accurately see the issues. YouTube has offered an entire new forum for campaigns to send out additional messages to viewers, and actually have people watch. TiVo and DVR have nearly obliterated television commercials, thus reducing TV time for candidates.

Even nation-wide, sanctioned debates have taken on a new dimension. While prominent media figures, like Anderson Cooper remain the mediators, the questions now come from "We, the people." Who is the we? Voters—teenagers, students, anyone that wants to become involved. Individuals can have their own questions answered, creating empowerment and a greater sense of involvement. While only 40 videos were chosen at both the Republican and Democratic debates featuring a slew of hot topics, new sites such as YouTubePolitics.org now provide a forum for discourse among voters and politicians. Anyone can log on to the site and place a comment addressed to a particular politician about a certain issue. Voters have also been petitioning candidates to address issues and solutions to certain problems like the genocide in Darfur.

YouTube is leading to a new era in campaigning by taking power from politicians themselves and putting it in the hands of voters. Our generation is being given the opportunity to influence the elections that the seemingly impalpable game of politicians. We have cracked the code. If this isn't the time to make a difference, when will be?

Drawing Conclusions



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Third Wave Feminists would like to thank *The Schreiber Times* for discussing feminism in its last issue. This is exactly what we want — serious discussion of the place of feminism at Schreiber and the future of feminism in the world. We would like to respond to, and clarify, some of the issues brought up in the Opinions article, "Feminism's reputation may not be well deserved."

To address the author's idea of changing the word "feminism," we have no idea how to change the name of a historical movement, and we have some practical issues with the idea of altering the name of a widely respected and lauded historical movement that has existed for centuries. Such a suggestion shows a lack of understanding for the long history of the meaning of the word. However, a name alone cannot explain what a movement fully encompasses. If the author believes the feminist movement should be called something along the lines of the "Gender Equality Movement," why then are not movements such as the Youth Rights Movement called the Anti-Age Discrimination Movement?

To be absolutely clear, feminism is about promoting equal rights and opportunities regardless of gender. The first wave of feminism was the suffragette movement, which gained women in the U.S. the right to vote in 1920. The second wave of feminism took place in the late '60s and '70s (and was called, at the time, "Women's Liberation," with today's "feminists" labeled "Women's Libbers," usually in a derogatory fashion not unlike the perplexed resentment displaced onto the word "feminism" today). Second wave feminism was about women entering the workplace and gaining equal opportunities for careers and jobs, and equal pay (an ideal still not fully realized). This second wave also benefited men, allowing them more flexibility in their roles and giving them the chance to form closer connections

with their families by expanding their traditional roles as breadwinners and encouraging them to be nurturers to their children. It was always the intention of the second wave to equalize roles and opportunities for both men and women in all areas of life.

We are extremely fortunate here in America that the goals of feminism are being achieved. However, the rest of the world is not as blessed; the rights, opportunities, and legal safeguards that Americans take for granted are nonexistent in many nations. Today, one of the goals of third wave feminism, as it is now called, is to extend these rights and equal opportunities to women and men across the globe. In truth, however, there is still much work to be done at home regarding job opportunities, pay differences, sexual violence, child care and gender stereotyping.

It sounded as though the article was suggesting that feminism should fight for equality for everyone, and while it does just that, it focuses primarily on issues affecting women and children because these important issues, in turn, affect all genders. Feminism falls under the category of humanism, yes, but it is impossible to bring about significant and lasting change without first solving particular problems.

While some were disturbed by Women Rock! Week's focus on women's achievements, we would like to point out that in history classes at Schreiber High School and across the country we celebrate mainly men's achievements every day (aside from the little blurb at the end of textbook chapters dedicated to what women were doing at the time). So, if you would like to further explore the interesting idea of holding a "Women and Men Rock Equally! Week," please join us at the next meeting of Third Wave, which convenes every Wednesday in room 118 after school. We look forward to your input, whether you have a penis or a vagina.

Cordially,
Third Wave

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.

Fashion!

BY Amanda Schiff

Editor-in-Chief

As you all begin to raid your closets to find something special to wear to the holiday party this weekend, there are a few trends for 2007 that can help with your oh-so-important ensemble decisions. Though the winter may seem to be a tricky season for festive-yet-warm attire, there are more than enough stylish options to choose from.

Instead of frolicking around town in your reindeer jumper or that Christmas tree cardigan, opt for a sweater-dress that is both comfortable and stylish, not to mention warm. Even if you are too young to remember the Go-Go decade, you can still browse the styles of that era to ring in the new year of 2008. Sweater-dresses are versatile because they can be worn to school or to parties, leaving you dressed appropriately for either situation.

Turtleneck dresses, jumpers, and three-quarter length sleeved dresses have been the most popular this year, but any knit dress is equally as trendy. If you do go for the tank-dress, pair it with a long-sleeved undershirt and opaque tights to complete the retro look. Otherwise, try cardigans, leggings and belts for a more modern take on holiday style. Once again, what's old is new again; fashion has come full circle and is rerunning the sweater dress.

If dresses are not your thing, play with your silhouette to create a fancier



Outfits like this sweater-dress (left) are figure-hugging and very comfortable. Buying a shirt with sequins (right) is a great way to dress up a plain pair of pants.



Nordstrom.com

outfit for winter celebrations. Right now, the voluminous, swingy tops are causing a buzz at the mall, but proportions are of utmost importance. The larger top should be paired with a skinny jean or leggings/tights. If you go for the popular wide-legged jean, chose a more form-fitting top. Long tunics with dolman sleeves or bell sleeves can become tamer with a simple cinching of the waist. Add a belt to any oversized

shirt or sweater and immediately make a very bold fashion statement a little more controllable.

Sequins and beading are classic holiday trends that can adorn sweaters, camisoles, dresses, and even shoes. The sparkle makes any outfit more festive especially when the color scheme is monochromatic. Within the last two months, the sequin trend has really taken off, placing all-sequined dresses

Choosing the right outfit for the holidays

in the holiday windows on 5th Avenue and in Little Brown Bags all over the country. As always, the \$500 dress in the window of Bergdorf Goodman's does not have to be the dress you buy. The same type of dress, encrusted in jewels or shiny, gold, sequins can likely be purchased at discount stores such as Forever 21, Charlotte Russe, and H&M. For a dress or outfit that you may only wear a handful of times, spending \$30 is more than sufficient.

In the way of color, jewel tones are still taking center stage. The royal blues, rich purples, and hot pinks have made their way from the wacky Milan runways to department stores all over the world. Classic holiday colors like burgundy, eggshell, and hunter green have also been popping up in the last couple of weeks. The most popular trend in color is wearing patterned clothing or layering clothing in the same color scheme. Pairing eggplant colored tights with a lavender dress is an alternative solution to nude or black stockings. The richer the color, the better during these indulgent holiday months.

Not only can you transform your holiday wardrobe with just a few simple pieces, you can also shower your friends and family with gifts that they can wear throughout the season. Any of these trends would make perfect gifts for the holidays and will be sure to come in handy for that last-minute party. Combine a few trends and see what looks best within your budget and for your body.

Restaurant Review

BY Sidney Ginsberg and Melissa Quigley

Features Editor and A&E Editor

Oh la la! Get out your berets! A new French restaurant has opened up on lower Main Street. It was surprising to see how many guests were seated in the restaurant on a late Wednesday night. The smell of gourmet French cuisine and the sound of classic jazz tunes continued throughout our meal. Clusters of customers were found drinking bottles of wine, presumably their own, which the restaurant allows its clients to bring. For those who wish to order drinks at the restaurant, soda and, appropriately, Orangina are offered.

The restaurant is owned by Laraine Le Dily and her husband Erik. Often times one or both of the Le Dily sons will help out, keeping the restaurant family-oriented. With its slow start in the summer, the restaurant was closed on both Mondays and Tuesdays, and now is only closed Mondays due to increasing popularity.

As we sat down, we were greeted by an attractive and incredibly friendly waiter, who proceeded to give us the menus and take our drink order.

Although the menu has a relatively varied selection of entrees, we were most intrigued by the long list of specials that was presented to us. We ordered the duck l'orange off the specials list and the steak frites off the regular menu. The duck was accompanied by cranberries and wild rice, garnished with orange pieces. The textured rice was soaked

in the duck's natural juices, and the cranberries were clearly fresh, making the dish very tasty, filling and enjoyable. Though we not duck experts, we were able to appreciate the very tender duck underneath the many layers of fat and skin.

The steak, served with french fries and a small salad, was very filling. Though we were full, we wanted more.

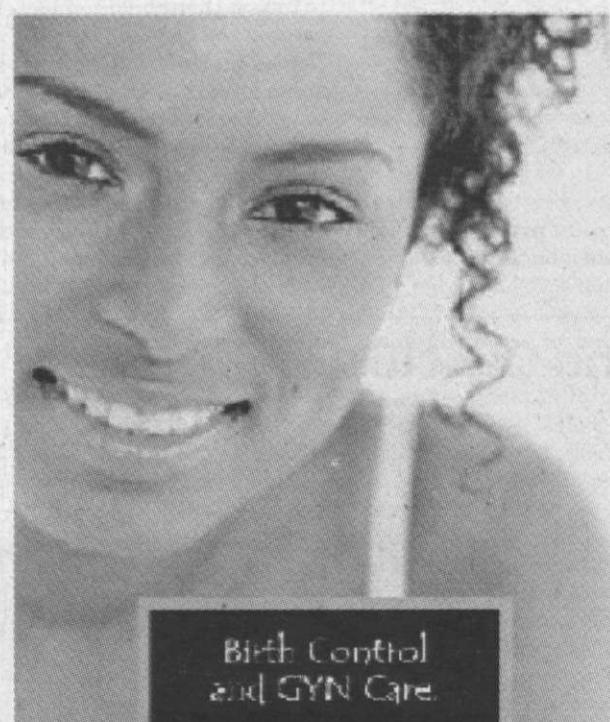
Even between the two of us we did not come close to finishing the chocolate walnut tarte we were compelled to order



Bistro du Village serves gourmet French cuisine.

for dessert. The crust was crunchy, the chocolate rich, and full of walnuty flavor; it was basically a layer of pie crust and a chunk of chocolate mousse topped with walnuts. The desserts at Bistro du Village are homemade, impressively so.

Although somewhat pricey for the average high school student's budget, Bistro du Village makes the perfect place for a romantic date, with its aesthetically pleasing ambiance of flowers, cozy seating, and small candles. Despite prices, it would be a nice place with a small group.



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The Turf

BY Stephen Nash

Features Editor

When the synthetic turf field was installed to replace Whitney Field, more commonly referred to as "the Pit," the new field seemed to benefit everyone in the community. Since it was privately funded, taxpayers were free from any financial burden and students had a brand new, state of the art venue to play on. A year later, however, controversy surrounding the turf field's potentially dangerous health effects has made the situation seem as if it might have simply been too good to be true.

Environmentalists such as Ms. Patti Wood, Executive Director of Grassroots Environmental Education, a Port Washington-based environmental organization, and many others throughout America and Europe are concerned about the use of ground up tires, known as "crumb rubber" or SBR

"If there is an iota of research that comes out that there is any danger, we will shut the field down."

(styrene butadiene rubber), as an in-fill for the field.

"The materials that are used to produce tires are generally materials that we would consider toxic," said Ms. Wood.

"We are dealing with a material that can't be land filled or ocean dumped, because of its toxicity, and now we're dumping tons of it, literally tons of this, on playing fields where children play," said Ms. Wood. "The chemicals of concern have been shown in laboratory studies to cause a variety of human health problems. That is why using them for road surfacing and other uses where they are not actually impacting the health of people is a better idea."

Environmentalists fear that the toxins contained in tires will remain hazardous substances when shredded and used as in-fill for synthetic turf fields, and will continue to cause health risks.

"We know that volatiles, semivolatiles, aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), phthalates and metals are in those tires," said Ms. Wood. She adds that some of the toxins which have been discovered by scientists include the metals arsenic, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, lead, and zinc.

Ms. Wood's claims are further substantiated by many studies which show the presence of toxic chemicals in crumb rubber. A comprehensive study conducted by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard

Assessment found that crumb rubber contains fifteen metals, twenty volatile organic compounds, fourteen semi-volatile organic compounds, and a variety of other particles.

Based on the compiled research in the field and its own investigation, Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI), a Connecticut based environmental organization, reached the conclusion that, "It is prudent to conclude that there will be human exposures to chemicals released during the use of synthetic turf fields."

The RAMP Report, released in Oct. 2007, is considered by many as one of the most important studies regarding the issue so far. In the study, RAMP, a consumer protection organization based in Rochester, collected samples of crumb rubber used as the in-fill from five synthetic turf fields. The samples were sent to Paradigm Laboratories, a prominent New York State certified lab also located in Rochester, to be analyzed.

The study found that metals, semivolatiles, including phthalates and PAHs, and volatiles were all prevalent. Specifically, the analysis discovered arsenic, cadmium, lead, chromium, along with four other metals, as well as chrysene, a known carcinogen, present in the synthetic field samples. Regarding these hazardous substances the RAMP Report concluded, "The chemicals listed above have the potential to cause serious harm under some conditions, and many are persistent in the environment."

"That [RAMP Study] brought up some real questions about the safety because of the presence of these chemicals, in great quantities first of all, and in levels well above acceptable levels, according to the EPA. There is that concern – we don't want our kids playing on toxic fields," said Ms. Wood.

Additionally, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station released a study this August identifying the following four chemicals at high

levels in crumb rubber: Benzothiazole, Butylated hydroxyanisole, n-hexadecane, and 4-(t-octyl) phenol. These four identified chemicals are known to pose serious health risks to humans, especially children. Benzothiazole and n-hexadecane are known as severe skin and eye irritants. Butylated hydroxyanisole is not only a recognized carcinogen, but also is a suspected endocrine toxicant, gastrointestinal toxicant, immunotoxicant, neurotoxicant, and skin and sense-organ toxicant.

Furthermore, on Oct. 15, News 12 reported in its "Focus 12: Toxic Turf" segment that it had collected and sent samples from Port Washington's turf field to Paradigm Laboratories to be examined. As reported by News 12, "The content levels of heavy metals were within government limits. However, some cancer-causing chemicals were well in excess of state safety levels. Chrysene, for one, was present in amounts more than 1,250 times the safe limits."

The Port Washington School District, on the other hand, repeatedly says, that from the information available to it, there is no evidence of the turf field causing harm to students. When asked whether the district maintained the position that the turf field posed no health risks to students, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Geoffrey Gordon, said "that is correct."

"The state of Connecticut did a study on this and came to the same conclusion, our own consultant came to the same conclusion, our attorney who uses nationwide environmental consultants came to the same conclusion," said Dr. Gordon. "Having said that, if there is an iota of research that comes out that there is any danger, we will shut the field down."

A study performed by the French government has contributed to the position of the school district. The Institute for Industrial Environment and Risks (INERIS) concluded that "the health risks associated with the inhalation of VOC and aldehydes emitted by artificial grass fields in outdoor situations give

no cause for concern towards human health."

This study, however, has faced criticism from many in the environmental community who claim it to be "unsound" and not a credible study.

"This study contains too many flaws, as well as problematic health risk endpoints, to be considered a credible



Stephen Nash

Environmentalists are concerned that the crumb rubber in-fill poses dangerous health risks to students. They believe there is enough evidence to put a halt to installation of these fields.

human health evaluation study," said the EHHI study.

Due to growing concern over the dangers posed by the field, the district hired the environmental consulting firm, J.C. Broderick and Associates, which investigated the claims and published its own report.

According to the report, "J.C. Broderick & Associates, Inc. was retained to investigate the concerns raised in a News 12 Long Island "Focus 12: Toxic Turf" segment which aired on Oct. 15, 2007." Consequently, the study focused on "the potential routes of exposure for users (athletes, coaches, etc.) to be exposed to these chemicals [polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons] while using the athletic field."

After collecting samples of its own and sending them to a laboratory, J.C. Broderick and Associates concluded, "Based upon the information reviewed on PAH exposure in humans and the results of the PAH air testing performed, the potential for exposure to PAHs during normal use of the athletic field... appears to be minimal or insignificant."

Even though it determined that any harm was "minimal" or "insignificant," the Broderick Report made two recommendations to "minimize any potential for exposure." The first recommendation is to emphasize good hygiene practices by athletes using the field and the second is to supply proper supervision to make sure young children do not put pieces of rubber in their mouths.

"A direct report from our environmental consultant that tested our field, which included the test that News 12 talked about, determined that there is no carcinogen level that went



The safer natural in-fill is supported by both sides. The natural in-fill contains organic components such as cork and coconut.

field Controversy

over the threshold that would cause a problem," said Dr. Gordon.

However, it is important to note that the Broderick Report only looked at the levels of PAHs on the field. Nancy Alderman, President of EHII, told a local newspaper regarding the Broderick report, "The volatile organic compounds that CAES (Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Study) found are not spoken of in [reports of] the Long Island test. Some of [them] are carcinogenic, some are respiratory irritants and some are skin irritants."

In fact, the four hazardous substances found in the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Study, one being a known carcinogen, or the metals found in the RAMP study, such as arsenic, were not tested for in the Broderick Report.

Environmentalists also are concerned with numerous other complicating factors which create additional problems. One of these factors is the age of the people who are primarily using the field: students. All high school students are going through puberty, one of the periods of fastest development in your life, which leaves them particularly vulnerable to chronic exposure of toxins.

"We have to take into consideration the unique vulnerability of children," said Ms. Wood. "Children go through periods of rapid development at different ages, and we have to consider emerging science that tells us to be concerned about even low level exposures to toxins. There are windows of vulnerability when your body would be uniquely vulnerable to those exposures and puberty is certainly one of them."

Many people also fear the effect that increased heat has on the chemicals in the fields and the athletes playing on them. Some schools use water guns in order to try and cool down the field when the heat becomes unbearable. As a result, heat exhaustion becomes a very serious concern for many parents. Moreover, there is concern that hazardous substances are more likely to become more volatile under these conditions.

"The temperature is an issue because many of the chemicals actually volatilize, and heat will enhance that volatilization," said Ms. Wood.

Currently, the large amount of plastic in America and adequate disposal of it is another concern to many environmentalists.

"Another issue is that it's plastic and where do you go with it at the end of its life? We don't need more plastic in our landfills and where do you go with that crumb rubber, which can't be land filled," said Ms. Wood.

"Plastics are a problem. They've been a problem for a long time," said Dr. Gordon. In fact, the district is halting consideration of another local turf field until there is a plan for disposing of the plastic once the field is past its life.

Cleaning the field has also caused some concern.

"Another issue is that bacteria is often present on artificial fields and then the turf needs to be cleaned or sanitized with harsh chemicals," said Mrs. Wood. "One manufacturer actually recommends the use of Perchloroethylene, which is crazy; that's a common dry cleaning chemical, which is a known ground water contaminant and a potential human carcinogen. You have to clean these fields somehow, which becomes another issue."

Due to all of these concerns, at the end of October, New York State assemblyman Steven Englebright introduced a bill which mandated an extensive study of the effects of crumb rubber. Until the study is completed, a moratorium, or ban, on all selling and installing of turf fields that contain crumb rubber in New York State is in effect. The bill states that, "Crumb rubber is the result of processing waste tires, which contain numerous components, some of which are known to be hazardous to people and the environment. Health effects associated with these components, at dangerous levels, include birth defects, cancer, nervous system damage and immune system suppression."

"Remember there is a balance here," said Dr. Gordon. "That field that we

presently have at Whitney, which used to be a disaster, is now used seven days a week, allowing kids to get healthy exercise. One can make the argument and some people have, that the health benefits of the exercise, such as limiting obesity and other disease prevention with diabetes and things like that is also a benefit of having a field that one can use. The jury is still out."

Conversely, many environmentalists believe that the recent studies throughout the world have made it perfectly clear that there is a serious harm with crumb rubber as in-fill for the turf fields.

"Everyone says that further testing needs to be done and that we can not say that is safe," said Ms. Wood. "There is enough evidence right now to take precautions, to step back and say, we need to look at this more carefully. That is the reasonable and responsible thing to do at this point."

Through all the studies and different perspectives, a solution supported by both sides has emerged. First adopted in Italy as a response to the government ban on synthetic turf fields and the use of crumb rubber as in-fill, a natural alternative in-fill composed of only organic materials has presented itself as a very reasonable option. This in-fill contains natural

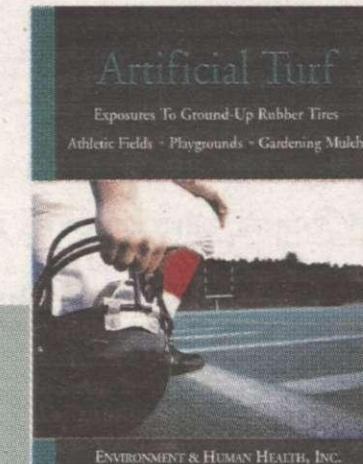
materials such as coconut, cork, and other organic components. In fact, the in-fill has been sent to Paradigm Laboratories to test it for health risks. The results, without exception, showed that the new material would not pose harm to anyone playing on the field.

"It is a responsible thing to do to look at a material that could pose some serious health risks and look at another material which is also readily available that doesn't cause any health risks," said Ms. Wood.

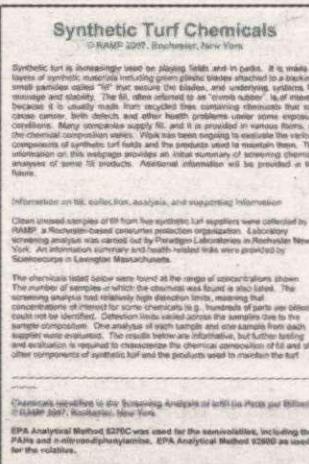
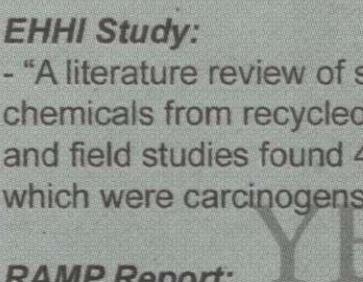
Furthermore, the organic in-fill is considered equally, if not more, effective than its crumb rubber counterpart. From a financial standpoint, the organic in-fill is also no different. Building a turf field utilizing this natural, risk-free in-fill costs just about the same as with rubber in-fill. It is also estimated that it would cost the district between thirty and forty thousand dollars to vacuum out all of the crumb rubber in-fill and replace it with this natural in-fill.

"I hope to be the first district in the country to do that. It is not an expensive proposition, it is a safe proposition, and I think it is a very good resolution to this potential problem," said Dr. Gordon.

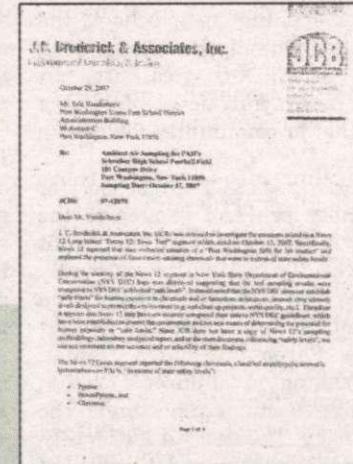
Does The Turf Field Pose A Health Risk? A Look at the Opposing Studies



EHII STUDY (2006)



RAMP REPORT (2007)



BRODERICK REPORT (2007)

EHII Study:

- "A literature review of studies of the release of chemicals from recycled tires in laboratory settings and field studies found 49 chemicals, seven of which were carcinogens."

RAMP Report:

- "Hazardous and dangerous metals, such as arsenic and cadmium, were found in the crumb rubber in-fill and the known carcinogen chrysene was also found... The concentrations reported above exceeded hazardous waste site limits in some cases."

YES

PWSD Broderick Report:

- "The potential for exposure to PAHs during normal use of the athletic field, at the above referenced facility, appears to be minimal or insignificant."

NO

- "Use good hygiene and proper supervision with young children to ensure they do not eat the rubber."

Principal Feature Mr. Jay Lewis

BY Amanda Schiff
Editor-in-Chief

"I think it was in my blood," said Principal Jay Lewis of his decision to become an educator, which he has been since 1974. As the oldest of three children, Mr. Lewis has always had the role of mentor and role model; even as a young child he played school with his younger brother, Jeff, and got him ready for elementary school. In a way, Schreiber students and faculty think of Mr. Lewis as an unofficial older brother and one who is readily accessible and amiable.

"Mr. Lewis is a great principal because he is very approachable and accepting of ideas," said senior Maddie Mirzoeff. "He tries his best to make the school better for everyone."

When he is outside of the school environment (which is not that often), Mr. Lewis has quite a few interests, ranging from sports cars to postage stamps. If you are an observant high school student, you might have noticed that Mr. Lewis does not drive your typical sedan, minivan, or hybrid. Instead, he drives a 350Z Nissan which may seem to be slightly out of character for our level-headed principal.

"It makes me feel young," said Mr. Lewis. "I'm not a particularly materialistic guy, but I love it."

In addition to his surprising love of sports cars, Mr. Lewis is also an avid philatelist, "one who collects or studies stamps." He collects all kinds of stamps and has almost all of the stamps from Great Britain and Canada. He is also one of the select group of people who sell United Nations stamps. The collection

has been growing since Mr. Lewis was six years old, when he was inspired by his father's collection.

Before coming to Schreiber just four years ago, Mr. Lewis worked as a history teacher in Hyde Park, New York for six-and-a-half years. He later became an Assistant Principal in Ohio and then Principal in Hampton Bays High School,



Matt Siegel

Mr. Jay Lewis believes that being a principal was in his blood

Mineola High School, and most recently, Ward-Melville High School. This background in administration is what made Mr. Lewis so appealing to the search committee that brought him here after interim principal Dr. Banta. After this impressive list of administrative work at various high schools, Mr. Lewis "plans on staying until [he] decides to retire."

While at Schreiber, Mr. Lewis has

been known for his eagerness for student participation and open communication.

"It is so great how Mr. Lewis always finds a way to include students in new projects," said Schreiber alumnus Jason Lifton. "His door is always open when students have new ideas for events and charity drives, and he allows students and faculty to give their input on the workings of the school. That's why I think faculty and students admire him so much."

Teachers also respect Lewis. "Among my many friends who trust no administrator, they all trust Jay Lewis," said foreign language teacher Ms. Betsy Salemson who worked with Mr. Lewis at Mineola High School. "He is the most humane, concerned, understanding administrator that anyone has ever worked with."

One of the many things that Mr. Lewis prides himself on is increasing the dialogue and conversation between students and administrators and establishing a high level of support for new programs and activities for students.

According to Mr. Lewis, his "entrée into administration was through student activities," at one of his old jobs, making him dedicated to the formation of new clubs and activities.

"Knowing Mr. Lewis on a personal level, I see that he genuinely cares about the well-being of the student body, and about the people around him. He does everything in his power to make sure that the students have a great high school experience," said senior Nicole Rothstein. "I've been trying to work on bringing school spirit to the school and Mr. Lewis was completely supportive of the students' ideas, which is why Spirit Week is already on the calendar for March 2008."

Although you may not see Mr. Lewis roaming the halls of Schreiber on a regular basis, the door to his office near the lobby is often left ajar, inviting students and faculty to informally converse with him. He's in his office for most of the day due to his busy schedule (trust me, there are appointments all day) and his involvement in a multitude of student activities.

When asked what his motto is, "Be there" was his response. "I probably have my finger in too many things, but to be influential, you have to be there," said Mr. Lewis.

As all Schreiber students can attest to, Mr. Lewis is at almost every play, induction, or sports game. His modus operandi is visible in his presence at school functions and is a clear indication of the level of support for Schreiber and for its continued success.

"I'm a very collaborative person. I don't make decisions by myself," said Mr. Lewis. "I'm a committee person."

The Senior Year Task Force is just one example of this "two heads are better than one" philosophy. Every year, a number of new committees are formed by Mr. Lewis which further support his motto as well as his ideals.

"I love the synergy of this job," said Mr. Lewis. "And I love the fact that I have to work with everyone, teachers, students, the Board of Education, and parents."

"The Lowdown on Lewis"

Favorites:

- Ice Cream: Butter Pecan
- Movie Snack: Popcorn and Peanut M&Ms
- Band: The Beatles
- Movie: Casablanca

Features Explores The Landmark

BY Leah Nash
Contributing Writer

Since its opening as a school, the Landmark has not only stood as a local, state, and national historical site, but has served as a symbolic staple of the Port Washington community for over a century.

After serving as a high school for its first ninety years of existence, the Landmark re-opened as a non-profit community center in 1995. It currently incorporates the Port Washington Youth Council's Teen Center, the Port Washington Parent Resource Center, the Port Washington Children's Center, the Doctors Gymnasium, and the Jeanne Rimsky Theater. Additionally, the Landmark contains 59 units of affordable housing for senior citizens.

The Port Washington Children's Center is open daily to students to accommodate their parents' working hours. After school, the elementary school students work on their homework in one of the classrooms, assisted by student volunteers as part of the KidsPort program. Some of these student volunteers include Schreiber Key Club members who provide an ongoing after-school tutoring program. Adults also volunteer their time helping children as part of the program. When the weather permits, tutoring sessions take place outside in the playground area.

The Key Club members assist students from kindergarten to sixth grade with their homework four days a week. This year, at least 15 members

of the club have been helping out regularly.

"I love volunteering; it's really fun and all the kids are very sweet," said freshman Seren Bagliar, Key Club member and volunteer at the Landmark.

The playground that surrounds the Landmark is divided into many sections and is used by both the KidsPort students and the entire Port Washington community. There is a special area in the playground for toddlers and preschoolers complete with climbing units for children to play with in the park.

Besides the Children's Center, the Landmark is home to the Parent Resource Center and the Youth Council's Teen Center. The Parent Resource Center provides Mommy & Me, music, art, drama, movement, sports, cooking, and Spanish classes.

The goal of the Youth Council's Teen Center is to improve the quality of life for the young people in the community. It focuses on teenagers as opposed to younger children and adults, making it a useful resource for Schreiber students.

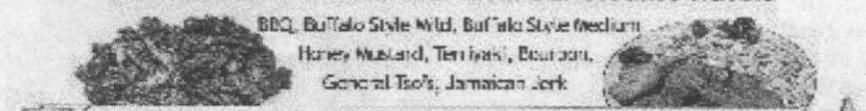
Another aspect of the Landmark, the Jeanne Rimsky Theater, is also an important component of the center. Of the various events that take place in the theater, upcoming shows include *Animal Crackers*, *Joan Osborne*, *The Evolution of the Music Industry*, and *An Evening with Andy Statman*. The Landmark has a number of activities and upcoming events scheduled, and all community members have access to these advantageous resources.



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A legend in his own time, Will Smith shines alone *I Am Legend* examines the slow disintegration of humanity in an empty world

BY Nick Pray
Staff Writer

SPOILER ALERT

Imagine New York City completely empty. No people, no cars, no horns honking: just silence. Bushes and weeds are over-grown throughout the city. Dilapidated cars have become part of the landscape. The animals from the Central Park Zoo have claimed Manhattan as their domain, and the city is now an unkempt jungle. However, there is one last person on the planet, the only one left after a horrific virus has wiped out the rest of humanity: Dr. Robert Neville.

How would one person survive all alone in a barren city? For three years, Robert Neville and his dog Sam have been doing just that. He has stocked up on canned goods, secured his home from invasion, worked out like a demon. He speeds through the city in his high-performance cars and takes masterpieces from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to decorate his townhouse. That is how they survive during the day, but at night something comes, something that has become of the rest of the living inhabitants of Earth. A horde of nocturnal creatures called "dark seekers," the humans infected by a virus who have become flesh-eating living corpses that only wait to catch Robert and Sam as their prey.

I Am Legend, directed by Francis Lawrence (*Constantine*), follows the life of Dr. Neville, in a haunting and powerful performance by Will Smith, as he survives in the new New York City, trying to find a cure for the virus that has wiped out the entire human race. Neville was part of the government project that concocted a man-made virus to cure cancer, which mutated into the killer virus.

His dog, Sam, acts as his hunting dog, protector, and only company. They wake up at 8 a.m., eat breakfast, work out, and Robert Neville works in his lab trying to find a cure. At midday, Robert and Sam go to the South Street Seaport, where his radio broadcasts tell anyone who is alive to meet him. By the end of the day, Robert and Sam go through abandoned buildings looking for supplies or gather food from their farm in Central Park.

A pretty peaceful routine—until the sun goes down. When the sun is setting, Neville locks down his townhouse in Union Square. He locks the doors,

closes the metal barricades on all the windows, loads up his gun and waits with Sam in his bathtub until the screeches and noises cease.

The film is visually spectacular; you cannot take your eyes off the screen as you admire the wondrous looks of a completely jungle-fied New York City. From the opening shot you are in awe. With a production cost of \$150 million, it's a mixture of CGI and perfect production design of the real NYC. In the opening shot, we see Robert and Sam hunting for deer in his Shelby Mustang in the middle of a vegetation-filled Times Square. Then out of nowhere, a lioness grabs the deer.

The film is a study of character. Will Smith does an incredible job portraying a man who hasn't said a word to another human being in three years. He single-handedly convinces the audience that he is in pain and wants nothing more than to hear the word "hello" said back to him. His mental development as he slowly loses his mind, as he is trying to find a cure for an already lost cause, is chilling and beautiful. The scariest parts of the film are the mental addiction and loneliness that Will Smith's character goes through. This film was definitely made for him and there couldn't have been anyone better for the role.

I Am Legend is based on the 1954 novel by Robert Matheson, which follows Robert Neville, a man living in an apocalyptic aftermath in Los Angeles. The adaptation for the new film is in a lot of ways better because the isolation of NYC adds to the misery that Neville has to go through. In the novel, Robert follows the same routine; however, once the night comes, Los Angeles is occupied by blood thirsty vampires that want one thing only, Robert's blood. The "vampires" are still the result of a man-made virus; however, Robert did not create it. He was just lucky enough to be immune to it, but is given the horrible burden of living through it.

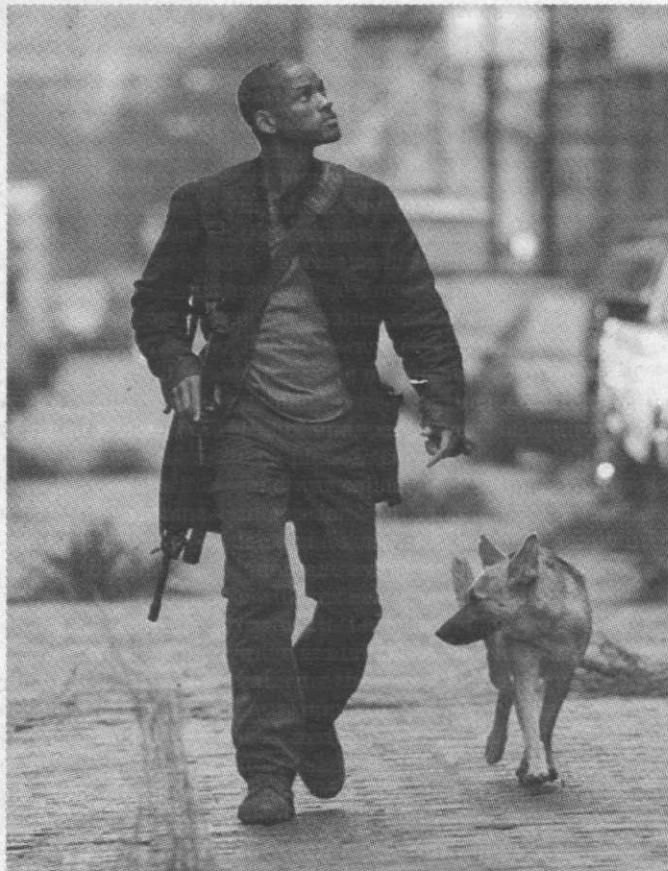
In the new adaptation, the vampires are nocturnal creatures called "dark seekers" who are hairless beings that eat the living. They are living, but there are no human emotions whatsoever left in them. In the novel, the vampires are the scariest part of the story, and they are constantly hunting Neville down, while Neville defends both his home and his life. However in the film, the dark seekers are purely there to show that Neville is the only human being

left. They show no real sign of being the horrific and disturbing creatures that they are in the book. They don't look very threatening and they don't seem to want Neville until the very end of the film.

However, in one particular scene, the first encounter that the audience witnesses, is the scariest part of the film involving the "dark seekers." The scene begins with Neville shooting golf balls off of the U.S.S. Intrepid, when suddenly Sam sees something: it's a deer. When Robert and Sam follow it, they cut the deer off in some scaffolding. When the deer runs into an abandoned warehouse, Sam follows it into the dark building, with

Neville screaming for her to get out. Not wanting to go in since he knows what is in there, he follows only out of love for his dog. The tension and fear grow as Neville goes deeper and deeper into the building. He goes upstairs to find only the remains of a deer, and then with only a sudden flash of his flashlight reveals a gang of dark seekers, sleeping. That one second is the scariest moment of the film, and it is the most memorable and visually horrific scene audiences have seen in a long time.

Not since Danny Boyle's *28 Days Later* has a sci-fi apocalyptic film done so well with its audience: capturing both the human and not-so-human aspects of the story. The film follows the solitary Neville, as the audience continually questions his sanity, as in one poignant scene where he yells at a mannequin that he thinks is real. However, he does say that "it was not God who did [made the disease], we did." This apocalypse is mankind's fault, and it's his goal to bring humanity back out of the darkness to find the light of day once more.



www.imdb.com
Dr. Robert Neville (Will Smith) and his faithful German shepherd Sam are the only remnants of an extinct society as they walk through its ruins.

Without giving too much away, there are a few plot twists that may make you dislike a portion of the film. Short of that, the film has a solid first two acts, with a third act you will have to see to believe. Focus on the incredible CGI and production designs, the outstanding and perhaps Oscar-worthy performance of Will Smith, and the feeling of desperation, hope and horror that this film so perfectly captures. Bob Marley's message of love conquering disaster brings the film together, as his music is used in pivotal and powerful scenes.

I Am Legend, although flawed, is still a terrific film that everyone should experience because of both its achievement in special effects and its tantalizing story of an emotionally broken man in a lonely world filled with people who want to kill him. However, I do recommend reading the book, and in my opinion it will be the first book about which you say, "the book was much better than the movie," even though *I Am Legend* is one of the greatest films that has come around in a long time.

Get ready to be enchanted...by Disney's *Enchanted*

BY Amanda Schiff

Editor-in-Chief

When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade—right? In Disney's latest family comedy/fairytale/musical, *Enchanted*, director Kevin Lima secured an all-star (and may I say, McDreamy) cast to attract kids of all ages. Lima creatively juxtaposes a colorful fantasy land with the hustle and bustle of New York City to put this old proverb to work. The story is narrated by Mary Poppins herself, Julie Andrews.

An Oscar nominee, Amy Adams is cast as Princess Giselle from the animated fantasy world of Andalasia, who, as the opening song states, is dreaming of a true love's kiss. Adams superbly fills the shoes of a real life princess, adding the perfect mix of charm and wit to make her recipe for screen presence enjoyable and not nauseating. She is cheerful, but not condescending, and elegant without being snobbish. Without Adams, the film's success in the box office would surely have been compromised.

In the first two minutes of the film, Giselle goes from living in a tree with friendly and talkative critter companions a la Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty, to falling into the arms of handsome Prince Edward (James Marsden). Musical interludes break up each scene to further elucidate the enchanting feeling that only Disney can create.

The happy couple wastes no time with wedding plans and rush to get married the following day. As anyone who has ever seen a Disney film before knows, the joy is sure to be curtailed by an evil villain very shortly. Susan

Sarandon is cast as Queen Narissa, Prince Edward's evil stepmother, who on the day of the royal wedding, throws Giselle down a "wishing fountain"/magic portal to keep Edward single and to preserve his power.

The animated princess takes a crazy and whimsical journey through the portal which leads her to Manhattan. Giselle, confused by her transformation from an animated cartoon to a real life bombshell, falls, once again, into the arms of divorce lawyer and single father Robert Phillip (Patrick Dempsey). His adorable daughter Morgan (Rachel Covey) convinces him to let the Princess stay the night. His messy apartment is caused in part by his busy life and pressure from his long-term girlfriend, Nancy (Idina Menzel) to commit. Giselle does what any princess would do, she summons all of NYC's lovable creatures, pigeons, mice, and cockroaches, with a sweet croon to tidy up the mess.

This scene would not be complete without a witty song and a dance. Giselle sings "Happy Working Song" which epitomizes the enchantment of the film, where all of your favorite Disney classics are melded together to create a Cinderpoppins-SnowBeauty that dazzles kids and parents alike.

"At first, the only reason I saw it was for Patrick Dempsey, but I ended up loving it," said junior Isamar Pena.

The sing-a-long songs and extravagant production numbers come courtesy of Alan Menken with lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, who composed songs for the soundtracks of Disney's *Pocahontas* and Broadway's hit musical, *Wicked*. The songs, in the spirit of supercalifragilisticexpialidocious—leave



The dreamy Robert Philip (Patrick Dempsey) competes with the dashing Prince Edward (James Marsden) for the love of Giselle (Amy Adams).

you wanting more and ready to dance around your living room. Move over Belle, *Enchanted* is the fairytale for the next generation that will put those "tales as old as time" on the backburner and have kids dreaming of a true love's kiss.

Giselle is not the only Andalasian citizen in the Empire State for long. While she strolls through Central Park with McDreamy getting New Yorkers to join in a song and dance production, her betrothed, her trusty chipmunk Pip, and Queen Narissa's evil accomplice Nathaniel (Timothy Spall) are tirelessly searching the streets for any sign of their cheerful princess.

Although the story plays out in classic Disney fashion complete with dragons and villains to try and poison the Big

Apple and its newest inhabitants, there is, of course, a happy ending. Giselle even gets to go on a Pretty Woman-esque fashion spree with the in-case-of-emergency credit card (so the trip to NYC isn't a total loss). To put the icing on the cake, Robert saves Giselle with a true love's kiss and Edward and Nancy go back to Andalasia for their own fairytale ending in fantasyland.

This is the best Disney film to come around since the nineties and Lima certainly did it justice. With a cheerful plot and lovingly satirical wit, the modern day fairytale charms a diverse audience (I even saw some dads smiling at the end). If you're in the mood for a feel-good, no-thinking-involved movie fix, grab some friends and get ready to be enchanted.

Progressive take on teenage pregnancy inspires cult film *Juno*

BY Alex Hohauer

Staff Writer

Let's make one thing clear: in no way, shape, or form is the universe we see in *Juno* that of real life. No adolescent has a perfectly calculated, witty remark for everything tossed at them, nor do they care so little about what their peers think. Casting that aside, *Juno* is a charming film when placed in a vacuum. The people on-screen are flawed, but in a perfect way. It follows the standard independent film formula: talented young actors + cute cinematography + indie-folk soundtrack = instant hit. And in this case, it works.

As can be seen from the title, *Juno* is the story of Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page), a Minnesotan teen who decides to have unprotected sex with her awkward friend Paulie Bleeker (*Superbad*'s Michael Cera) and faces the ultimate consequence: teenage pregnancy. While there is hardly a lack of exploration of this predicament in film or television, screenwriter Diablo Cody has an interesting take on this cliché. Juno immediately decides to get an abortion, but after going to the clinic, something changes her mind. Instead, she chooses to give the baby up for adoption, finding a wealthy couple (Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman) through newspaper classified ads. Just wait, the fun only begins here.

The film tracks her pregnancy. It is essentially divided into four acts, fall, winter, and spring which represent her three trimesters, and summer, the

aftermath. These are really a series of vignettes tied together loosely by similar characters, an overarching story-line, and voiceovers. This provides us with apt snapshots of Juno's life—Juno drinking a slurry, Juno at the doctor's, Juno gossiping with her seemingly perfect best friend Leah (Olivia Thirlby).

Page carries this colossal role, but the supporting characters may not be seen enough. J.K. Simmons and Alison Janney take the seemingly one-note roles of Juno's father Mac and stepmother Bren and expand them into something beyond the quips of their first scene with her. Bren exclaims of Juno's pregnancy: "I was hoping she was expelled, or into hard drugs." The refreshing remark fits into the absurd tone of the film, as few parents would actually say such a thing.

Things appear to be set for Juno after she finds her adoptive parents—Mark and Vanessa Loring are educated, well-off, and anxious for children. Their life appears to be picture-perfect in the exact way that Juno's is not, the main reason for her choice. However, instead of remaining out of their lives until the baby is born, she repeatedly escapes to their perfect home, even developing a friendship with the cool-uncle type, Mark. However, when the Lorings' world turns out to be less perfect than it appears, Juno takes it harder than any of the other obstacles which come her way.

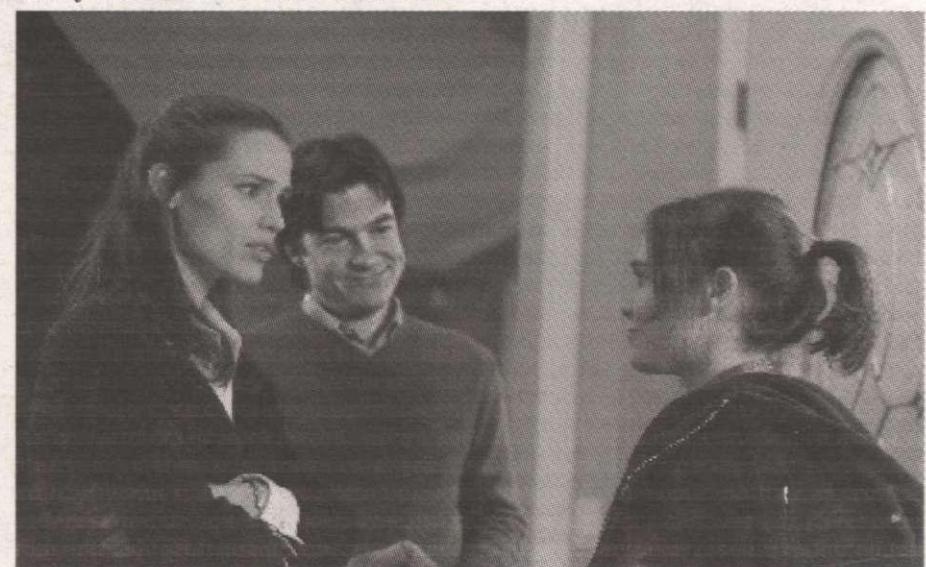
Until the film's finish, Juno does not seem to fear anything about her

situation. The average teen pregnancy film—comedy or drama—often depicts the protagonist as being terrified in every sense of the word. Juno cracks jokes about her situation, calling herself the "cautionary whale," goes to school until she gives birth, and seems oblivious to the world around her.

This is where the film may fail; at a scant 93 minutes, there is plenty of time to focus on external factors. Yes, the film is named for *Juno*, but would it hurt to focus on anything else for a moment? The few scenes with Paulie Bleeker and his mother in their home stand out because Juno is not present, and is hardly mentioned. Juno is lovable but

an annoyance at the same time and for all the time spent on her, her character remains one-dimensional. Furthermore, other characters do not really develop either, with the exception of Vanessa and Mark Loring, whom Garner and Bateman portray beautifully.

As with any good story, Juno traces a disruption in the status-quo, and its welcome return. By the end of the movie, things appear to have remained exactly the same. This fits into the imaginary world of the film, for in reality, this would hardly happen. Overall, *Juno* is a delight when seen as a quirky break from reality.



Juno (Ellen Page) is talking to the soon-to-be parents of her baby.

www.product-reviews.net

Author of *The Kite Runner* shines again with *Suns*

BY Rachel Merker
Staff Writer

Khaled Hosseini's first novel, *The Kite Runner*, took the world by storm with its poignancy, emotion, and beautiful language, becoming an international bestseller. The Afghan-born author's second work of fiction, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* matches the literary mastery demonstrated by its predecessor. In fact, some might say that the novel, which came out in May 2007, is even better. And, after reading the book, it's hard not to agree.

As he did with his first book, Hosseini brilliantly weaves a web of personal conflicts that mirrors the tumultuous political and social history of late 20th century Afghanistan in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. He also demonstrates his ability as a writer in the voice of two extraordinary women. Mariam and Laila, initially separated not just by their age difference but their socio-economic backgrounds and ignorance of the other's existence, eventually become united in a beautiful relationship akin to that of a mother and daughter.

Mariam, born nineteen years before Laila and into a much less certain existence of poverty and shame, is told from the start by her mother and society that she is worthless. The illegitimate child of a wealthy man and his servant, Mariam is forced to live in a glorified shack with her embittered mother at the insistence of her father's wives. Though Mariam's father comes to visit her once a week, his shame about her existence eventually becomes heart-breakingly clear. When her mother commits suicide,

he marries her off to a middle-aged man from the beautiful city of Kabul.

Mariam is but fifteen when she marries Rasheed, whose temperament quickly changes from affectionate to dangerous as the couple soon realize she is sterile. By time she is nineteen—and Laila is being born just across the street, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* becomes a book for the strong-stomached. Rasheed cruelly beats his wife, forces her to wear a burkha outside of the house, and verbally assaults her. In one especially sickening scene, he forces her to chew on pebbles for overcooking rice.

Hosseini introduces Laila's perspective as an initial contrast to Mariam's despair. Laila is young, smart, beautiful, and loved by her intellectual father. Like Mariam, however, Laila has a disappointing relationship with her mother. Most important is Laila's friendship with her neighbor Tariq. As the two grow older, their friendship becomes a young, passionate love.

Their love and freedom is threatened, however, as the political climate of Kabul and Afghanistan takes a turn for the worse: following the withdrawal of Soviet forces, the country falls prey to the violent exchanges between various warlords. Civilians are killed, bombs strike innocent victims, and many—including Tariq and his family—flee. Before Laila and her family have the chance to escape, her parents are killed.

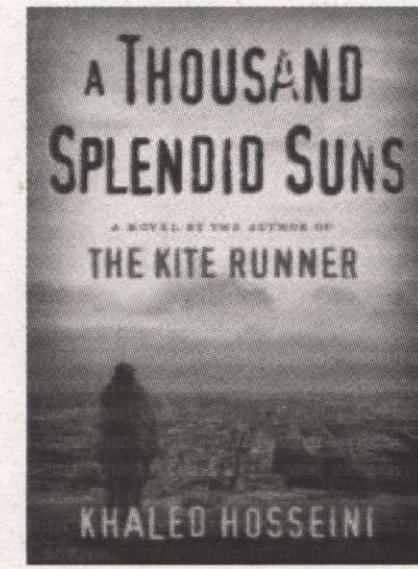
At this point, Hosseini intersects the lives of his protagonists. Mariam and Rasheed take Laila in, much to Mariam's dismay, for Rasheed soon takes the beautiful fourteen-year-old as another wife.

Hosseini effortlessly weaves the story of Kabul into the stories of these women, matching the changes in their lives with the changes in leadership of the country. He parallels Rasheed's brutal oppression of his two wives with the Taliban takeover. Rasheed at first offers salvation to the two women—for Mariam, a chance to have children and a legitimate existence, for Laila, protection and a home in the midst of violent political turmoil. But soon he terrorizes his wives, sucking away their dignity, liberty, and independence.

Hosseini similarly chronicles the rule of the Taliban, who, instead of being Afghanistan's salvation from violent anarchy, establish a fundamentalist religious rule that not only destroys Kabul's art, vitality, and civility, but that brutally oppresses its female citizens.

Enduring the pain of their marriage to a cruel man and the fall of their city, Laila and Mariam soon find comfort in each other. The relationship they form, for all its initial resentments, transforms into one of refuge and comfort. As their stories progress, the two begin to treat each other as mother and daughter. Each gives the other what she has always needed: Mariam acts as the mother Laila never had, sheltering, guiding, and sacrificing for her. Laila, in turn, not only acts as a daughter to a barren woman but eventually shares her own children as well.

Hosseini's novel is laced with immense sorrow and despair. It is unafraid to crush the hopes of readers and characters alike. However, the author pens each note of despair with a poetic quality of such beauty



www.amazon.com

that it becomes impossible to put the engrossing novel down. Hosseini also balances the pain with plot twists much more hopeful and uplifting than those of his first book.

Hosseini's ability to capture the redeeming love between mother and child, a pair of young lovers, and a people and their city, makes his novel worth reading. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a testament to the strength of women who refuse to be defeated. Above all it is a message of redemption and hope for Khaled Hosseini's people, country, and birth-city, Kabul—where, despite all the blood and turmoil it has endured, "One could not count the moons that shimmer on her roofs, or the thousand splendid suns that hide behind her walls."

Guitar Hero III and iPod Touch are the hottest holiday gifts

BY Max Kraus
Staff Writer

First, there was *Guitar Hero*. Then, there was *Guitar Hero II*. And then (can you believe it?) there was—*Guitar Hero III*. A music video game that incorporates a guitar, which links to the gaming system, *Guitar Hero III* has swept through the nation to become one of the hottest games of the year.

In this popular video game, the player has the option of selecting one of numerous popular rock songs that famous artists have written throughout the years. The object of the game is to match the notes that scroll down on the screen as the song plays.

The point system of *Guitar Hero III* is based on hitting or missing the notes. The game informs the player how he or she did after each song. You can also build star power by getting consecutive special notes right, which will help you obtain more points, or avoid deductions for missing notes.

The game's guitar is not exactly like a real guitar. It is modeled after a Gibson SG, and it has different colored buttons on the top of the guitar to represent a guitar's different frets. Then on the bottom of the video game guitar there is one button that you strum just like a real guitar every time a note comes.

The company that made the game developed four different *Guitar Hero* games, *Guitar Hero*, *Guitar Hero II*, *Guitar Hero Rocks the 80's*, and *Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock*. Each one of these utilizes the guitar provided for the game, and each game has essentially the

same objective. The main differences are new characters that are modeled after famous guitarists, and, of course, battle mode.

Battle mode is a new feature in *Guitar Hero III*, that lets you play against another player over the internet. In battle mode, you battle your opponent for the most points possible.

The difference between this mode and co-op is that you can attack your opponent when you get enough star power. Some attacks include: breaking your opponent's strings, making the song more difficult for your opponent, "Amp Overload," which makes the scrolling buttons hard to read, and other attacks. There is also a "Story Mode" that consists of bosses and allows the player to unlock characters.

This game is incredible, offering tons of cool new features and some of the country's favorite rock songs.

"Before *Guitar Hero III* came out, life was not worth living," said freshman Kevin Bourguet who recently purchased *Guitar Hero III* for Xbox 360. "It changed my life."



BY Jamie Koopersmith
Contributing Writer

Looking for the perfect gift this holiday season? The new iPod Touch is probably one of the best portable media players ever made. Much like the iPhone, the new iPod Touch sports a 3.5 inch touch screen, Wi-Fi web browsing, and just about everything except the ability to make calls. The new iPod also lacks a camera which doesn't seem to be much of a functional loss.

One of the features on the new iPod Touch is Cover Flow, a different, yet effective way to navigate music. Users can turn the player horizontally to view album art in alphabetical order, dragging their finger across the display until the desired artist and album is found, and simply clicking on it to reveal the track list on the back. Now you can click on the song of your choice and go.

Another feature on the Touch is the new Wi-Fi version of the iTunes Music Store. Now with Wi-Fi access users can search, preview, and purchase songs to iPods anywhere, anytime. The music downloads directly to the iPod to be immediately enjoyed. The next time the iPod is synced to a computer, the music bought on the go is added to iTunes.

Apple has also announced a partnership with Starbucks that enables iPhone and iPod Touch owners to buy

songs they hear in Starbucks stores via Wi-Fi. For Starbucks addicts, this feature is quite appealing.

Probably the most subtle yet best feature on the iPod Touch is the double click. Double clicking the "home" button brings up the music controls. This can be done in any screen, whether the iPod is in Wi-Fi mode, the music store, YouTube or even sleep-mode. It's a great, quick way to skip a song you don't really like, or turn the music up on one you love.

The music quality on the iPod Touch is excellent once bad headphones are substituted for good ones. The new iPod Touch is much skinnier than the iPhone by about 8 millimeters. It's a bit shorter, and a little wider, with dimensions of 4.3 by 2.4 by 0.3 inches. The Touch is about 4.2 ounces, which is much lighter than the 4.8 ounce iPhone. Whether you consider it pocket size depends on the size of your comfy cargo pants.

Overall, the new iPod Touch comes with many great, new features. With three ways to use the Wi-Fi connection, YouTube, Safari, and the iTunes Music Store, users can count on using it frequently. The display is magnificent, with Cover Flow and two different viewing options (vertical and horizontal) to view movies, shows, and album art. Amazing new features, like the double touch and access to controls in any screen, makes it easy to choose what to listen to. With light weight and slim dimensions making it easily portable in a pocket or purse, I'd say this is a solid gift for this holiday season.

Caffeine + entertainment = very successful fundraiser

BY Christina Vlahos
A&E Assistant Editor

"You guys don't mind if I apply deodorant on stage, do you?" asked junior David Becker of the perplexed audience as he walked out onto the stage to begin Student Outreach's annual Coffee House. People glanced at each other around their tables, unsure of whether or not he was serious. Evidently, he was, as he rolled some on before beginning his introduction. "Welcome to the Student Outreach Coffee House. Your donations are going to the Children's Health Fund. Thanks for coming. Now I have a very sad story to tell you about how I got kicked off of the Portettes."

Coffee House was held on Thursday, Dec. 6 in the choir room. We spent the night sitting around tables indulging in baked goods, sandwiches, and of course, coffee, while enjoying entertainment provided by the staff and students. It was altogether a very cozy atmosphere, and, fortunately for the Children's Health Fund, there was a great turnout. Most of the acts were musical, with short breaks consisting of David Becker's sarcastic, sometimes superfluous, but very entertaining humor.

The performances began with Ms. Joy Grasso-Krebs, a science teacher, exhibiting her impressive vocal range. She began with a lovely, albeit seasonally inappropriate, song of the summer, ending with a big finish and a round of applause. Ms. Krebs then said she would like to sing some blues, and moved into her own soulful rendition of "Amazing Grace" which was met with awe-inspired silence from the crowd.

A sharp contrast from the a cappella singing preceding them, English teachers Mr. Corey Block and Mr. Joseph Corbo, as well as social studies teacher Mr. Craig Medico, performed next in their rock band. Mr. Block and Mr. Medico were on guitar, and Mr. Corbo was on drums.

Mr. Reynolds is usually the lead

vocalist, but he was absent leaving Mr. Block to sing vocals. Their first number was a Matthew Street song, which was fine despite the fact that Mr. Block was barely audible above the sound of the instruments. Mr. Medico's skills on the guitar were incredible, and the crowd loved his impressive flair.

They also performed songs by the Foo Fighters and Weezer, during which the band played forcefully and with startling bursts of energy. Their zeal and focus was unmistakable—even Mr. Corbo was chewing his gum to the beat of the drums.

"Because it's a public show, we're forced to let Mr. Lorge play," said Becker in his introduction for one of the school's guidance counselors. Becker should have given Mr. Lorge more credit though, as his mellow guitar playing was quite enjoyable, and his later accompaniment of Molly Fried was also engaging. Mr. Lorge's music was soothing to the ears after the loud, ear-drum bursting sound of the English meets Social Studies rock band.

After this act, senior Richard Blue was pretending to search for Becker in order to introduce the next number. Becker, who burst through the doors wearing nothing but an unflattering Portette uniform, readjusted his sparkly sequined headband and wrist-cuffs, and began to scamper up to the microphone, at which time he enlightened us of the cheerless, heartrending story of his short

time as a member of the Portettes.

"It's not fun being the fat Portette," said Becker as he described his woe to the audience. He then added to his saga, quoting co-captain of the Portettes, Rita Catapano, telling him, "I don't think you should eat that." After his mournful tale he excused himself from the stage, citing a weak bladder.

Senior Tim Sherman performed next on the quirky keytar. He performed several long songs on this instrument, including "Punk Rock Girl." He displayed an interesting range of musical skill. My only comment is that whoever wrote the songs performed is in serious need of caffeine and therapy.

The subsequent act was one of the most entertaining performances of the night, a boy band trio by the name of Drift. Sophomores Dave Marx and

Dan Bernstein played keyboard and guitar respectively while both also sang. Junior Jeff Frocarro was on the drums. Their first song was one that they had written themselves entitled "I Wrote a Song for You." Their sound was melodious, laid-back and generally very pleasing. The audience got involved and was clapping to the beat and the boys received a huge round of applause.

They then performed John Mayer's renowned hit "Waiting on the World to Change," keeping true to the original song. Marx was great on keyboard, beginning with a count-off as in the original track. If anything, Dan Bernstein could have had a little more soul during "Waiting on the World to Change,"

but all in all Drift was a huge crowd-pleaser.

Maybe it's the Chilean way of doing things, but never before had I had such a funny testing of a microphone: "Testing, testing, 1, 2, 'Luke I am your father.'" Foreign exchange student senior J.P. Arias Muñoz, along with seniors Benjamin Perlman, Zack Hirsch, and freshman Mike Cicchetti make up the band Zeno's Paradox, which performed their last gig together at Coffee House. Mike Cicchetti was exceptional on the guitar. Zeno's Paradox received a lot of audience feedback throughout their third and final number, the Pokémon theme.

"The Pokémon song was really funny," said freshman Andy Lieberman.

Coffee House also featured some more traditional musical acts, including a jazz ensemble consisting of seniors Aaron Silberstein, Mara Hollander, Allison Rosenberg, Eliana Theodorou, and sophomore Solomon Hoffman, the ensemble's composer. Sophomores Ryohei Ozaki and Connie Kim performed a string duet of the piece "Passacaglia" by Handel Halyvorsen. They displayed their exceptional skill and ability throughout this complicated instrumental composition and wowed the crowd. This talented duo has performed together on several occasions for various other charities and events and has never failed to impress. Sophomore Eunice Kim also played a spectacular professional harp piece.

Molly Fried sang once more, this time with sophomores Cory and Chelsea Morano, who performed tracks from Broadway's *Spring Awakening*. These girls harmonized really well and their a cappella performance helped wind down the evening.

Student Outreach was not only successful in organizing Coffee House, it raised over \$450 for the Children's Health Fund.

"I think that everyone who performed at Coffee House did a really amazing job. Although the announcer may have gone a little over the top, all of the student and teacher performances showed that Schreiber is full of talent," said senior Maddie Mirzoeff.



Brooke Goodspeed

Mr. Medico, Mr. Corbo, and Mr. Block perform a Weezer song at Student Outreach's Coffee House.



Douly Yang and Andrew Lee perform a sweet little song during the last act of Coffee House.

Brooke Goodspeed

Music Box

Instant Karma: The Amnesty International Campaign to Save Darfur

**INSTANT KARMA
SAVE DARFUR**



BY Christina Zhou

Staff Writer

For the music lover, a new album for the holidays seems to be an obvious choice. This season, there is a wealth of new tunes to choose from. A newly remastered *Joshua Tree* by U2 recently hit the shelves, as well as original releases from the Killers, Angels and Airwaves, and an upcoming *In Rainbows* by Radiohead will be available this holiday season. Though not as recent or billboard grabbing, there is one album that stands out from the rest, especially for fans of John Lennon. *Instant Karma: The Amnesty International Campaign to Save Darfur*.

Instant Karma consists of twenty-three John Lennon covers by artists of all musical backgrounds. From Avril Lavigne to Green Day, Christina Aguilera to the Black Eyed Peas, and Snow Patrol to Ben Harper, twenty-three artists have worked to create new versions of old songs that they found difficult to cover.

The most unique aspect of this album is its purpose. Yoko Ono, Lennon's widow, has donated the rights to his songs to Amnesty International for activist and peace efforts in Darfur. Even though many people support the decisions Ono made, quite a few "true" Lennon fans still do not approve of her. Her hope is that the music will inspire the people of

this generation to stand up for change in the war-torn regions of Sudan.

"It's wonderful that, through this campaign, music that is so familiar to many people of my era will now be embraced by a whole new generation," Ono said about the album in an interview with Market Wire. "John's music set out to inspire change, and in standing up for human rights, we really can make the world a better place."

The first disc of the two-disc CD opens with U2's version of "Instant Karma" and ends with "Jealous Guy" by Yossou N'dour. Some pleasant surprises include "Mother" by Christina Aguilera and "Imagine" by Avril Lavigne, which are unexpectedly tender, yet powerful takes on songs that sound vastly different from many of their original works.

Definite standouts are R.E.M.'s cover of "#9 Dream," "Gimme Some Truth" by Jakob Dylan featuring Dhani Harrison with beautifully squeaky guitars, and "I'm Losing You" by Corinne Bailey Rae. U2's "Instant Karma" was a bit disappointing though, and I was not exactly a fan of Aerosmith's "Give Peace A Chance," though the message was inspiring.

On the second disc is a denser collection of songs that I greatly enjoyed. Personal favorites include "Isolation" by Snow Patrol, "Grow Old With Me" by the Postal Service, "(Just Like) Starting Over" by the Flaming Lips, and "God" by Jack's Mannequin ft. Mick Fleetwood. However, it was the first and last tracks that blew me away.

Disc two of *Instant Karma* begins with "Working Class Hero" by Green Day and captures the message of the song perfectly. I enjoyed the touches they put on the song yet felt they preserved the tone of the original. Their cover was actually recently nominated for a Grammy Award for best rock duo or group with vocal. The music video for the song was very popular on VH1. "Real Love" by Regina Spektor was another highlight, a minimalist song that was reminiscent of Lennon's original.

Ten additional and very impressive

tracks are available only on I-Tunes, with Duran Duran, Deftones, Gavin Rossdale, Yellowcard, Widespread Panic, O.A.R., Ben Jelen, Me'Shell NdegeOcello, Rocky Duwani, Emmanuel Jal (a rising Sudanese artist), and The Fab Faux.

Musically, the album is satisfying, though it cannot be doubted that the originals are superior. Personally, I thought several songs came quite close. It was interesting hearing each artist put their own twist on the tracks, each sounding a bit louder and with more production than the originals. In some cases, for example, U2's take of the song "Instant Karma," paled in comparison to Lennon's versions, although it earned a Grammy nomination for the same award as album-mates Green Day. Overall, *Instant Karma* was a good effort to cover John Lennon with a great message and purpose.

"John Lennon was not just a famous Beatle, he was the social conscience of his generation," said Jeff Ayeroff, one of the album's executive producers in an interview with Billboard. "By reinterpreting his music and reintroducing it to a new generation, we shine a light on the darkness that is Darfur. Yoko Ono's gift of John's music to Amnesty International, whose work points out the pain and injustice in the world, is a true beacon of light. Give peace a chance is all we are saying."



While John Lennon was recording "Give Peace a Chance," he surrounded himself with love.
www.johnlennonbedin.com

The Fratellis : Costello Music



BY Patrick Boyle

Staff Writer

What do you get when you round up a group of Scottish boys, give them instruments, and let them go wild? The Fratellis, that's what! The Fratellis is an up-and-coming group based in the United Kingdom and the United States.

This talented group of young punk rockers includes Jon Lawler, Gordon McRory and Barry Wallace. All three of the members were born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland, and came together to create this indie-rock group in 2005.

The band has come a long way since their first show in the basement of O'Henry's Tavern. Since then they have released three EPs, *Costello Music*, their first live DVD *Edgy in Brixton*, and were awarded the Best British Breakthrough Act in Feb. 2007.

The Fratellis' tunes are catchy and combine a number of tones and moods. There are times when undistorted guitars create a more mellow feel, while there are moments when the hard core guitar gets cranked up and the drums pound in your head.

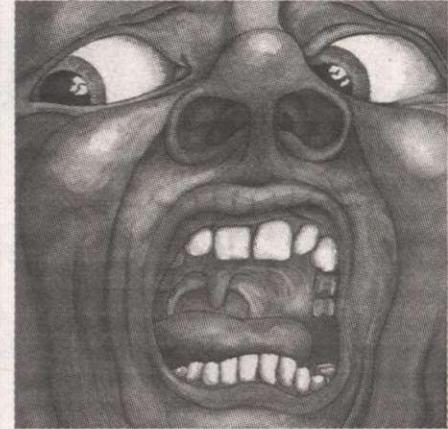
The Fratellis' newest record *Costello Music* is great for anyone who enjoys the band's old work. What I found really impressive about this album is the unique sound of the band that keeps you wanting more. Each song is a cliff-

hanger, leaving listeners excited for the next track.

The variety of songs on the album each instill different feelings in the listener. For example, the song "Vince the Lovable Stoner" starts off soft and low key, then pumps up the volume and distortion, delivering a great rush. The song also has some key instrumentals including the guitar riffs that complement the low plucking noise of the bass and the banging drums. Of course, the bass and drums are crucial elements to the record that make it so pleasing. Without the guitar and lyrics there is no life to the song. These two elements really make the CD as fabulous as it is.

I would recommend this album to anyone and everyone because it is a great musical achievement for these newcomers. As an album with many of the things music needs to be great, *Costello Music* is a worthy purchase that would allow you to sample some of the best punk rock ever.

Classic Album: King Crimson:
In The Court of The Crimson King



BY Nick Otte

Staff Writer

In 1969, the year of Woodstock and the moon landing, people watched and heard as the world around them changed and progressed. They saw things on television and read things in the paper full of shock and surprise. That same year, four young musicians formed a group called King Crimson with aspirations of changing the world of music. They succeeded in this with their first release, *In The Court Of The Crimson King*, a shocking masterpiece that gave birth to the now expansive and still-growing genre of progressive rock.

Guitarist Robert Fripp, multi-talented bassist Ian McDonald, vocalist Greg Lake, and brilliant percussionist Michael Giles, created this album, taking the music world by storm. *The Court* consists of only five songs, though each lasts gloriously over six minutes. The eerie, soulful, and spontaneous "Moonchild" lasts and lasts well into its twelfth minute, leaving the listener only wanting more. The influential nature of this song can be traced through modern groups such as Tool (who recently toured with Fripp) and other progressive rock acts today.

The album starts off with an odd, dissonant sound, puzzling the listener, but the mystery doesn't last long. The tremendous bang of "21st Century Schizoid Man" roars through speakers, ushering unto the listener a brilliant jazz/rock fusion track that is as revolutionary now as it was almost forty years ago. The tracks that follow include "I Talk To The Wind," and the epic and tragic "Epitaph." The album comes to a beautiful and magical conclusion with the title track, which can only leave a music lover paralyzed in ecstasy.

Though King Crimson lasted through many decades and changed its lineup several times, this album alone has stood the test of time. The artistry and ideals set forth by this release can be seen all over in the world of musical culture and in society. It continues to inspire and amaze listeners and musicians, young and old. Progressive rock bands continue to attempt to emulate the mastery of King Crimson, embodied in *In The Court Of The Crimson King*, though nothing since, and most likely nothing to come, has matched the brilliance of the music, or has been able to revolutionize the musical world.

HINCK'S DELICATESSEN
WISHES
Happy Holidays

and a great vacation
TO THE STUDENTS AND STAFF OF
SCHREIBER HIGH SCHOOL

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Athletes of the Month

Amanda Grieco

BY AL ADES

Contributing Writer

Senior Amanda Grieco has been a part of the varsity gymnastics team since eighth grade and has been captain for the last three years.

The squad is much more than "a team" in Grieco's heart. Grieco helped the team achieve an above-average record of 8-2 last season, and she hopes that this season will bring more fun and competition to the team as they look to be among the top teams in Nassau County.

As captain of the team, she has learned many valuable lessons including responsibility for herself and for the team.

Her dedication to the sport is something that she hopes will bring her to compete at the college level.

"Being part of the team is not just about winning, but it's about coming together as a family," said Grieco. "The team's bond that has been established in me over the past years definitely helped us out in earning our records."

Grieco started gymnastics in fourth grade and immediately fell in love with the sport.

She joined a gym in Great Neck, performed for a team outside of school and even participated competitively in eighth

grade on varsity, which itself is a great achievement.

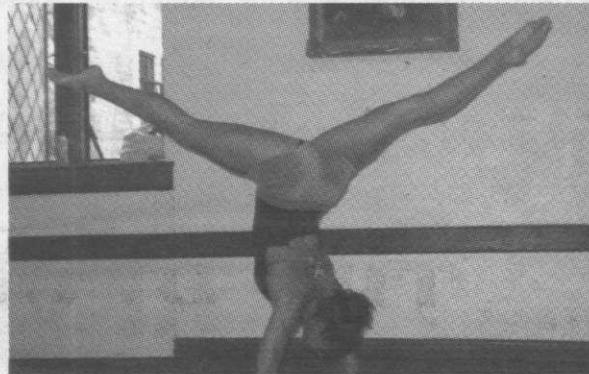
She takes great pride in being a fellow captain in 2007 with Nina Zorfass and has always been inspired by her friend Angelica Kapsis ('07), who she calls her "partner in crime."

Grieco's list of achievements is anything but short. In eighth grade she won a Varsity Monogram in gymnastics, she has won the Varsity Coach's Award in each of the last two seasons, and was named the team's Most Improved Player in 2005.

All of these awards show her skill in the sport. She expects this season to be as great as her previous ones.

With the season just beginning, Grieco is excited to see what challenges her and the team face.

To her, it seems as though success will be an obvious outcome this year for the squad.



Courtesy of Amanda Grieco
Grieco has been on the varsity gymnastics team since eighth grade.

for Mr. Goodman and the girls changing every year, the team has not lost its dynamic level," said Merker. "Coach Ocker is very efficient, and he has a lot of personal experience. He understands how the runners feel and why each runner is on the team."

Many other members of the team have found that the coaches help improve their times. Freshman runner Sara Paul is one of these members who believes that Coach Ocker has helped her to excel.

"Coach Ocker is very encouraging and makes the team feel proud of their accomplishments," said Paul.

On Nov. 30, during an invitational meet at the Armory, the 4x800 team finished in fourth place in the open division and the team's freshman-sophomore 1600 meter relay finished in second.

Over twenty schools competed in the meet at one of the most prestigious tracks in the nation.

"The team did exactly what I expected," said Mr. Ocker, clearly proud of the team's success. "With less than two weeks of practice, they showed a lot of heart and performed well."

The one and a half hour practices that the team endures six days a week consist of different workouts for

Eli Schwartz

BY MYLES POTTERS

Sports Editor

For a high school athlete, a serious injury can mean the end of an entire four-year career. However, senior Eli Schwartz proved this notion wrong.

This year marks Schwartz's third season running winter track, but it is a special one.

Halfway through last season, while running hurdles, he hyper-extended his knee and completely tore his ACL.

"When Eli tore his ACL, we could all hear the pop as we were running around the track," said senior Kevin Ouyang. "We could tell it was a serious injury, and we were all hoping for the best because Eli was an integral part of the sprinter unit."

Two months later, in Feb. 2007, he underwent reconstructive surgery on his knee.

As a result, he missed a week of school and could not participate in gym until the 2007-2008 school year.

For two hours a day, two to three times a week, Schwartz attended physical therapy for six months to help him recover.

Schwartz focused on both flexibility and range of motion of the knee during his rehabilitation.

As the sessions progressed, Schwartz moved on to strengthening the knee, utilizing exercises such as dead lifts and curls.

In addition to strengthening the knee, Schwartz had to learn how to walk on it again, and from there progressed to

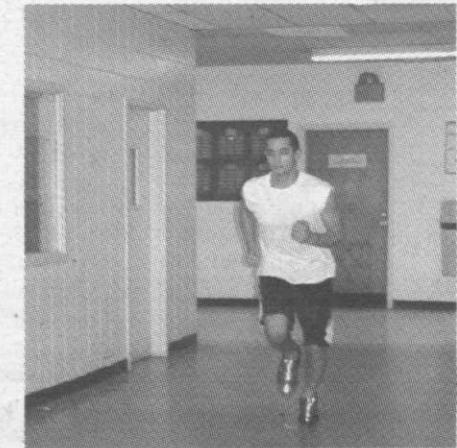
jogging slowly.

He took these advances to the treadmill, when he learned how to run again.

Finally, he moved on to agility training. His six-month recovery is comparable to those of many professional athletes who take six weeks to heal from such an injury, if not eight months.

He has returned to the team this year as captain.

"Eli's recovery time was remarkable," said Ouyang. "It was truly startling. He has come back to the team this winter, and is now a captain. It's an amazing thing to see a sprinter return from such a devastating injury and now be able to run at top speed once more."



Gab Balaban
Schwartz has shown great resistance to injury in being named captain after recovering from ACL surgery.

Girls track performs well in first meet

New coach tries to restore team's status as County Champions

BY BLAKE AND REID MERGLER

Staff Writers

With the new coaching of Mr. Kris Ocker and Ms. Virginia McMahon, the girls winter track team is off to a fresh start.

Last year, the team was coached by Mr. Mark Goodman. However, this season, Mr. Ocker, a teacher in another district, is the coach of the team, assisted by Ms. McMahon, a teacher at Guggenheim.

Mr. Ocker was also the varsity football assistant coach for the Vikings last season and Ms. McMahon was assistant coach last year for girls spring track.

Both Ms. McMahon and Mr. Ocker are looking forward to working hard with the girls team.

"I am excited to work with the girls on the team as they show tremendous ability," said Mr. Ocker.

Leading the team this year are senior captains Rachel Merker and Artemis Sapountzi.

Both of the captains have been members of the team for four years and they easily observe the changes to the team.

"Even with Coach Ocker taking over

sprinters and long-distance runners to help fine-tune their differing skills.

After completing a team warm-up,

"Even with Coach Ocker taking over for Mr. Goodman and the girls changing every year, the team has not lost its dynamic level. Coach Ocker is very efficient, and he has a lot of personal experience. He understands how the runners feel and why each runner is on the team."

the sprinters work on stances and starts while the long-distance runners run miles and often perform a speed workout.

Merker and Sapountzi both have many goals for the season that they hope to accomplish through these practices.

"Our goals as captains are for everyone to beat their personal records and, more importantly, to have fun," said Sapountzi.

"In addition, when the seniors, including ourselves, are not on the team next year, we hope there will be a good transition as there are very promising freshmen on the team this year," said Merker.

Other strong runners on the team include senior Astrid Firland-Schill, sophomore Meghan Byrnes, and freshman Erica Carras. These three runners ran during the cross-country season and are now well-trained for winter track.

"I performed well on Nov. 30 because of the preparation and support I received from the team," said Carras. "The well-organized practices definitely helped me achieve my goals during the meet. In addition, there is huge support from all the team members to one another."

Although he was not a part of the county championship team last year, Mr. Ocker has set a goal for the team this season.

"Hopefully they can repeat their last year's success," said Mr. Ocker. "With the young talent on the team, there is a lot of potential."

Vikings beat Valley Stream

BY Steve Geisenheimer & Ben Greene
Staff Writers

The JV1 boys basketball team continued their early season success with a 44-24 victory over Valley Stream North. Port improved their record to 2-0. While Port put on an impressive performance, they were not perfect. Mistakes and careless ball handling led to many offensive turnovers.

"The turnovers are a big weakness we need to work on," said Coach Mr. Dennis Trottier.

Port dominated Valley Stream in every aspect of the game besides the turnovers.

On the other side of the ball, Valley Stream committed numerous turnovers of their own. Port was able to easily turn these careless mistakes into many fast break points to build a commanding lead.

Each team struggled to gain an advantage for most of the first quarter. Late in the quarter, however, Port was down 9-6.

Led by captains sophomores Jason Desimone, Harrison Remler, and Ethan Sander, Port finished the quarter, scoring nine straight points taking a 15-9 lead. Ethan Sander had eight points in the first quarter alone.

Sander finished with thirteen points, eight rebounds, and three assists. Desimone added seven points of his own and led the team with five assists.

The second quarter began the same way the first quarter ended. Port's solid defense shut out Valley Stream in the second quarter.

Freshman KC Ozcayir then came in and played a strong game. His presence was instantly felt down low, where Port had been lacking a solid inside man and was in need of a stronger frontcourt.

Ozcayir added twelve points and seven rebounds off the bench for the Vikings. Port finished the half on an incredible 19-0 run.

After being embarrassed in the first half, Valley Stream came out with a vindictive attitude to start the second half.

Indeed, Valley Stream ended Port's 19-0 run right away by scoring a layup within the first minute of the second half.

Valley Stream North's impressive performance continued throughout the quarter as they outscored Port 9-5. After three quarters of play, Port's lead was reduced to 12 points.

It seemed the momentum had shifted to Valley Stream. However, Coach Trottier did not allow his team to become discouraged.

Port came out in the fourth quarter ready to play. Port played solid defense and out rebounded Valley Stream North to extend their lead and put Valley Stream away.

"I am very proud of the effort the team showed," said Coach Trottier.

While Port's 20 point victory was both impressive and promising, the Vikings still have much room for improvement as the season progresses.

By limiting its mistakes and getting solid play from its bench, it seems as though Port will have a successful season.

Girls bowling starts 2-2

BY Josh Schneider-Weiler
Staff Writer

This season, the varsity bowling team is improving from last season's average performance.

With a 2-2 record in their first four games, the girls have already matched their win total of last year.

The team, led by its coach, Mr. Kevin Braddish, believes that the team will have a successful season.

"We want to win more games and have a stronger season than we did last year," said senior Alex Vojdany. "And, with the way this season is shaping up, I think we can accomplish that goal pretty easily."

The team's games have been closer than most bowling matches in previous years.

However, at the team's most recent match, the squad managed to hold on, defeating Great Neck North.

The team also looks to its future, as one of its members is seventh grader Emma Zorfass.

Zorfass, who plays on a league outside of school, has quickly been accepted as an equal by the other girls. She leads the team with an astounding 136 pin average per-game. This average also currently ranks among the top five in the league.

Since Zorfass is only in seventh grade, she has many years to learn and improve her game.

"It has been fun and it has been great to have been accepted by a more experienced team," said Zorfass. "I can only look to improve as the season goes

on."

Many of the team's members not only welcome Zorfass to the team, but they look to her as a source of talent and inspiration.

"I just get inspired by Emma. She bowls so well and she is really good as compared to high schoolers," said Vojdany.

Unlike Zorfass, the rest of the girls have prior experience competing with the Schreiber team. Senior Amanda Jaffe, the longest tenured player on the team, has been playing since she was a freshman.

Senior Cynthia Swiecki has greatly improved her game, as she is currently averaging 111 pins per game, nearly a ten pin improvement from last year. She greatly enjoys the team's strong chemistry and the friendships made from it.

"I love all the inside jokes and the laughter that is going on with my teammates," said Swiecki. "Nothing will ever compare to bowling with these girls."

The team aims to keep giving its best effort and hopes to win the rest of its games as the season goes on.

Although many members of the team have recorded strong games, the year's high score so far has been a 166 scored by Zorfass, which is followed by a 156 by Jaffe. However, Zorfass looks to accomplish a very elusive goal in the sport.

"Now that I've been able to practice more, my goal is to bowl a 200 game," said Zorfass. "If all of the team plays well, including myself, I think that we could have a great season."

Out of Bounds

BY David Becker
News Editor

This month on the OOB-tube, I had the honor of talking to a woman who is feared wherever she goes. Of course, I wasn't afraid. I take Latin.

BOOK 1:

Q: What is your name?

A: Kristin Norton. This is so exciting!

Q: What sport do you play?

A: TENNIS!

Q: Is it true that you have a 17-0 record for Port tennis?

A: Yup! For this season!

Q: Isn't it also true that you're 3rd in the country for doubles and (wait I forgot the number) for singles?

A: Yessss!!

Q: How does it feel to be a living legend?

A: AHAHAAH [sic]. Ok, I don't know how I'm supposed to answer that

Q: How about: "Umm, good."

A: Wait, am I supposed to brag or be modest?

Q: Just roll with it. Is it true that

and coexistin' with Kristin

you, Kristin Norton, are a Latinist?

A: Yes I am!!!! I love latin! I have to say something in Latin. How do you say "Latin" in the language Latin? Latinum?

Q: Lingua Latinae?

A: Latin has to be accusative: Amo Latinam. Yes! Is it first declension?

Q: Yes.

A: Oh yeah. Ok. Go ahead.

Q: Is it true that when you were born Hephaestus made you a tennis racket?

A: No, Hephaestus did not make me a racket, but that would have been so amazing!

Q: You don't have to take the question so literally! You can be like "Yes, but it broke, unfortunately. Now I use the one that Wilson sponsors me to use."

A: Okay, I get it. Let's come back to that one.

Q: The interview would be really funny actually if we published this like it is, like with your original answer.

A: Ooooh. Yeah!

Q: So, "Is it true that Hephaestus made you a tennis racket when you were born?"

A: Yes, I can't use that one anymore though it's too old, so he's made me many more new ones! Okay, how does

that sound?

Q: Good. So how long have you played tennis?

A: I started playing tennis, holding a racket and taking lessons, when I was ten, but I started competitively playing when I was eleven.

Q: What age were you when you struck fear in the hearts of young tennis champions world wide?

A: Um, I did that before I was born. Is that good?

Q: THAT WAS SO GOOD!

A: Nooo. Everyone will think I'm such a snob.

Q: No, everyone will know that you were going out of character.

A: Oh, okay.

Q: At national tennis tournaments, do you meet intense tennis players?

A: I've met disgusting cheaters, weird grunters, bright neon tennis clothes wearers, and pushers.

Q: That's a good answer.

A: I know. I think I'll think of more to say.

Q: In your travels, have you met equally disgusting tennis parents?

A: Yeah, some are worse than the players.

BOOK 2:

Q: We should do the interview in two parts!!! Like "DAY ONE," and "DAY TWO."

A: Yeah, make it Book 1 and Book 2! How does that sound?

Q: Okay, so I really don't know what to ask though.

A: Ask me what states I've been to for tournaments and I'll list all of them. There are a lot.

Q: OK. "Kristin, what states have you visited for tournaments?"

A: Mississippi, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Texas, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Florida, California, Virginia, Louisiana, Arizona, Michigan, Georgia, and Alabama.

Q: Is it true that you're half Trojan?

A: No. Oh, yeah! Not literally. Okay, yes, I used to be half Trojan but I'm not any more. After Sinon lied about the wooden horse and the Trojans believed him, I can't stand being Trojan anymore. I hate Sinon.

Q: Recently you did a photo shoot for Newsday. How did it go?

A: It was headshots and a group photo. The issue isn't out yet so I don't know how it looks. I hope it looks better than my yearbook photo.

Calling The Shots

Big change significant in the BCS system *How can an undefeated team not be the greatest team in America?*

BY Lane Mergler
Sports Editor

Picture this. You are a running back on a college football team. The team goes undefeated and, shocking everyone, makes its way into the Fiesta Bowl, not the greatest of the bowls, but a good one nonetheless.

You play Big 12 champion Oklahoma down to the wire, when your team orchestrates a beautiful fifty yard hook-and-lateral to tie the game with only seven seconds remaining in the fourth quarter.

In overtime, when your team is down a touchdown, your coach is crazy enough to call a wide receiver pass, and, lo and behold, wide receiver Vinnie Perretta throws the ball perfectly into tight end Derek Schouman's hands.

To complete the miracle, the coach goes even deeper into the playbook and calls a schoolyard play, the Statue of Liberty, which actually completes the two point conversion, winning you the game.

After you run the ball into the end zone, you run over and propose to your girlfriend, the head cheerleader of the school, and she says yes.

Welcome to a day in the life of Boise State Broncos running back Ian Johnson, Jan. 1, 2007, to be exact. It seems impossible that life can be any better at the moment, right?

Wrong. Even worse, there is nothing within your power to stop it. One week later, you watch Florida blow out Ohio State to earn the title of college football champion, and you never even played them.

The problem with the BCS is that the Fiesta Bowl was it for the Boise State season in 2007. There was no more going on to the next week to compete for the best; there was just beating former Oklahoma running back and current Minnesota Vikings rookie of the year-to-be Adrian Peterson.

Yes, Boise State did win the Fiesta Bowl, but they won all of their games—shouldn't they at least get a chance at the BCS National Championship game? In every other sport, even all other college level sports, if your last game of the postseason is a victory, then you should earn the title of champion.

Why doesn't the BCS start a small mini-playoff, even if it does consist of only the top six or eight teams in the country? No one thought that Boise State stood a chance against Oklahoma, and no one would've thought they stood a chance against Florida either, so what's the difference?

It isn't just Boise State that got the raw end of the deal, it happens every year to almost half the teams in competition for a bowl. Even though the bowls may be carefully decided upon so that the two best teams play in the BCS National Championship game while weaker teams play in weaker bowls, shouldn't the weaker teams at least get

a chance?

Seriously, how happy would you be if your team, which this year is either Cincinnati or Southern Mississippi, just won the "PapaJohns.com" bowl?

Now consider their fairly impressive records: 9-3 for Cincinnati and 7-5 for Southern Mississippi.

How would you feel if the guys who decide on who plays in what bowl say to you, "Congratulations, you were a great team, and you won the PapaJohns.com Bowl, now take your trophy and head home. Sorry you couldn't compete with teams such as Ohio State or Louisiana State, but you probably would have been blown out against them anyway if you played them."

Which feeling would emerge in you, happiness because you won the bowl, or anger because you don't have a chance to achieve a better one? All the bowl system does is make winning teams angrier.

You won't find any unbelievable #16 beats #1 upsets in college basketball, but at least the #16 team does get a chance. In college football, can you name a single bowl in which the matchup is comparable to a Miami-New England game in the NFL?

Upsets are what make all sports, on both a professional and college level, exciting. Why else do you think you heard so much about the Golden State Warriors beating the Dallas Mavericks last year?

As the popular Wilt Chamberlain saying goes, "no one roots for Goliath." However, with the BCS practically deciding each team's fate, there will be no such thing as a truly shocking upset in a bowl game.

Why would the BCS prevent these glorious events from occurring, you might ask? Perhaps they don't want the front-running fans of the favorite to spend the next week or so depressed? The real answer is this—they don't have enough time.

That is the only legitimate reason, nothing more, that there are only so many of these "bowl games," most of which you might as well call consolation matches.

What I am proposing for the BCS is a complete revamping. They should learn that there are so many more people who follow college basketball largely in part to one thing: BRACKETS.

However, the amount of games that could possibly be played are fewer, so there will be fewer teams in competition. That is why I am also proposing that there be two consolation brackets.

Look at the huge gap between the bowl games and the end of the season. The BCS National Championship game is played at the beginning of January, but the season actually ends during late November/early December. There is over a month taken off then. That means that there could be five games played during times in which teams just take days off.

If you give teams a week off, which will allow their rankings to be decided and announced, you can create three brackets, each containing sixteen teams.

Right there, you have forty eight teams all in competition for at least some form of victory. You can have each bracket play their weekly games on different days.

If the BCS does decide to abandon tradition and go with a much better form of postseason play, it will be much more entertaining. The fans will also be able to watch their favorite team play more than occasion, assuming the team wins, and therefore be happier to see that their team at least got a chance at the true title.



NYTimes.com

Boise State halfback Ian Johnson runs into the end zone to complete the two point conversion which won the game for the team, finishing off the upset against the Big 12 Champion Oklahoma Sooners. Boise State went into the depths of its playbook to earn the victory, pulling off plays such as the Hook and Lateral and the Statue of Liberty.

JV 2 basketball faces struggles early in season

BY Harrison Remler
Business Manager

Although the junior varsity 2 basketball team started the season on a low note, the team looks to improve upon what little success it has had.

Port began its season with back to back losses against Syosset and Massapequa.

"Even though we opened the season with tough losses, we have now learned from our mistakes and realize what we need to do to win," said sophomore guard Alexander Aigen.

This season, the JV 2 Vikings will be led by captains and Aigen freshmen Elvin Castillo, and Jason Gurewitz. The team is comprised primarily of freshmen and will be lacking in experience which will be gained as the season continues.

Aigen and Castillo will be accompanied by freshman point guard Michael Weiss and freshman swingmen Spencer Moslow and Matt Weinstein as they will be competing for playing time at the guard position.

The Vikings believe that if the guards can handle the ball efficiently,

their game will begin to fall into place, and the rest will come more simply. On the other side of the ball, freshmen Ryan Burton, Gurewitz, Jamie Scharf, Jacob Schuckman and Paul Tsanady will make up the Viking frontcourt.

Due to the recent losses, the team is trying to keep a positive attitude about the rest of the season. The Vikings have reason to believe that success is in the near future due to hard work displayed in all of the practices.

"Coach Holzer has been great during practices and continues to preach hard work and improve our individual and team skills," said Moslow.

The team's coach, Mr. Matt Holzer is in his third year as the JV 2 coach. Holzer's high hopes for this youthful squad is evident in the winning record he has compiled in his first year as a basketball coach at Schreiber.

"The key to success this year will be putting all aspects of the game into play effectively. The talent is not the question this year," said Coach Holzer.

"If we can begin to limit our mistakes and play as a team, the wins will come," said Aigen.

VIKING SPORTS

Lady Vikings start year with a 2-1 record *Girls varsity basketball defeats Clarke to begin the season*

BY Myles Potters
Sports Editor

The Lady Vikings defeated the Lady Lions of Clarke 38-28 in front of a home crowd, thus improving their record to 2-1. Previously, the girls lost a nail-biter to Carle Place, 38-35, and trounced Great Neck, 60-27.

Against the Lady Lions, the Vikings started strong, putting the first possession off the tip-off away for two points.

However, Clarke came right back, showing its impressive mid-range shooting as the Lions sunk two baskets in a row, putting the Vikings behind, 4-2.

Early on, there were many hints of a high scoring game to come, but it was not to be.

Port was able to end Clarke's small scoring streak at four points, as the Port defense clamped down and won defensive battles inside of the key.

"We definitely started out strong," said team manager senior Brooke Goodspeed. "Despite the quick outburst of scoring on Clarke's part, we were able to clamp down on D. Great play inside of the key allowed us to quickly dominate the boards and the game."

Indeed, Port finished the first quarter ahead 15-8, and started the second just as strongly.

Senior Jackie Mezzetta stole a Clarke pass and took the ball coast-to-coast to lay it up for two points, scoring over double the amount of Clarke's points early in the game.

As Port continued to pull ahead, its offense began to flounder. Port took some poor outside shots, and looked impatient after a fifteen point first quarter.

Port failed to follow up this first quarter with another stellar effort, as they only scored eight points.

However, the defense picked up the slack, holding the Lady Lions to only five points in the entire quarter, and was able to match this effort in the third quarter.

Freshman Samantha Milhaven led the Vikings, scoring thirteen points and grabbing eleven rebounds along with Mezzetta added ten points and five steals on defense, coupling Milhaven's efforts.

"This game represents our first hard fought win," said Mezzetta. "We were able to really dominate defensively the entire game, and at the same time the offense knew what we had to do to win, and we accomplished our goals. This team, as young as it is, shows much promise for the future, and I believe our efforts in practice will translate into victories in the future."

On Dec. 8, the Lady Vikings lost to the Lady Frogs from Carle Place, 38-35. It was a closely fought, all-around match-up of offenses and defenses. With 45 seconds remaining in the game, junior Allison Laga sunk two free throws to give Carle Place a 38-34 lead, putting a knife through the Viking effort. For the Vikings, Mezzetta put 11 points on the board, along with a three-point

shot. Her sister, Sophomore Jillian Mezzetta, also sunk a three pointer for the Vikings offense.

"This game was really tight, and was a heart-breaker to lose," said Goodspeed. "We fought hard all game long. The defense proved that it's capable of keeping up with another powerhouse basketball team, and it's a testament to the hard work that the team has been putting in at practices, scrimmages, and games. The freshmen and sophomores have really stepped up for us, especially Milhaven, who has become one of our better defensive players. She consistently puts in the effort, and it's beginning to show. The team could very easily be undefeated, a testament to our hard work and dedication."

The Lady Vikings opened the season with a bang, handily defeating Great Neck North by over 30 points, 60-27. It was all offense for Port.

Jillian Mezzetta put up ten points, Jackie Mezzetta and Milhaven scored 12 points each. Milhaven added ten rebounds to the victorious effort.

Senior Andrea Constantine added ten points, and many other players also scored to help add to the victorious effort.

"The game was a real confidence booster," said Constantine. "It was a great way to start the season, because it proved that we are capable of achieving great things as the season goes on. It was a stepping stone, especially against a town so close that could be considered a rival. Our young team is looking to take off from here, and our 2-1 record, hopefully, is only a taste of what's to come."

In the first quarter, the Lady Vikings scored 12 points, and the defense held Great Neck to only six.

In the second, the Vikings really took off, as the offense put 20 more points on the board, and the strong defensive effort held the Lady Rebels to only four points.

The domination continued, as Port added thirteen and fifteen points in the third and fourth quarters, respectively, to add to its lead.

"It was a strong start to the season," said senior scorer Janeen Featherston. "With a few years of basketball experience under my belt, I can see that this team is upholding the high quality of basketball that Coach Joannon has instilled in the Port program. Similarly, the fact that we have so many young contributors to the team bodes very well for the future, and I expect that the girls



Gab Balaban
Freshman Samantha Milhaven watches her shot from the key as it swishes through the net on Dec. 15 against the Jericho Jayhawks in the Port Washington Annual Holiday Tournament Championship game. The Lady Vikings finished second overall in the tournament.

will have much success in the future."

The team this year is very young. Representing Weber, two eighth graders, Hayley Kerr and Paige Kriftcher, are learning the varsity ropes for the first time.

Similarly, freshmen Alanna Bethon and Milhaven, sophomores Rachel Altman, Emma Horowitz, Mezzetta, Rachel Strongin, and Katie Weil are all new to the team.

With all this youth, one might draw the conclusion that the team will finish the season with a disappointing record. However, the team is currently 3-1 after a tournament victory on Friday, Dec. 14, and Coach Stephanie Joannon insists that the same high standards that are held for any Lady Vikings squad are going to be upheld with this youthful team.

"The winning record may be a surprise to others, but not to me," said Coach Joannon. "Our goals are the same as they are any other season: to make the playoffs, and to compete in or win the Conference championship. The only difference with a young team is that there will be more teaching this year as compared to last year, and more patience will be needed. What's important is that the same high standards and tradition involved with Lady Vikings basketball will be upheld."

With nine new girls on the team, Coach Joannon has a challenging season in front of her.

However, she insists that the girls are focused, ready to learn, and excited to play.

Leading the team this year is senior captain Mezzetta, who has four years of varsity playing experience under her belt.

"Jackie is very vocal on the court," said Coach Joannon. "She is our best all around player with the most varsity level experience, and everybody looks up to her. She is our rock."

As much as Mezzetta leads, it is evident that many of the younger players also lead by example.

"It's clear that because many of the younger players look up to seniors, they aren't as vocal as the older girls," said Coach Joannon. "However, their work ethic and dedication sets a strong precedent for the rest of the team."

Although these girls are young now, they won't be for long, and they are the future of the Lady Vikings basketball program. With the valuable experience the girls are gaining now at such a young age, the future looks bright.

"The present youth bodes well for the future," said Coach Joannon. "I am excited for what is to come, but we need to focus on the present."