

# THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LVIII No. 9 May 2008

With Prom and summer fast approaching, students do not want to be...

# STOCKY



MANY STUDENTS ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE THE SAME GOAL - TO GET FIT.



**Track Team Wins  
Port Invitational  
Sports**



**Crazy for  
Crazy For You  
A&E**

**Seniors Locked Down  
Opinions  
Crime Rates At Schreiber  
News**

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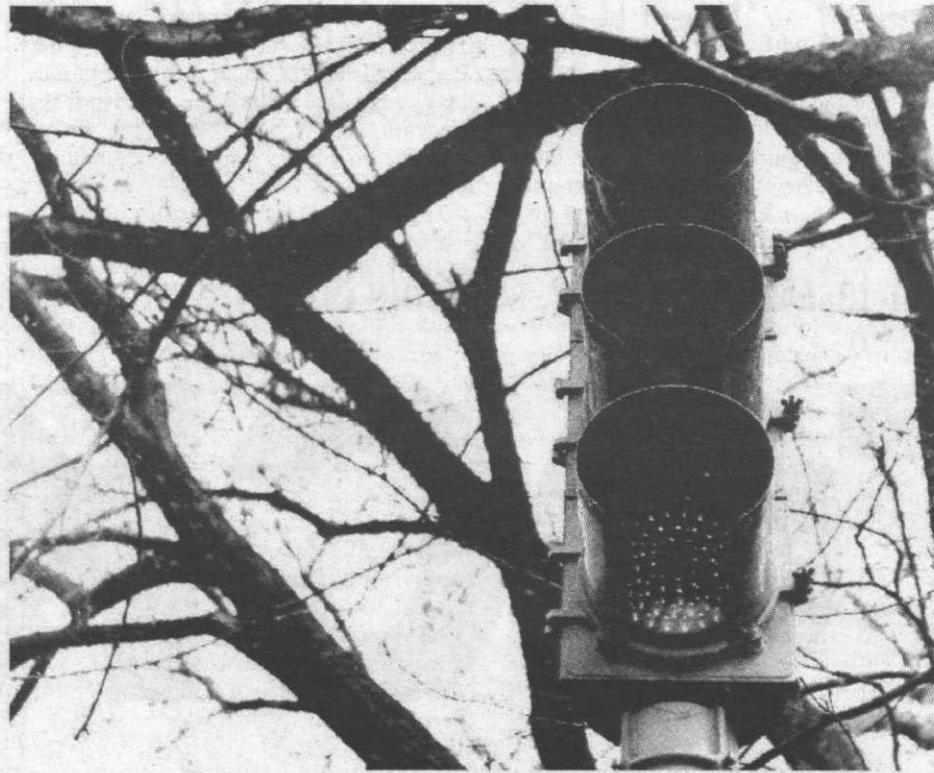
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This photo was taken by Katelynn Catalano during a class field trip to The Metropolitan Museum of Art. This traffic light stands against the bare branches of trees in Central Park, depicting the relationship between machinery and nature.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Community Service Fair

For National Volunteer Week, the Schreiber Compact Committee hosted the first annual community service fair on Apr. 30. The committee is composed of administrators, parents, teachers, and students.

"We focused on local agencies to participate so that we could build more community spirit and involvement," said Lisa Alpert, an active parent on the committee.

Organizations with tables at the fair included Port Washington Children's Center, which offers babysitting services after school at the Landmark and over the summer as part of a children's camp. The North Shore Animal League and Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington were present as well.

"It's great to see this happen at Schreiber because it has a positive effect on the community and the volunteers," said the head of the guidance department Mr. Hank Hardy.

The fair increased student awareness of the local organizations in which they can become involved.

"This community service fair was meant to show students that they have many volunteer opportunities, and I think it shows students that there are many different ways to get involved

and things that they can be interested in," said sophomore Ali Lifton, who is a student member on the Compact Committee. Compact committees are required for all New York public schools. Schreiber's committee is responsible for strengthening the senior options program and is currently planning an outreach program for Port Washington's Hispanic community.

-Dave Yedid

### Shakespeare Day

In Schreiber's sixteenth annual Shakespeare Day, students and teachers commemorated the plays of Shakespeare, coordinated by English teacher Ms. Sari Schulman. Student volunteers included seniors Kate Hughes and Cale Rubenstein and juniors Sarah Sidford and Skyler Volpe. The variety of acts performed throughout the day ranged from scenes from Shakespearean plays to senior Matt Podobinski's original film, *Henry V*.

"Organizing Shakespeare Day takes a tremendous amount of time and effort...We had to find participants, select scripts, create the program, judge contests...the list goes on and on. There were lots of details to coordinate," said Ms. Schulman.

Many students participated by submitting scripts, painting, singing, and dancing. However, the showcases of the event were the reenactments of Shakespearean plays by the Theatre Arts students. Each of the student coordinators acted in pieces throughout the day. Audiences favorites included junior Hillary Orzick's "Blue's Clues," English teacher Ms. Judith Schutzman's monologue from *Macbeth*, as well as Rubenstein's film about *Hamlet* and Podobinski's adaptation of *Henry V*.

The only period when events were not scheduled was 4-2, creating a six hour-long show, but in all other periods the auditorium was filled with spectators. Sixth period was especially crowded for a showing of Podobinski's *Henry V*.

Shakespeare Day also incorporated a series of contests, including the mask contest, sonnet contest, and the contest to become the Shakespeare King and Queen. Senior Max Garrett won the mask contest with his "Oberon" mask inspired by *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, now showcased in the library. Junior Will Lee won the sonnet contest, and seniors Jesse Stayton and Micah Siegel were crowned the King and Queen of Shakespeare Day.

-Ryohei Ozaki

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# Budget and Board efficiency dominate candidate forum

BY Laura Werle

Staff Writer

The biggest issue in this year's Board of Education election is the budget. In this election five of the six candidates have openly supported the budget. Reverend A. G. Burt, of the Zion Baptist Church, has not made any statements concerning this year's budget although he commended the allocation of resources by the Board of Education.

Other widely discussed topics were Weber Middle School, Advanced Placement English curricula and the Port Enrichment Program classes at Meet the Candidates Night on May 5, preceding the May 20 Board of Education election and budget vote.

Two three-year terms are up for election. The third seat up for election was originally filled by Mr. Patrick Foye, who resigned and was replaced by Mr. Rocco Andreoli. Mr. Andreoli has decided to step down from his seat and put it up for election. The top two most popular candidates will serve full terms. The third most popular candidate will win a one-year term.

Of the six candidates running for office, two are incumbents. Mr. Mark Marcellus has been on the Board of Education since 2002. Mr. Rob Seiden has been a Board member for six years, three of which he served as president. Two other candidates, Ms. Sandy Ehrlich and Mr. Dean Nardone, have previously served on the Board. Neither Rev. Burt nor Ms. Sue Sturman have served on the Board.

"There are two truths: We are underfunded...and the budget is burdening the taxpayers of this community," Mr. Marcellus said. "The only way to start solving this is to put the responsibility on the principals and the superintendent. We have resources that are less limited than they seem.

But we need to be spending money differently." Mr. Marcellus expressed satisfaction with the budget, calling it one of the most difficult that he has ever worked on.

Although she supports the budget, Ms. Ehrlich said that there is a need for closer reviewing of the budget by the BOE so that its members can be fully educated about what they are voting for.

Ms. Sturman supports the budget, but has said that she feels there are certain shortcomings of this year's process, and that there needs to be a closer evaluation.

"It should include a comprehensive, detailed review of past budgets and an evaluation of each component for its effectiveness toward our goals," said Ms. Sturman, a former vice president and then co-president of the Daly Home and School Association. Ms. Sturman is currently the co-president of Association for Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE).

Many of the issues raised in the Meet the Candidates Night related to the function of the Board of Education and its efficiency.

"We would be better served if more things were public. There has to be more dialogue with the community," said Ms. Ehrlich, who served on the board in the past. She has lived in Port Washington for 18 years.

Mr. Nardone agreed with Ehrlich's comments. "This stuff is not rocket science," said Mr. Nardone at Meet the Candidates. He also stressed the need for better planning and coordination on the part of the board. "When I was on the board, we got a lot done. It takes planning and no cancelled meetings," he said.

All of the candidates agreed at the Meet the Candidates Night that Weber needs attention.

"There are many rules for the sake of rules. It seems that you have to make a rule to solve a problem," said Ms. Ehrlich. She has also advocated for change in PEP and in the English program at Weber. "Teaching must be done to ability and developmental level," she said.

Mr. Nardone expressed the need for goals and objectives for Weber, as well as the inclusion of building reports. He also mentioned the need for a different English curriculum, saying that there is a "definite lack" in reading and writing skills. Ms. Sturman also advocated the need for curriculum changes at the middle school. She said that the Board of Education must set goals for Weber and must develop a vision for the school.

While critical of the middle school, the incumbents were defensive about recent additions and improvements made by the Board.

"There is a lot lacking at the middle school, but we have made changes," said Mr. Seiden. "There are no longer the gang problem. We are reaching out to students."

Apart from Rev. Burt, all of the candidates' children are or were in the Port Washington school system. Mr. Seiden and Ms. Ehrlich each have three children who have all attended Port Washington schools. Mr. Nardone and Ms. Sturman were both raised in Port Washington and graduated from Schreiber.

As the only candidate opposing the proposed budget, Rev. A. G. Burt said that being on the Board of Education would allow him to be an advocate for education and for parts of the community that have been underrepresented. He insisted that the students' voices must be heard more clearly and that the superintendent and the school administration need to be more involved.

## Proposed 2007-2008 Budget Increases:

<b>Salaries:</b>	\$3,498,782
<b>Benefits:</b>	\$253,805
<b>Equipment:</b>	-\$387,446
<b>Textbooks:</b>	-\$289,501
<b>Debt:</b>	-\$10,069
<b>BOCES Fees:</b>	\$37,489
<b>Special Ed.:</b>	\$1,671,000
<b>Occupational Ed.:</b>	\$204,868
<b>Transportation:</b>	\$550,500

**Budget Increase:** 4.95%  
**Tax Levy Increase:** 4.89%

**Net Fixed Cost Increase:**  
**\$5,529,428**

## Experience of Board Candidates:

**A.G. Burt:** No previous Board experience  
**Sandy Ehrlich:** Former Vice President of the Board  
**Mark Marcellus:** Current Vice President of the Board  
**Dean Nardone:** Former Board member  
**Robert Seiden:** Current President of the Board, elected for two previous terms  
**Sue Sturman:** No previous Board experience

## Vandals strike memorial garden

BY David Becker

News Editor

The Schreiber Shrubbers, founded in 1991, worked to prune the areas of vegetation in front of the building that often became, as founding member Ms. Naomi Beckley called it, "a jungle of mess." In 2007, two graduates of Schreiber's class of 2006 made donations for the purpose of being used for "landscaping." Ms. Beckley inquired if the Schreiber Shrubbers could use the funds to build a garden with a fence in the area in front of the cafeteria. The memorial garden was vandalized in late April; the commemorative urn was cut up and the surrounding shrubs were removed.

In the last week of April, however, Ms. Beckley arrived to clean the garden and found that the urn was cut directly in half and the two small shrubs surrounding it were gone. Ms. Beckley, who has been photographing the garden regularly, was appalled. The vandals involved have not yet been identified. Ms. Beckley has stated that she herself will not supply the funds to replace the urn and two shrubs.

The Board of Education approved the use of the donations to improve the condition of the garden. Combined with the leftover funds from the 9/11

Memorial (in the center of the Schreiber circle), Ms. Beckley created the memorial garden with a specific purpose.

"People always came up to me and said 'I'd like something for my child,'" said Ms. Beckley. This memorial garden was built for the purpose of commemorating all students from Port Washington who have passed away.

The garden was initially designed by the North Shore Gardening Center, which provided an architect for the project. Ms. Beckley suggested the construction of the fence for the new garden. Each weekend since the garden's creation last year, Ms. Beckley has come to the school with a ladder and cleaned out the garden.



Matt Siegel

One of the urns destroyed by vandals.

## Juniors found new Honor Society

BY Sahil Doshi

Staff Writer

After intense planning throughout the year, social studies department chair Mr. Bryan Frank and juniors Taara Sajjani and Kyle Warner have created Schreiber's Social Studies Honor Society. The club is open to all juniors who are interested in history and the social sciences.

"It sounded like a good idea and was a great opportunity for interested juniors," said Mr. Frank.

Approximately 40 applications were received from junior students. All juniors with a grade point average of 3.5 (weighted) in their social studies classes were eligible to apply for membership.

The society is looking for juniors who have shown a keen interest in history and the social sciences during their first three years at Schreiber. This interest can be demonstrated by taking AP courses and electives related to social studies, such as AP European History, Psychology, and the History of World War II, and by participating in clubs like Young Historians Club, Mock Trial and Debate.

The society's first goal is to have a formal induction ceremony to gain

recognition and legitimacy from the school and the administrators. Unlike many of Schreiber's other honor societies, there is no national chapter of the Social Studies Honor Society.

In the future, Mr. Frank, Sajjani and Warner plan to work with other social studies related clubs, including the Young Historians Club to coordinate events and programs. One particular idea involves setting up activities during a specific month. For example, the society intends to set up programs about black history during the month of February, which is Black History Month. Mr. Frank also proposed peer tutoring programs at Schreiber in history and social science subjects and other community service activities.

"This is a great benefit for students in such a big and diverse school," said Mr. Frank.

"It is a great chance for inspiring students to learn about history, promoting the general interest in history throughout the school, and to help people who are in the need of it," said junior Eddie Chang.

The Social Studies Honor Society is the second honor society to be initiated at Schreiber this year. Earlier in the school year, the English Honor Society was introduced as well.

# Students and teachers "let the good times roll" in fashion

## Second charity fashion show raises \$3,000 for the Children's Health Fund

BY Stephen Nash  
Features Editor

The Fabrics Club continued the success of last year's Product Red fashion show with a Hurricane Katrina-themed night of giving, garments, and entertainment.

Held on Apr. 17, the event was coordinated by Foreign Language teachers Ms. Jeannine Montusi and Ms. Betsy Salemson. This year's event raised \$3,000 for the Children's Health Fund. "Laissez les bons temps rouler" ("let the good times roll") was this year's theme of the show.

"The Children's Health Fund is a

doctor's office on wheels which touches and helps young people every day," said Ms. Patty Abrams, a representative from the Children's Health Fund.

The Children's Health Fund partners with local medical centers to deliver care to disadvantaged individuals in rural and urban areas. Since 2006, Port Washington set a goal to raise \$250,000 for a mobile medical unit, which would provide medical treatment to people all throughout the country. To date the community has raised over \$170,000.

The night is meant to pay tribute to that great city [New Orleans] which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina," said Ms. Montusi. "The Children's Health Fund has helped countless families in New Orleans after the hurricane, and is still there continuing their cause."

After Ms. Abrams explained the different missions and goals of the Children's Health Fund, the night was passed over to the Masters of Ceremonies senior Matt Podobinski and sophomore Nick Gardella.

The night was kicked off by the first of three dances of the evening. The dance was choreographed by junior Juliet Dachowitz to the song "Four Minutes."

We worked really hard on the dance and I think all of our work showed," said junior Isamar Pena, one of the dancers. "Also, the night goes to a great cause so everybody wins in the end."

The fashion show was divided into many different groups, which all related to the overall theme of the night. The groups were diverse in age and clothing, alike. The youngest group, the "Cajun Cuties," included the toddlers and some infants of Schreiber's faculty.

On the other end of the age spectrum was the group consisting of the Schreiber faculty, one of the most anticipated groups of the night.

"I am happy to support the Children's Health Fund and I had a lot of fun. It was just a great experience," said junior Justine Lamana, a model from the Joie de Vivre group.

"The Children's Health Fund is a doctor's office on wheels which touches and helps young people every day," said Ms. Patty Abrams.

The attire of the female models ranged from casual summer outfits to formal dresses. Similarly, male models in some groups wore tuxedos and others wore collared shirts and khaki pants.

"This fashion show is unlike any other Schreiber event," said junior Joan Gaudioso. "Not only does the event benefit the amazing cause, but the night was also a blast. I enjoyed seeing my friends, peers, and teachers walk down the runway and am looking forward to next year's show."

In addition to the modeling and dancing, a song was also performed by singer and songwriter Ms. Michelle Cleary. The song, written by Harry Connick Jr., detailed his experience following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Ms. Cleary expressed why individuals become involved in charitable causes. "We try to make sense out of something which is senseless," said Ms. Cleary. "But it gives us an opportunity to grow, an opportunity to help."

Aside from ticket sales, the fashion show also raised money by selling raffle tickets for a multitude of prizes.



Eric Glasser

Sophomore and co-host of the event, Nick Gardella, struts down the runway at the second annual fashion show to help raise money for the Children's Health Fund. Sporting a feathered and multi-colored boa, Gardella adds eccentricity to the show's line-up. Thanks to participants such as Gardella, the event was able to raise \$3,000 to donate to the Children's Health Fund.

## Cameron discusses latest novel

BY David Becker  
News Editor

Peter Cameron, author of the young adult novel *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*, visited an audience of Schreiber students and faculty in the library last month. On Apr. 30, the novelist discussed his latest book which librarian Ms. Kate Herz had promoted since earlier in the month. After the presentation in the library, Cameron spoke to a smaller audience in the Writing Center about the crafting of fiction.

Cameron's presentation was inspired by Ms. Herz's reading of *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*. After reading a promotional copy, she circulated the book around the school, advertising it with posters on the doors of the library and in the posting zones. Additionally, her book club members read it as their monthly read.

"I really enjoyed the book when I read it because Cameron has written a lot for adult readers, and this book is comparable in many ways to J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*," said Ms. Herz. "It's a book geared to understanding the pains of the author's younger readers and it's a great read."

During his presentation in the library, Cameron read an excerpt from *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*.

Many of the students in attendance were there with their English classes, but many had read the book independent of their classes or the book club. At the end of the period, students asked Mr. Cameron about the writing process and the inspiration for his book.

"I enjoyed his visit a lot," said Ms. Herz. "I book-talked the books in several English classes and I was still overwhelmed at how insightful some of the questions some students asked were."

The visit was made possible due to support from the Port Washington Public Library and the Schreiber HSA. Ms. Herz first felt that the visit might be possible when she learned that Mr. Cameron lived in New York City.

Following the presentation, Mr. Cameron met English teacher Mr. Corey Block's Creative Writing class in the Writing Center, where he discussed being published and professional writing. He spoke about the differences between writing for a serial, as he did in his years with *The New Yorker*, and the pursuit of *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*.

Mr. Cameron gave the students an exercise in which they practiced character development in their writing by writing scenes.

While the library annually hosts poets and novelists, Mr. Cameron's visit is the first published author the Writing Center has hosted.

## ESL students visit Boston, MA



Courtesy of the ESL department

Thirty six ESL students traveled to Boston, Massachusetts from May 8-10. The students were chosen for demonstrating a commitment to their education and displaying a sense of responsibility to their teachers. In Boston, the group spent time visiting historical sites including the Mayflower II, Plimouth Plantation, the Wampanoag Village and the Freedom Trail.

# College Board announces changes to its AP Foreign Language program

## Low test registration nation-wide leads to removal of Latin, French and Italian classes

BY Lauren Effune  
News Assistant Editor

The College Board made an announcement on its website Apr. 13 that starting May 2009, they were no longer offering the AP French Literature, AP Latin Literature, AP Computer Science AB, and AP Italian Language and Culture courses due to low national registration for these tests.

This year marks the first year in the AP program's history that more than one course was dropped in the same year. In addition, the College Board plans to reform the AP foreign language and computer science classes for the future, which was another factor that led to their decision.

This year, the senior AP Latin Literature class has only seven students in it. Over the years, class enrollment has been relatively smaller. Throughout the United States, the number of students taking the AP exam has been declining since its inception.

"Despite that the class is relatively small, the AP Latin Literature curriculum is actually much more interesting and I've been able to appreciate Latin poetry much more because of it," said senior Astrid Firland-Schill.

At the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, Latin sophomores fought to implement an honors Latin class into the curriculum. Because they planned to take the AP Vergil class the following year, they spent the

school year translating Vergil's *Aeneid* instead. Since the College Board's announcement, the class has started translating works from the AP Latin Literature curriculum instead. This means that the junior and senior classes may be combined in the following year.

"After trying to get an honors Latin class for so long, it was a disappointment to know that all the hard work we had done since October had been put to waste," said sophomore Alex Zippo.

The sophomores are not the only students who are disappointed about the potential combination of the two classes. Juniors currently taking AP Vergil expressed dismay with the possible combination of the classes as well.

"I've looked forward to the intimate group setting that the senior AP Latin class provides, and it has always been a strength of our school that we have always offered both APs simultaneously," said junior Kristin Norton. "The sophomores are going to be attempting far more difficult literature right after taking the Regents, all so they can just take another AP before they graduate."

Foreign language teacher Dr. Louise Lindemann teaches the AP French Literature class at Schreiber. This class size usually ranged from fifteen to twenty-five students throughout the years she's taught it. She said that while the class has remained relatively small, the French works studied in that class have appeared on college curricula and the school curriculum has long-run benefits.

"An AP French course dealing strictly with language can too often devolve into mere grammatical exercises, repetitive tapes, and short current events articles with an underemphasis on literary analysis and comprehension," said Dr. Lindemann. "Students with a strong background in French literature—students who have sat in a French-spoken-only classroom have an ear readily attuned to the French spoken on tapes and have the skills to speak and write about topics using a varied vocabulary."

The College Board recently approved a significant amount of money to help fund the AP Italian program, exceeding the minimum amount necessary because of low interest and participation among high schools throughout the nation. Essentially they are allocating too much money where it's not needed.

"It's a shame that the College Board decided to eliminate AP Latin Literature after next year. I had a wonderful experience with the class, and I greatly enjoyed the material that we covered with Mr. Santoro," said senior Maryann Vlahos. "I, as a Latin student, think that learning the poetry of Catullus and Ovid has been an important element of my education. It's really too bad that future Latin students may not be able to cover this material with the new curriculum."

On the other hand, the math department is not affected by the removal of the Computer Science AB class. Since the Computer Science A class is still intact, the College Board's

decision does not impact the computer science program.

With the elimination of these courses, the College Board plans to invest more money to reform language programs. They hope to provide AP Language teachers with, "downloadable embedded assessments for measuring students' knowledge, skills and abilities throughout the AP course," according to their website, in order to better prepare teachers and students for the AP exam.

In addition, they will also provide specific curriculum components online to help teachers present key concepts given on the AP exam. The College Board has also confirmed that they will not discontinue any other AP programs within the next five years.

While nothing has been confirmed yet, the foreign language department has reassessed courses affected by these AP changes.

Latin students will take AP Vergil in their senior year instead. According to Dr. Brad Fitzgerald, Assistant Principal in charge of the AP program, an honors Latin literature class for juniors may be substituted, or students may work in conjunction with a local college for credit. French juniors and seniors may have a college-level course designed that would also possibly be in conjunction with a college or university.

"There exists a number of opportunities for advanced Schreiber world language students," said Dr. Fitzgerald. "Our goal is to meet the needs of this group of students so that they can flourish in their studies."

## Assembly stresses smart driving decisions

BY Abigail Kagan  
Contributing Writer

A continuation of an assembly in the fall, the drunk driving assembly on Apr. 15, gave students three more personal stories of victims in driving accidents. The speakers told a variety of stories revolving around the importance of making the right decisions, including accounts of the wrong decisions to drink and drive and flee the scene after one has been involved in a car accident.

The first speaker was Sergeant Gus Cailem, who was directly responsible for sending his own brother, an alcoholic with a Driving While Intoxicated notice, to jail. Sgt. Cailem also told the audience about his cousin Nancy, who had fallen asleep behind the wheel after drinking, resulting in a car crash into a tree.

Nancy spent the next fifteen years of her life in bed, her head in a vice, because the crash had left her completely paralyzed. After undergoing many surgeries, she finally died of a tissue infection that was incidentally caused by the accident.

The second speaker, Michael, was young, not much older than most of the students who attended the assembly. Part of his punishment was to speak at Schreiber and other high schools to warn students of the grave consequences of being an irresponsible driver.

Michael was not intoxicated; however, he had accidentally hit a pedestrian who

he could not see and who could not see him either, and he fled the scene. He ended up calling his father, who brought him to the police station.

It was only because Michael turned himself in less than one half hour after the accident that he was not charged with a higher felony. Throughout the assembly, he continuously emphasized the consequences of his decision, that he must spend the next three years on parole, and the rest of his life feeling guilty about the accident.

"It opened my eyes to see this happen to someone from our area for just one mistake," said junior Kelsey Siegel. "It is important for students to know that even if they are not under the influence, there are still plenty of more things that can go wrong while they are driving."

The final speaker was a mother, Margaret, whose son, Tommy, was killed by a drunk driver. Tommy had gone to a party at a park where he was supposed to be the D.J.; however, he never called his mother to be picked up. Instead, he had been in a car with a drunk driver, whose car crashed, resulting in Tommy's death.

The state brought charges against the driver, who continuously harassed the family, making threatening phone calls, showing up at their house, and leaving dead animals on their lawn. Margaret concluded her story by noting that the stress of her son's death and the aftermath of the accident ultimately caused her husband's death.

### ATTENTION BUSY COLLEGE BOUND SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS THERE ARE OVER 2,000 COLLEGES IN THE UNITED STATES

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## Point

## Counterpoint

## Should teachers hold classes outside in the spring?

BY Dahlia Hassan

Staff Writer

As the year is coming to a close, many students can't help but gaze out the window at the harbingers of summer while they should be paying attention to their teachers and preparing for crucial end of the year exams. For some students, this task is close to impossible as they watch their lucky peers toss around a Frisbee on an off period. I, myself, am guilty of such daydreaming.

At the onset of spring, there always seems to be that one student daring (or foolish) enough to ask the question that usually yields a disappointing answer, "Can we have class outside today?" For the most part, the answer to this question is a resounding "No." But why? If teachers decided to conduct a few of their classes outside, students would be able to alleviate their spring fever by immersing themselves in it. Instead of staring out the window during class and longing to be outside, students would actually have the opportunity to be outside and would, in turn, have nothing to focus on except the teacher who could conduct the class in a quiet area away from distraction. Of course one cannot expect to eliminate all distractions in any environment, but distractions are a problem within the classroom as well, therefore nothing is lost by conducting class outside.

In addition to being a pleasant learning environment, the outdoors are also a wonderful creative environment. For example, an English or an art class could be held outside in which students are instructed to create a piece reflecting on something in the natural environment around them. Outside, students can find new ways to express themselves that they never could have imagined under the glaring fluorescent light bulbs inside of a classroom. Core curriculum classes should be allowed outdoors for much the same reason as physical education classes are: it enhances the experience of the class. Holding outdoor classes should by no means be a regular occurrence for every teacher in every subject, but outdoor classes can be something of a treat for students who have worked so hard all year.

A couple of weeks ago, a student in my honors French class brought up the idea of outdoor classes to my French teacher, Dr. Lindemann. To the surprise of the students, her response was something along the lines of "of course we're going to have classes outside!" This proclamation was met with joy from every student in the room as a welcome change from regular class.

When the day for the outdoor class came along, Dr. Lindemann prefaced our procession outside by telling us that she only does this once or twice

a year and that we should not expect to do this very often. When we got outside, we coalesced around a shady spot and proceeded to read and analyze "Hymne à la Beauté" (Hymn to beauty) and "L'Invitation au Voyage" (Invitation to the Voyage) by Baudelaire. The warm, sunny day perfectly accompanied the spirit of the poetry and the class was able to draw parallels between the atmosphere outside and the descriptions in the poems. What's more, the class was extremely well behaved and focused, perhaps even more so than we would have been indoors.

Dr. Lindemann only takes her junior and senior classes outside and she feels that having class outside is a privilege. She explained that she would not conduct a class outside if she were teaching a lesson that would involve a lot of writing on the board and note-taking. She also noted with approval that while we were outside classmates would help each other with translations and spellings of words which ordinarily may have been written up on a white board.

Dr. Lindemann conducted our French class outside that day because she felt that the outside atmosphere would work well with the poems we were reading which deal with beauty, nature, and the senses. She fondly recalled attending outdoor classes in college and wished for her upperclassmen to have a similar experience.

After having attended my first class outside, I'm sure I'm not the only one who can't wait to have another class outdoors. Unfortunately, the majority of Schreiber teachers are unwilling to conduct classes outside. Perhaps if they could have experienced the placid and focused nature of my French class that day, they would change their minds.

BY Leah Nash

Staff Writer

On a nice, warm day in the spring many students ask the question, "Why aren't classes held outside?" Well, the answer is plain and simple—it is impractical to conduct a class while outdoors. Outside there is green grass, a cool breeze, nice landscaping, clear skies, birds chirping, and wait—I am already daydreaming and being carried away by all of the distractions. If classes were held outside, many students would be distracted by their surroundings. Many students already have a hard time concentrating in a school classroom; imagine how they would behave if classes were in the middle of all of the distractions.

"Many things outdoors could be quite distracting. It would be really difficult for a teacher to actually teach a lesson if it was outside," said freshman Alex Smith.

Additionally, there would be no place where an entire class could sit comfortably. Where would anyone sit, on the dirty ground? Furthermore, how would a student write? Would they lean against their knee while the teacher is talking? Where would the teacher write notes? Sitting outside is not conducive to learning and having a productive classroom environment. Even if some students were to sit at the various picnic tables in the front of the building, it would take away from the other students who have off periods and are enjoying spending their off time outside rather than listening to a class going on.

"Many people have allergies and they would be too distracted to learn anything," said freshman Jason Hubsher. A class outside could just be an open door to allow allergy attacks to occur during class. There are also many insects outside, including bees, which would create even more of a problem and

distraction.

Our school has spent a lot of money on various technologies, especially all of the computers and SmartBoards that are currently in almost every classroom in the building. Classes outside would not be able to use this technology. Additionally, teachers would probably not be able to bring their own resources outside. Let's face it – how much can they carry back and forth from their classrooms to the field? Many teachers use PowerPoint presentations or other technology based lessons to enhance their lessons through visual learning. These various teaching methods requiring overheads, projectors, SmartBoards, or the TVs could not be used if students were using the outdoors as their classroom.

In Schreiber, every classroom has a telephone in case of an emergency, and it allows for the whole district to be in contact. If a class were outside, they would not know what was happening inside the building. Furthermore, they would have no way of communicating with the administrators inside. This could definitely cause a serious problem if an emergency were ever to take place, or if a student were needed. Currently, every student's whereabouts during the day can be accounted for when he or she is in an assigned classroom. Should a student's schedule read "English room 120" on bad weather days and "outside somewhere" when it is nice? If many classes were held outside, it would be impossible to find that student, and it would be very unsafe to be unaware of the location of various students throughout the school day.

Even though each period is one hour, time is still very valuable to teachers, and they rely on the full hour to teach a particular lesson. Classes begin and end as soon as the bell rings. Teachers have to finish the curriculum and prepare students for final exams. If classes were being taught outside, then it would waste valuable class time walking in and walking outside again. It would be fair to say that it would take at least 3 minutes each way. That is 6 minutes per class, or 10% of that one class. I believe that losing 10% of class time is significant.

Going outside during the day would be great because we all love the warm, fresh air, especially at the end of the year. However, when one is off they can spend one's time outside. Also, in the spring, most physical education classes are held outside anyway to give students the opportunity to be outdoors and active. Many people are fighting so hard for classroom space due to overcrowding, but now we want to be outside swarming around a small picnic table? The idea of having classes outside is extremely illogical, and teachers would not be able to teach to the best of their ability without all their resources and the use of technology. Furthermore, there would be no benefit for students of Schreiber.



Tyler Travis

## Schreiber Speaks

"I think that kids can get distracted very easily outside. The bugs can be annoying and the sounds and smells of the outdoors can detract from the students' learning."

-Subah Nanda, sophomore

"If classes were to be held outside they would be more exciting and put the students in an environment where they would be more willing to work hard and learn."

-Alanna Bethon, freshman

# Why avoiding homework is surprisingly educational

BY Melis Emre  
Opinions Editor

I began writing this article at exactly 6:03 p.m. It is now 7:00, and all I have managed to type is my name and the preceding sentence. Usually, I would be frustrated by such a gross waste of time; after all, those fifty-seven minutes are ones that I will never get back. But recently I have discovered that procrastination comes with its benefits, so long as one procrastinates correctly.

In the time that I allotted myself to write this piece, I made several killer moves in my internet Scrabble games, played a rousing round of Text Twist, insured a donation of 2,000 grains of rice to those in need, and read a rather odd article from an old issue of *Science News* about the evolution of kissing. Now, by traditional standards the last hour of my life hasn't been very productive; technically, I didn't complete what I set out to. But if you think about it, I didn't exactly waste my time either. If anything my time was well spent.

A lot of the time we find ourselves in a constant rush. In such a demanding and fast-paced society, anything that is not outlined in our schedules is considered superfluous and unnecessary. Perhaps

it is time we reevaluate our mental set and think outside the box.

Recent online developments (like Text Twist and FreeRice) have made it possible for people to spend their hours improving a number of their skills in lieu of completing various assignments. Now, obviously, kids should do their school work, but it's not as if they're "wasting time" by engaging in a chess match via the internet. In fact, there is a plethora of skills that one can hone using the internet. Websites advertising memory boosting games and activities to improve reflexes are just two of the many productive sites out there. Sometimes, procrastinating can be even more educational than

doing your work.

After all, there are certain school

assignments that you just know aren't really going to benefit you. But learning how to scramble eggs on a rock using only heat from the sun, courtesy of Wikipedia? Priceless.

Even television, which is usually thought of as uninformative, can be an incredibly handy tool for increasing one's knowledge. Granted, watching *Grey's Anatomy* isn't all that intellectually stimulating, but programs found on Animal Planet, PBS, and the History Channel are incredibly informative. For example, did you know that in a battle between an alligator and a leopard, the alligator is more likely more likely to win due to its trademark "death roll?" Or that the basilisk lizard can run so fast that it can actually walk on water. All I'm saying is, these are things to consider if you ever find yourself in the African plains.

"There are definitely things you can learn from the internet and television that are probably far more useful than things you learn in class," said junior Justine LaManna. "I mean, how helpful can derivatives be if you're lost in the woods and need to find a way back to wherever you started out? Random facts that you discover while flipping through channels can be very useful."

Productive procrastination is all about picking and choosing. Games like Yahoo's Bookworm can help improve your verbal skills while allowing you to shun your math homework. Tetris sharpens your spatial dexterity. Nowadays they even have video games for handheld devices that actually improve your mental flexibility and hone your reflexes. Instead of thinking of such games as dalliances,

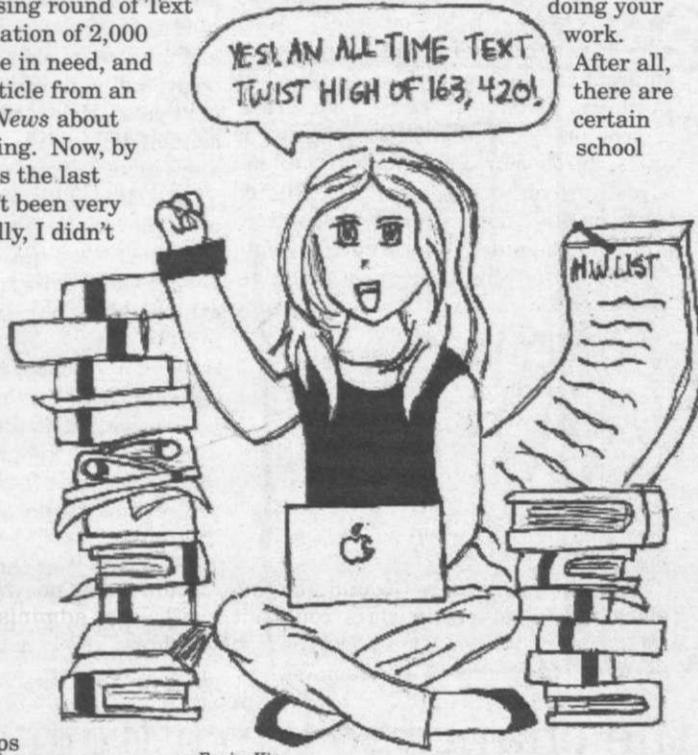
we should embrace them as new methods of conditioning.

Studies have also shown that workers who stray from a designated task for short period of time and then refocus their attention on the job at hand are often more fruitful than those who do not allow their mind a change of scenery. Maybe instead of driving ourselves crazy trying to focus on our textbooks, we should shake things up and play Nintendo.

"Often procrastination allows a person to approach a problem from another angle," said junior James Krellenstein. "When you distance yourself from any one task, you gain new perspective. Sometimes when you're so focused on one particular problem, you miss the obvious solution. Procrastination helps you take a step back and return to the task with a clear mind."

Studies now suggest that it may not even be necessary to spend your break time doing any particular task. In a recent issue of *Nature Neuroscience*, researchers revealed that a ninety-minute nap taken after new information is processed helps to encode the material into your memory. Moreover, those who nap after learning how to perform a new task are more likely to remember that task later on than those who don't, leading scientists to believe that short periods of sleep aid in memory recall. Perhaps the age-old adage of "You snooze, you loose" isn't so true after all.

So next time you're studying for an exam, don't feel bad if your thoughts stray after half an hour. Take a nap or play a game, and then just go back to whatever it is you were doing. Your future self will thank you.



Eunice Kim

# Keeping students informed is instrumental to improving grades

BY Sarah Greene  
Staff Writer

In order for students to achieve optimal success in school, teachers must keep them informed of their grades. The key to a better report card and a more successful grade-point average is being aware of how you are performing in class. Students can utilize this knowledge to actively improve their grades and gain a better understanding of their progress. If students have up-to-date information regarding their grades, then they themselves are solely responsible for their performance and are generally far more successful when it comes to academics.

Often, students feel caught off guard when they open their report cards and see that they've been given a less than stellar grade in a class they believed they were doing well in. If a student was notified before the end of the quarter that he/she was doing poorly or was in danger of failing, that student would have the chance to up his/her grades before the quarter's end. He/she would also have the chance to seek out extra help from either teachers or private tutors before his/her academic record was seriously jeopardized. Thus, students that are informed of their progress can work to improve poor grades before their GPA is completely ruined.

In addition to minimizing the

number of unpleasant report card surprises, keeping students regularly informed of their progress helps to make them more actively involved in classes. Students can feel disconnected from courses if they are unaware of how they are doing in the class. As a result, they become detached from the class and put less and less effort into their studies, generally leading to lower exam scores and homework grades. Their lack of motivation is only cemented by the poor grade on their report card or progress report. If teachers were to give students bi-monthly updates, they would take a significant step towards breaking this cycle.

Students can also use such a report to adjust and alter their workload. If a student's grades in a particular class are slipping below the desired threshold, the student can allocate more hours for study for that particular topic. On the other hand, students who are meeting or exceeding their desired grades in a certain course can redirect some of their time and effort to other classes that they are not doing as well in. This will not only benefit students overall performance, but also improve their time management skills.

Many teachers in Schreiber regularly inform

their students of their progress. Some even issue weekly grade sheets that allow students to personally keep track of their scores. However, there are also many teachers who fail to inform their students of their progress and who rarely give back assignments on time. In such classes, it is very hard for students to know where their grades fall and how they are doing at a particular time. In order for teachers

to get the best results out of their students, they should strive to return tests and assignments back on time, alert students if they are in danger of failing, and regularly inform students of

their progress.

"In some classes, I don't receive grades back until several weeks after they were due," said freshman Athena Papaporfirou. "It's really hard to figure out my grades if I can't even record my assignments on time. It is much easier when teachers give back tests on time and hand out progress reports or grade sheets so that I can keep track of my progress."

Knowledge of one's performance is the key to success. If teachers keep their students informed, students will be able to correct their problems before final grades are determined, seek extra help so that they can improve their grades, and ask about possible extra credit options. Students may also be able to fix any attendance problems they have before the end of the quarter, thus avoiding a potentially disastrous report card.

Several friends of mine have had report card scares toward the end of the quarter when their teachers revealed that they'd been absent too often to pass the class. Such stressors can be avoided if teachers and students were more in sync with each other.

The bottom line is, students should be kept up to date on their academic performance. The more engaged students are in their education process, the better they will perform, and the better they perform, the more they enjoy school. Can anyone say win-win-win scenario?



Andrew Martinolich

# Seniors placed "behind bars" to ensure graduation

BY Meghan Doyle

Opinions Editor

I am a senior in lockdown. That statement might sound severe and important, and that's because it is. Along with 44 other members of my class who are in jeopardy of failing 107 different courses, I must spend all of my off periods in the Student Commons, making up work for all of my missed classes. And if for any reason I don't show up, I receive detention. For the record, missing these classes was no act of rebellion or anything of the sort. Really, I just had mononucleosis and walking pneumonia and then came allergy season! Still, because of our school's 85% rule, I am part of the recently implemented "Save Our Seniors" program.

Started by Dr. Fitzgerald last year, the program began as a way to help seniors graduate who were failing due to lack of attendance. Even though students dreaded having their free time taken away, the program was extremely successful because 100% of the class of 2007 graduated. The program began again this year hoping for those same results. So on May 16, seniors were called down to Mr. Miller's office to learn that they were in "lockdown." Last year, the program started later in the year, about three weeks before the end of the school year. Judging from their faces, many students looked extremely annoyed and seemed to regret missing all of those classes.

"If I had known that this was going to happen, I would've found a way to

make up my work," said senior Justin Almazon. "It all happened really quickly. It was like on Friday I was free and then I learn that starting Monday, I'm going to have to sit in a room for hours being forced to do my work."

I think that many people would agree that the program has been successful and that it will hopefully have the same effect this year as it had last year. But while I support the idea of graduating 100% of the senior class, I do wonder if we are really concerned with graduating all of our students or if we are more concerned with our public image. Seeing how Schreiber High

School always aims high, whether in science or math competitions or even with this newspaper, I realize that the reputation of this school seems to be rather important and having a graduating class of 100% would only continue to make us look better.

"I understand the newspaper statistics and that there is a pressure on schools to having kids pass," says Mr. Miller. "But this has taken a tremendous amount of time and money and it bothers me because many of the kids are just being lazy. I morally object to having the program, but I have to accept the reality of it."

And Mr. Miller is justified in his aggravation. Taking advantage of the school is not okay and it is completely irresponsible to miss class when you could have easily attended. However, to me, it seems unfair to punish students who were legitimately ill. I can say from personal experience that coming back to school after missing so many days was very stressful and the workload seemed interminable. But is having my free periods being taken away really going to help me? Maybe it will in the end or maybe I'll get sick again and have to miss graduation. Wouldn't that be ironic?

Perhaps the most ridiculous thing about this program is that the students in it are all around seventeen or eighteen years old and will most likely be attending a college or getting a job next year. How would you feel if the dean of admissions or your future boss knew that you had to be forced to make up the classes you missed because you were too lazy to get up out of bed? To be honest, I am quite ashamed to be part of such a program, and I am also ashamed that our school even feels the need to do this. My warning to all of the underclassmen reading this? Get out of bed, get to class on time, and if you're sick, make up your work.

"I hope the kids in this program realize that this is the last chance they are getting to take advantage of," said Mr. Miller.

And isn't that the truth? Out in the "real world," no one is going to save you or force you to do your work. Hopefully, students will think twice when planning to miss school for any reason.



Max Garrett

# Genocide Awareness Day gives us the chance to learn from our past

BY Jon Heiden

Staff Writer

George Santayana once said that "those who do not study the past are doomed to repeat it." Since he first made this proclamation, it has become one of the dullest and most oft-repeated quotes of all time, with historians and social studies teachers everywhere doomed to keep repeating Santayana's words to justify the existence of their respective professions.

The annoying thing about it is that this statement just might possess an infinitesimal grain of truth. I'm not saying Great Britain will ever try to recolonize America or that Napoleon will rise again to conquer Europe, but there are some basic sociological patterns that do tend to repeat themselves. If the people in one country have different sociocultural practices than those in another, they tend to care less about what happens to those others. If a crime is committed far away, people feel far less obligated to do something about it than they would if it were committed in their own backyard.

It is sentiments like these that Genocide Awareness Day is made to combat. On May 21, a number of speakers came to Schreiber to tell students (and teachers) about the various genocides they had witnessed. They shared stories of lost loved ones and narrow escapes; they gave students a human face to put to the gruesome but far-off stories of death and destruction that they had heard, but never really listened to.

That, I think, is truly why we need a Genocide Awareness Day. Most teenagers (and, for that matter, most Americans) seem to think that the real world is really as ephemeral as the news media seems to suggest it is. If it's not on the front page at right this second then, clearly, it has stopped happening, right? The problem is, genocide, such as the one that is occurring in Darfur even as you read these words, tends to get boring after a while. Reading about a tragedy once is horrifying, twice, less so, and by the fifth time of seeing enormous casualty figures and heartbreaking tales of woe, the story has gone stale, even if the actual genocide still continues.

Past genocides, too, also seem to be getting short shrift in today's culture. An anonymous sophomore, when asked to name all the genocides she knew, said, "the Holocaust is one, and, uh, that Armenian thing?" According to the website [www.historyplace.com](http://www.historyplace.com), there were seven genocides committed in the twentieth century alone. Even the Holocaust, probably the best-known genocide in the world today, is often misrepresented: six million people did not die in it. Twelve million did; six million of those were Jewish, while the other half was a mixture of Gypsies, homosexuals, political prisoners, and the physically or mentally disabled.

Most people don't even realize that this country itself was founded, in part, by genocide. You see, the indigenous peoples of North America, the various tribes of American Indians, hadn't already apportioned themselves neat little pieces of the land so that when the

Europeans came they could take over ruling the rest of the continent with no trouble. The settlers who first came here had to fight for this land; it has been estimated that in four centuries, ninety-five percent of the indigenous population of North America was destroyed.

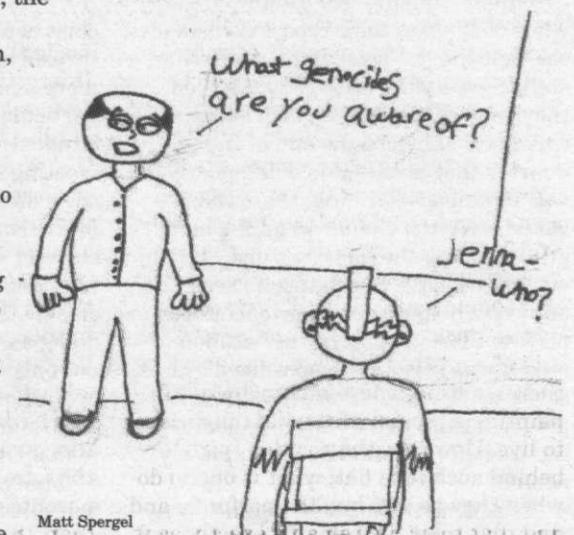
The point of remembering all these genocides is not just for us to mourn over what has already been done, but to help us prevent similar atrocities from occurring in the future. The more we study these genocides, the more we remember them, and the more committed we will be to their prevention.

Genocides are caused, most of all, by intolerance. About seventy years ago in Germany, Hitler rallied the German people to his cause in part by feeding off of their anti-Semitic prejudices. As is characteristic of genocides, the Holocaust was enabled by the intolerance of a group—a nation, an ethnic group, a religious organization—for the members of another. We can help end genocide and violence by not discriminating toward others, no matter their race, gender, etc., the whole laundry list.

Another pretty obvious thing we can do to is contribute aid to today's genocides, primarily by donating funds to Darfur. Even writing an angry letter to your local congressperson can push the pedal of progress forward. Some people subscribe to the view that no matter what they do, they'll simply never be able

totally halt the genocide, and while this is probably true, these people can certainly save the life of one individual. This doesn't really seem like much to many people, but just imagine that you were in Darfur and you or one of your loved ones died because someone thought they couldn't halt the entire genocide. Believe me, you can make a difference.

Allow me to reiterate Santayana's immortal words: "those who do not study the past are doomed to repeat it." How hideously dull, don't you think? But it is very important that we remember the genocides that have transpired all over the world and promote awareness for the genocides that continue to transpire today, because if there's one thing the global community doesn't want to repeat, it is the destruction of an entire people.



Matt Spergel

# Facebook not the incarnation of all that is evil?

BY Dave Marx

Staff Writer

I know that nine out of ten of the people reading this right now have a Facebook. I'm going to guess that seven out of those nine use it solely for posting pictures of themselves and their friends, writing on each other's "walls," and playing around with applications such as bumper stickers and graffiti, but many people overlook the fact that Facebook is being used as much more than just a social networking website.

The first time I ever saw Facebook used for fundraising efforts was when I saw the application FreeRice. FreeRice did not originate in Facebook, but was greatly popularized by it. FreeRice is a game you can play at [www.FreeRice.com](http://www.FreeRice.com) which tests your vocabulary. The game gives you a word and four possible definitions of the word; for each one you get right, the United Nations World Food Program donates twenty grains of rice to impoverished countries. There is no limit to how much you can play and hence no limit to how much rice you can donate just by sitting at your computer and playing a game.

"I've played FreeRice. It was just about the only vocabulary studying I did for the SATs, but it helped," said junior Adam Vojdany.

Many other charitable groups advertise on Facebook as well. Some of the most popular groups I have seen among Schreiber High School students are "Feed a Child with Just a Click" and "Support the Fight Against Cancer with Just a Click." These two groups ask very different things of their members: "Feed a Child" shows its members links to websites that will donate

food and money to end world hunger just because people click on them. Very little is required of the group's participants, and this particular group has over 2.5 million members. The group "Support the Fight Against Cancer" asks a little bit more of its members: to pledge to donate two dollars to cancer research the next time they see a cancer donation bin. This application's membership is approaching 400,000, but it is relatively new compared to the "Feed a Child with Just a Click" group.

Other groups on Facebook, created by personal philanthropists, have names such as "For Every 100 Members I Will Donate \$2 to Canadian Cancer Society," a group made by a group of six college students. This group has about 88,000 members, meaning that over \$1600 has been donated by the efforts of Facebook users.

These means of social networking are what make Facebook the top global

social networking website. The social networking capabilities it provides started out for leisure purposes, but more recently have been used for business pursuits as well. When Facebook started out (at which point it was really a pseudo-Facebook), it was exclusively for Harvard students. It then expanded to a few more colleges, eventually stretching to every college in America. Facebook is currently open to anyone with an e-mail address, making the number of people one can reach with Facebook massive. Many people use Facebook for business networking, keeping in touch with associates via "wall" messages, Facebook's ability to transfer files, and the Facebook's Events application, which allows people to send electronic event invitations to their friends on Facebook.

Another business venture which Facebook can aid is advertising for both business and personal matters. Facebook allows all of its members to purchase advertising space for their websites, businesses, music, or anything else they may want to. One reason that the advertising Facebook provides is so valuable is because it only shows advertisements to the people to whom they will appeal. The website does so by using a sorting program that looks at the interests which have been posted in one's personal section, and only showing the user advertisements that relate to those topics on their Newsfeed (another Facebook application that opens up with your home page to tell you about your friends' recent updates). For example, in my interests section one of the things I wrote is 'guitar,' and now, Facebook constantly posts advertisements for guitars on my Newsfeed. Facebook also does so for their musical artists' advertisements by matching their genre of music up

to the music which has been listed by the user under their favorite types of music. Facebook allows all of its users to do more than just utilize the site's social network capabilities with its applications and advertisements.

Facebook's 'groups' application is also used by many clubs and students here at Schreiber. Just about every club at Schreiber has its own Facebook group, and can use what I think is the most important feature of the groups, the "Message All Members" function. This device allows the group administrator to send a message to every member in the group. Since most Schreiber students check their Facebook more than they do their e-mail, this is usually the best way to contact them all quickly and efficiently. Recently, students have been using the Facebook Group Application to promote their campaigns for Student Council as well.

"I created a group saying I was running for student council and I invited all my friends. On the discussion boards you can make topics, so I made a topic about what others want to see changed. It is really a way of letting people know who you are and what you want to do," said sophomore Ali Lifton.

Along with being a great way to talk and share music with friends, Facebook is also a great way to conduct charitable campaigns, support business ventures, and advertise. Facebook provides users the ability to contact numerous people instantly, which many of Facebook's users have utilized for good works as well as personal benefit. Next time you log on to Facebook, before you check your new notifications or pictures friends have uploaded, see what groups you can join to help the various fundraising efforts or maybe increase your own personal wealth.



## Television targets teens with overtly sexual messages

BY Alex Hohausser

Staff Writer

It's no secret that teens are particularly prone to attraction through advertisements. For decades, we have been the most targeted group by corporations attempting to successfully sell their products. It is easiest to get to a teen's (and arguably an adult's) brain through one specific portal: sex appeal. This fact has been accepted by the advertising industry for years, but the usage of this strategy is often both unnecessary and controversial. "Sex sells," said junior Skyler Volpe. "People are attracted to attractive people, and so putting sex in advertisements will naturally help sell the product. However, I don't think sexy orange juice is necessary."

It is true that certain products are now associated with this strategy of advertising. Perfume ads, for example, are often accompanied by images of sweaty specimens frolicking on a beach, or a couple dining in a dim-lit room. The agencies get that people want to see what they are capable of, and there's nothing more convincing than painting a picture of the life they wish to live. However, the positive spirit behind such falls flat; what is one to do when they go out, buy the perfume, and find that their life remains exactly as it

had been before? We should really know better, but we are easily manipulated.

Nonetheless, this exposure might not be the worst thing for teens—when it isn't explicitly targeted at us. There was recently a great deal of controversy surrounding the television advertisements issued for new episodes of *Gossip Girl*, a television show viewed primarily by young teens. The ads featured a host of scenes from the show with various sexual activities depicted, and the large text of "OMFG" atop the screen. Even in a world where such marketing ploys are accepted, the ads caused controversy for a few reasons. "Those ads were so sexual," said junior Christine Bowles "They made the show look like pornography." Interestingly enough, as a show, *Gossip Girl* is not particularly pornographic at all. The series is broadcast on the CW, which is a network channel, a far cry from the "Skinemax" that the ads suggest, or even the typical HBO series. Yet the ads presumably worked, and *Gossip Girl*'s return on Apr. 21 after the ad campaign placed them second in their ratings timeslot among women 18-34; the intended target for the advertisements.

Of course, it becomes an issue when this group is not the one influenced by the ads. Much of the outcry was from parents of children much younger than 18, more like 13. For this

increasingly vocal group, there might be nothing scarier than a suggestive commercial or magazine editorial. It's an interesting predicament because this nation's values are founded on a puritanical standard; the content of network TV has to be so kid-friendly that promotions might be the only way for show-runners to allow their stars to show a little skin. The Federal Communications Commission has oversight of anything that appears on network television, and stringent regulations do not allow for much controversial content.

So, is keeping a few twelve- and thirteen-year olds "innocent" a little longer a worthwhile price to pay for free speech?

No. It's not. The "gotcha" effect had by ads like the *Gossip Girl* commercials might not make some people very happy, but they aren't a threat to our standard of living, either. Sexual advertising—through commercials or print—has been around since the 1960s and 70s, around the time that many

of our parents were coming of age. If it wasn't such an issue for them, then why should it be an issue for us? America in general has failed to take a consistent position on sex and other "undesirable" factors in print and television media. Kids are going to find these things

anyway, regardless of whether it's in front of their face in a *Gossip Girl* commercial or when they walk past their parents watching *Californication*, just as violence will surely come from video games if it didn't from *The Sopranos*.

The world in which a sex-driven advertising market thrives and the world in which a parent simply wishes to keep their children young might seem too different to coexist, yet they are one and the same. It's far too difficult to keep young teens from the Big Bad Magazine, the Big Bad

Television, or—even worse—the Big Bad Internet. Sex has been selling for nearly fifty years now, and that's not about to change. We might as well get used to it.



The above ad can be seen all over New York City. Its scandalous nature has raised protest from various parental groups.

# Editorials

## Fantasy embraced by students

While literature can always take us to a place and time unknown, fantasy novels have been recently captivating teenagers so greatly that the lines of reality and fantasy have become blurred. The cornerstone of this phenomenon is *Harry Potter*. What made this series so special was J.K. Rowling's ability to transcend reality and take readers into a magical land, even fascinating to those not fond of reading. For high school students, the characters in the *Harry Potter* books became friends and enemies, while friends and enemies became Hermione and Harry for Halloween. When the movies came out, people visited the movie theatre with full-on Hogwarts attire. Children carried wands and wore robes, while some even whispered spells, incantations and curses. This generation has been

consumed with *Harry Potter*, living and breathing the books and movies released for a decade.

This past week at Schreiber marked the first meeting of the *Harry Potter* club to establish greater appreciation for J.K. Rowling's world. No longer are students reading and watching the happenings in the wizard world, but living it too. The club members are trying to incorporate *Harry Potter* culture into Schreiber by encouraging discussions, and into Port Washington by reading *Harry Potter* to children at the library. Some college campuses even offer Quidditch, the broomstick game played in *Harry Potter*, as an intramural sport. Evidently fantasy and the world of make believe can transcend into reality and have a great impact on teenagers. This new fad is reminiscent of the *Star Trek* days, but much more widely spread.

This may not be the first time students are living the lives of those they read about, but it is the first time Schreiber has experienced *Harry Potter* firsthand.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to address a recent trend that I have observed in the past few issues of *The Schreiber Times*. This trend can best be characterized as a tendency by the newspaper's writers and editors to degrade their fellow Schreiber students in a fashion that may appear condescending and even a bit arrogant. Allow me to provide an example from the paper's most recent edition.

One editorial, entitled "No mention of Dr. King's assassination," berated the Schreiber community for not paying sufficient tribute to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The editorial claims, "It is a shame that Dr. King was not properly commemorated. This

lack of remembrance symbolizes apathy towards the issue of racial equality, something that should not be promoted by a school or anyone who wishes to continue the fight for peace and justice."

Excuse me? Did I read this correctly, or did *The Schreiber Times* just suggest that our school promotes an apathetic approach to racial equality?

Say what you will about Schreiber High School; we certainly are not perfect in any regard, nobody denies that – but I firmly object to any assertions that racial injustice is a major problem in our school or that the Schreiber community is in any way *apathetic* to the interests of our minority groups. The last time I checked, this school district funds a Schreiber organization called "Bridging

the Gap," whose mission is to address issues relating to race in Schreiber High School. In the vast majority of high schools across the country, you will not find a group of this nature.

We are fortunate that Port Washington's school district has given them a platform and a budget to aid their cause. When you throw in the countless other programs and events that our school sponsors to further the cause of racial justice, it becomes apparent that the editorial's description of our attitude toward race relations is off-based and inappropriate.

Additionally the editorial never explains what a "proper commemoration" for the anniversary would have entailed. What exactly was *The Schreiber Times* expecting?

One final point: if the editorial board of *The Schreiber Times* felt so passionately that a tribute to Dr. King was in order, then why could I not find such a tribute within the pages of our school newspaper? Instead of using the editorial page to give Dr. King a tasteful tribute to his legacy and work, *The Schreiber Times* chose to waste it on a castigation of the Schreiber community.

I speak for numerous students in this school when I say that far too many articles that have appeared in *The Schreiber Times* reek of condescension and hauteur. Please don't tell me that I have no conscience because I don't give enough money to your "Save Darfur" student group, or that you feel that Sports Night participants behave like sluts, or that you perceive yourself as a beacon of morality above the greedy masses that comprise Schreiber's student body, all of whom (allegedly) are viciously conspiring against you to get into better colleges by vastly inflating their résumés.

These are the topics of just a few of the articles that have graced the pages of the past few editions of *The Schreiber Times* and I must say, they get tiresome. All I ask is that the members of *The Schreiber Times* regard their peers in a more respectful tone, move away from their holier-

than-thou mentality, and promote more substantive and intellectual dialogue. Being a bit more careful before making unfair accusations of racial insensitivity would probably be a good start.

Matt Varvaro

Dear Editor,

As president of the Drama Club and co-founder of Third Wave, it was wonderful to see how *The Schreiber Times* supports both these groups. However, I would like to clarify some of the things said against the administration concerning their attitude towards the arts in our school in the "Supporting the Arts" editorial.

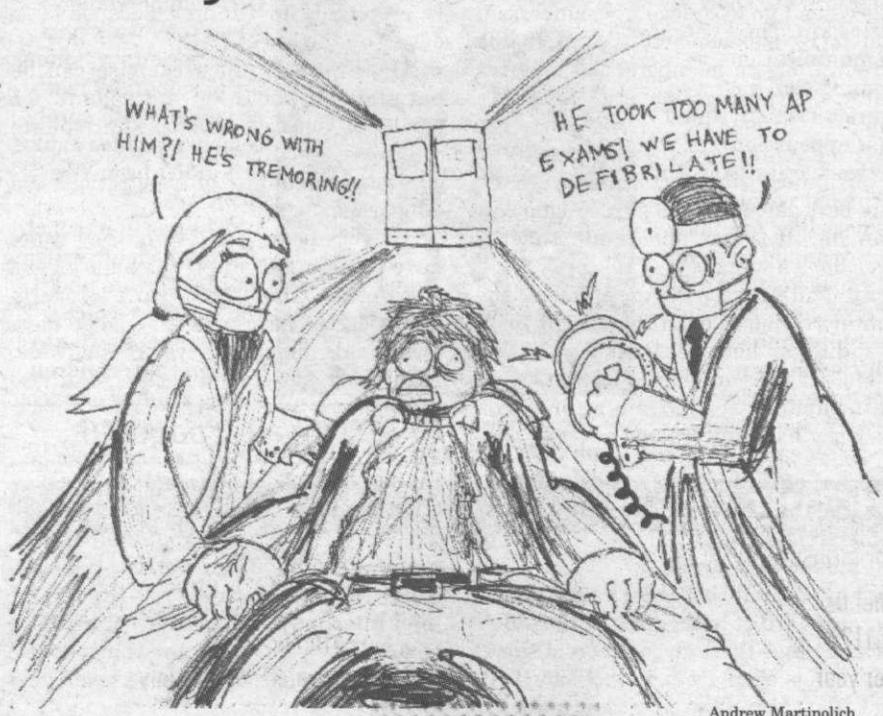
*I Heart the F-Word* took place in the choir room by choice, not because we could not book the auditorium. We felt that the choir room provided a more intimate setting for the kind of show we wanted to put on. We were overwhelmed by the audience response, and are working on a solution that will maintain the intimacy of Third Wave productions as well as give our audience more comfortable seating arrangements (one of these solutions is an encore performance June 8 at the public library).

I would also have it known that Mr. Lewis fully supported the Third Wave endeavor from the very beginning, and we would never have been able to get our first performance off the ground last year without his help and financial support. What is true is that Third Wave is a new club this year, and is not yet "official," meaning it does not receive club funding to pay for other activities nor the usual salary that goes to a club advisor (and for the record, our advisor Dr. Sachs gives more of her time and heart to this club than could ever be repaid).

Hopefully, the intense enthusiasm of both members of the club and those who have seen our productions will help to turn Third Wave into a school-sanctioned, fully-funded club for the '08-'09 school year.

Kate Hughes

## Drawing Conclusions



## 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.

# SCHREIBER GETS FIT

BY Sidney Ginsberg and Leah Nash

Features Editor and Staff Writer

In Roald Dahl's classic novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Violet Beauregarde, gum-chewer extraordinaire, eats a piece of Willy Wonka's magical candy called "three-course-meal" gum. This gum is not only a meal supplement, but also delicious. Dahl may have written his novel in 1964, but his ideas are slowly percolating into today's nutrition culture.

Schreiber students have nutritional needs. They want a way to consolidate their eating time and so they eat nutrition bars and energy bars, gulp down protein shakes, and consume meal supplements. They do all this to spend less time eating, lose weight, and to achieve the general goal—to get fit.

In the past few months, students have also been purchasing sneakers, securing local gym memberships, and hiring personal trainers. But are all these health-centered activities really healthy? Should teenagers really be skipping their trips to Subway or Bagel Boss and replacing meals with chocolate bars that claim to "beef them up?"

## Nutrition bars: healthy or unhealthy?

Let's face it, who wouldn't want to save the hour it takes to eat dinner and, instead, spend only five minutes eating a nutrition bar? Nutrition bars and energy bars are tempting. Clif Builder's Bars boast that they are "high in protein, 33% organic, and have 23 vitamins." They are also a low glycemic food, have "no trans-fats or partially hydrogenated oils" and are "the only natural protein bars."

Most nutrition bars, regardless of whether they call themselves protein bars, energy bars, or diet bars, have protein.

"Protein makes hormones in the body, without protein there's no life," said General Nutrition Center employee Bharat Amin. "Protein jump starts metabolism. Carbohydrates and fat don't do that. If you stop eating meat or don't have any protein in your diet you become like a football and you become fatter."

"Protein is important because it's necessary for protein metabolism which helps to maintain muscle mass," said biology teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty. "Kids are constantly going through growth. Ninth grade boys will be 5'2" and by the end of the year they'll have grown six inches. Protein is necessary for proper growth and proper metabolic development."

Eating protein keeps you from becoming hungry because it takes a long time to digest in the body. People generally choose to eat large quantities of protein because it keeps them satiated.

To make hormones each day, the body of a young adult requires one gram of protein for every pound the teenager weighs. But watch out, our bodies can only handle forty grams of protein at a time, which is why the nutrition bars sold at GNC have only between five and thirty grams of protein.

Ms. Michelle Kowalski, director of NutriHealth Weight Loss System and Counseling in town, believes that nutrition bars are a good replacement for a snack, but are basically like "a candy bar with extra protein."

"Put it this way," said Ms. Kowalski. "[You can] keep a nutrition bar in a drawer for years and it won't go bad."

Because nutrition bars are generally indestructible and filled with so many nutrients and grams of protein, it takes a lot for your body to break them down. One protein bar, like a Luna bar, "contains the same amount of calories as a turkey sandwich and you get a lot more nutrition out of that sandwich," said Ms. Kowalski.

"People are afraid of carbs but whole wheat bread and a cold-cut are a lot more nutritious than a protein bar would be," said Ms. Kowalski.

Teachers have also observed that more students this year have added supplements, like nutrition bars, to their diets. "I have noticed an increase in students eating them," said Ms. Ezratty.

"The good news part of it is that they [students] eat them in the morning, so it's better than not having breakfast. But most of these have a lot of fat and a lot of sugar," said Ms. Ezratty.

## Exercise: healthy or unhealthy?

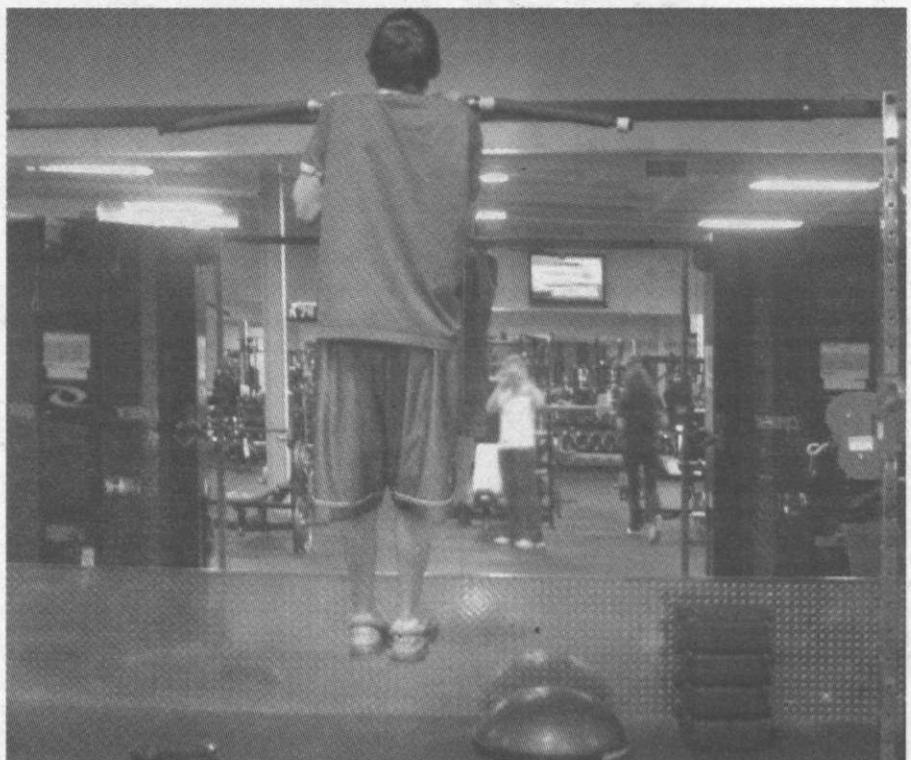
Some teenagers think that instead of altering only their diets, they should alter their lifestyles as well. Port is not lacking in its number of workout facilities. From the Training Station, to Power Ten and Johnny G's, there are gyms in every part of town.

Many gyms even offer special student rates. For example, the Training Station has a monthly option for students. The enrollment fee is \$99 and students have the option of freezing their membership so they don't have to pay when they go on vacation or to college. The Training Station says that it has between 200 and 300 student members. Many of those members are Schreiber students, and most of those are seniors, who can drive themselves.

It almost seems as if you have no excuse not to go to the gym when you can drive yourself.

"It's a be-cool thing," said senior Connor Broderick. "Everyone always turns to each other and says 'Oh I have to go to the gym after school.'"

"Since people can drive and they are able to go to the gym whenever they want, more people have been joining," said senior Erica Fagelman. "So if you're



Freshman Evan Kaufman does pull-ups at the Training Station athletic club. Sidny Ginsberg

in a group of friends and you're the only one who doesn't go, you'll feel left out if it's something they do everyday."

Because so many people have recently bought gym memberships, it pressures others to do so as well.

"In the last five years there have been more and more students of all grade levels talking about joining gyms," said physical education teacher Ms. Stephanie Joannon. "As a teacher and a coach, I'm finding that students and players are more knowledgeable about how to train correctly and more excited about doing things outside of school during the off-season."

"There have been more ads about getting and staying fit, and many [students] learn these concepts in health physical education classes," said physical education teacher Ms. Nancy Klotz. "Teachers inform students about getting fit and staying fit. The media has also told kids that they should get fit."

In addition to an increase in the number of students who want to get fit, a large percentage of those students work out with trainers, either because the trainer keeps them motivated, or because they want to learn the proper way to work-out.

"I got a trainer senior year," said senior Julia Goorin. "I wouldn't know how to work out on my own so I got a trainer so I would know what to do next year when I go to college." Trainers can tend to be expensive compared to the price of the gym membership. Trainers charge \$70 per session at Johnny G's gym.

Three years ago, Schreiber instituted an intramural weight training program. "The best part is that it's free," said Ms. Joannon. It is available to all students three days a week.

Students recently petitioned the administration to open the weight room an additional hour per week.

Ms. Klotz is in charge of overseeing the intramural weight training program. Ms. Klotz has been trained as a personal

trainer in addition to having physical education and dance training.

In the five years since Ms. Klotz came to Schreiber, "there has been an increase in both the number of students who want to get fit and their commitment. For those people who are not involved in sports, this is the only intramural activity [we have]," said Ms. Klotz.

Every student at Schreiber will enter the weight room at some point because it is mandatory that physical-education classes spend part of the year there. Still, many students have decided to exercise on their own and take advantage of the free weight room hours.

"In the last ten years, there has been a big push towards fitness by society," said Ms. Joannon. This push was "helped by governmental statistics of children exhibiting health related problems, which were usually attributed to adults. Many increased health issues include inactivity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and obesity. Now, more students want to get in shape to prevent these health issues."

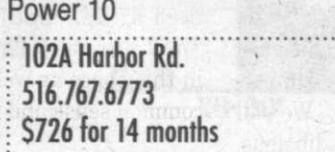
Everybody should exercise three to four times a week for at least thirty minutes. Cardiovascular aerobic exercise is best, which means that you are exerting yourself enough to break a sweat. Exercise should not pummel your legs. For example, bike riding is preferable to running because it is easier on the knees.

However, too much exercise can be harmful. If you're on a treadmill for too long, you can develop shin splints or stress fractures. Moreover, losing excessive amounts of weight can be dangerous.

"If girls become too thin, they won't have enough fat, and if they don't have enough fat, their body can't properly produce estrogen, and they can't have a normal menstrual cycle," said Ms. Ezratty. "Guys should not over-exercise

*Continued on page 16 . . .*

## A comparison of local gyms

 <p><b>Power 10</b> 102A Harbor Rd. 516.767.6773 \$726 for 14 months</p>	 <p><b>The Training Station</b> 45 Chanel Dr. 516.767.1121 \$840 per year</p>	 <p><b>Johnny G's</b> 12 Irma Ave. 516.767.0941 Private Training Only</p>
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# LOCKED DOWN

## Thefts, bomb scares and drug use plague the student body

BY Andrew Seo and Christina Vlahos

Assistant Features and A&E Editors

As most students prepared to relax the day before spring vacation, several members of the student body had other things on their minds. On Friday, Apr. 18, students were planning to break into gym lockers and pilfer other students' belongings.

At around six o'clock that evening, a member of the athletic staff entered the boys' locker room and observed a student prying open a locker. The staff member subsequently questioned the student about his alleged activities; although the student fled at that point, he was ultimately caught, identified, and punished appropriately.

"My phone was stolen from my locker in the beginning of the fourth quarter," said freshman Alex Smith. "I was upset by this because people should not have to worry about their valuables being stolen from their lockers, which are supposed to serve as storage for our possessions during the school day."

The crime problem at the school is of chief concern to Mr. David Miller, assistant principal in charge of outside security and general student supervision at the school. He is responsible for the school's Violent and Disruptive Incidents Report (VADIR) data, pursuant to New York State's Education Department.

According to the New York State Education Department website, "federal law requires each state to determine annually which public elementary and secondary schools are 'persistently dangerous.'" New York bases its "persistently dangerous" determinations on two years' worth of VADIR data. The school keeps track of, among other things, larceny or other theft offenses, false alarms, bomb threats, and the use, possession, or sale of drugs and/or alcohol.

"The number of incidents has somewhat remained stable over the past four years," said Mr. Miller. "If there is one crime that has increased, it is locker thefts. I cannot exactly quantify that, but it is from the gut."

Another reported incident of larceny took place earlier this year, at which point two other students were caught breaking into lockers and removing peoples' personal items. They also demonstrated for the administrators how they were able to pry into people's lockers without tools.

The school's string of crimes has extended to its athletic scene, with a recent series of concentrated thefts plaguing the varsity tennis team, coached by science teacher Mr. Peter Travis. The spree of thefts first occurred several weeks ago and lasted around two weeks.

The incidents mainly occurred during practice, with wallets and money being the primary objects stolen. While

the tennis team practiced, the culprit rummaged through the bags left near the benches adjacent to the tennis courts. The team has recently taken preventative measures by placing personal belongings and bags on the court during their practice. Once administration and the coach became involved, the thefts abated.

"As soon as Coach Travis put his foot on the ground, the thief stopped. We have become more cautious of where we put our things," said sophomore Luke Record.

Mr. Miller also emphasized that while thefts and other crimes seem to be slightly on the rise based on records of the past few years, this is possibly because of the introduction of VADIR into the school system - this supposed increase in crime frequency may possibly just be a result of increased crime documentation, not necessarily an increase in criminal action.

"The current administration has taken a stand more than any other administration I have had experience with," said social worker Ms. Michelle Weiden

Attributing to the recent decrease in the number of crimes this year, the administration has continued its vigilance in seeking out people who are committing crimes, the number of students coming forward and reporting crime activity has increased, and the school has improved its relationship with the Port Washington Police Department. To combat the thefts in the gym locker room, "physical education teachers have been released from hall duty to make certain that the locker rooms are checked within several minutes of the beginning of each period. In addition, they check on locker rooms during each class period," said Principal Mr. Jay Lewis in the May 2008 issue of *The Schreiber Scribe*, the monthly Home School Association newsletter.

"The Port Washington Police Department has an excellent rapport with the administration. They fill us in on what is occurring at the high school and we fill them in about what is going on in the community," said Detective Tony Guzzello, a detective who deals with Schreiber-related crimes that are reported by the administration and students. In accordance with the investigation of the Schreiber this year, Detective Guzzello said that the police department has dealt with an increased number of theft reports. Several arrests have been made this year because of larceny in Schreiber.

On the issue of bomb threats, such as the one that occurred at Weber Middle School on May 14, Detective Guzzello described the Emergency Management plan, which is discussed, revised and improved each year by the Port Washington Police Department, the Port Washington Fire Department, and the school district. The bomb threat "was dealt with very well. Everyone cooperated with the evacuation procedure and we had the student arrested," said Detective Guzzello. He expressed his concern that as long as students do not share with the administration information that they possess about bomb threats, illegal substances, and thefts, it will remain somewhat difficult to track down students who have committed these crimes. Since 2004, there have been two bomb threats within Schreiber itself, and three false alarms.

"Students should be encouraged to stand up and report incidents to their administrators and the police. The security measures are there for the students' safety, and so it benefits them to report crime," said Detective Guzzello.

Detective Guzzello also described the drug and alcohol incidents which are reported within the school and the

community.

"The use of marijuana and alcohol is prevalent among high school students. It is dangerous if even one person makes a bad decision to drink and drive because usually it is the innocent people who get hurt," he said.

This year, a total of forty-eight drug and alcohol incidents were documented by the school during the 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and 2006-2007 school years.

Social worker Ms. Weiden deals with all of the students who are found selling or in possession of illegal substances.

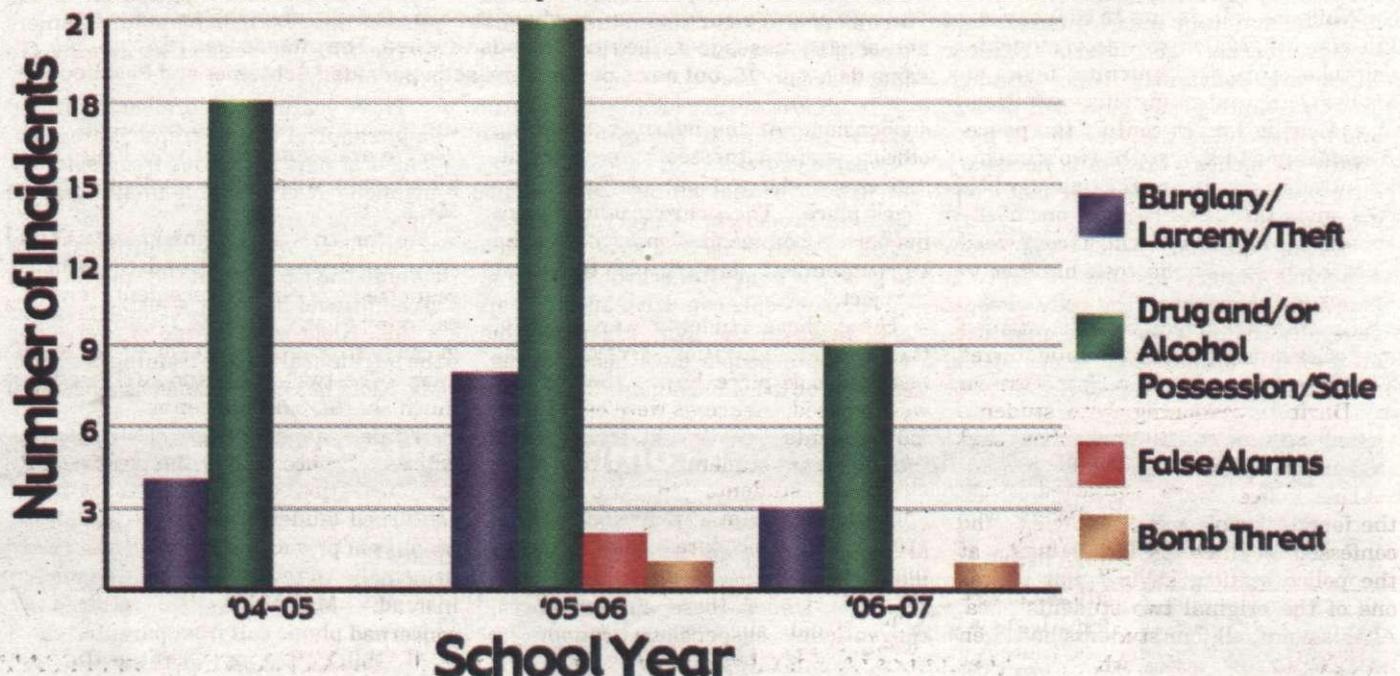
"This is not just a Schreiber problem or a Port Washington problem. The number of incidents is generally consistent with most other high schools," said Ms. Weiden.

The reported number of incidents of drug use has been fluctuating in the past four years, but according to Mr. Miller, this year's reported drug use is at about the same amount as the 2006-2007 school year.

Despite the inevitable cafeteria fights which take place several times a year, physical assault does not seem to be a very dramatic issue in Schreiber. There have been almost no reports of physical assault to the Port Washington Police Department in the past year. Detective Guzzello believes that the school handles such situations very well and appropriately. Dr. Joan Bester, one of Schreiber's psychologists, also believes that physical assault crimes in particular are not common in Schreiber, in comparison to some city public school districts.

"We have fewer physical assault issues but vandalism is definitely a major problem in Schreiber," said Dr. Bester.

"Schools are a microcosm of the people in society," said Mr. Miller. "Just as there are bad people in the world, there are kids in school who make bad mistakes."



# locked up

## Swastika is the latest of school's racially-charged graffiti

*Students' hate crime invokes administration crackdown and strong student response*

BY Erin Szulman

Editor-in-Chief

While it may appear that finding fresh graffiti around the school is a daily occurrence, offensive pictures and words were recently found on the exterior wall of the school that shocked students and faculty.

On Tuesday, Apr. 15, at approximately 7:20 a.m., the back outside wall by the science doors on the south side of Schreiber was found vandalized. The wall featured a two-foot by two-foot swastika along with the words "die Jew" written right beside it. The graffiti was written with magic marker, and was placed next to a fish, a penis, a heart with two sets of initials inside, and an elbow.

Before school was even opened, the image was reported by a student to the administration and the police were immediately contacted for what was later considered a "bias crime." A bias crime, or hate crime, occurs when individuals are targeted because of their participation in a social group such as a religious group. While there are a few video cameras installed at various places throughout the school, none are located in a place that could capture the incident.

After the student contacted the administration, Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller informed police and then called a custodian to get rid of the swastika. Upon trying to eliminate the graffiti, Mr. Miller noticed the heart and initials that were drawn and then partially crossed out near the swastika and attempted to identify the two students.

"I had a pretty good idea of who it could be because of the initials," said Mr. Miller.

While he was trying to identify the initials, Mr. Miller saw two students, one who sported a matching heart on his/her leg, confirming his suspicions and allowing him to contact the police. He continued talking to the two students as he followed them off-campus while they smoked. Mr. Miller saw one of the students walk away, which confirmed what he believed, and took him/her to the police.

The other student was questioned by Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres as he/she claimed not to have drawn it. During questioning, both students named two more students they said were involved and responsible.

The police were contacted when the fourth person was questioned, who confessed to drawing the swastika at the police station, saying that it was one of the original two students' idea. At this point, all four students had been brought to the police who thereafter

took care of the situation. Because all four students are minors, their names are unable to be released.

"We've gotten more aggressive in using Port Washington police," said Principal Mr. Jay Lewis. Over a seven-day period, the crime was unraveled.

"There were two of the students who actually did the defacing," said Mr. Lewis. "In our minds [the other two students] are just as guilty as the ones writing on the wall...they did nothing to stop or report anything, and actually impeded [the situation]."

New York State Education Law states that principals are permitted to sentence a student with a suspension of up to five days, which all four students received. After that, a superintendent's hearing must take place to extend the

"I thought the school administration took appropriate action. The kids were punished appropriately, from what I know, and I felt completely safe afterward," said freshman Tyler Goldman.

One of the more common punishments is exclusion from school and out-of-district placement. By compulsory education laws, the district is required to provide an education for the student and assume all costs. All students under the age of 18 are required to receive an education, and classified students receive the same up to 21.

"The parents were quite supportive of our actions," said Mr. Lewis.

After all the hearings were held, a variety of suspensions were given out by

the diverse student population. The perpetrators should have expected a strong backlash from the administration," said senior Allison Rosenberg.

While much of the incident is classified, the administration does not even know everything that was divulged to police as the students found responsible for this crime turned to Facebook to plead their cases. Mr. Lewis insists, however, that technology did not help solve the case. "We are aware there were some conversations going on," said Mr. Lewis.

"It's really messed up. It shouldn't be tolerated in school. Even if they were kidding it was a horrible thing to do," said sophomore Louie Tsampas.

One student identified themselves on Facebook as one of the four perpetrators, and proceeded to ask for forgiveness from students by creating a Facebook group. The student claimed to have been irresponsible but completely undeserving of the punishment. This person's actions immediately sparked a conversation among a number of students, all arguing about the nature of the crime. Another student identified themselves as responsible for the crime, and also tried to a defense. The first student may have created the group to earn back some respect, but quite the opposite occurred.

Students began making comments about their incredulity that such an incident occurred, and badmouthed the guilty student. A few defended the student, but the majority refused to accept any argument that they were partially innocent.

Over the span of a few hours, the Facebook group received over a hundred comments ripping apart the creator and supposed perpetrator, and expressed the student body's desire to further punish the guilty students. One student, senior Eli Schwartz was especially passionate about getting the perpetrator kicked out of school, further inflamed by the creation of the Facebook group and the attempt to garner sympathy.

"I was disturbed and offended when I heard about what certain students had done to the school; people really need to be aware of what they are doing and who it might offend," said Schwartz. "Simply thinking twice about one's actions could have saved a few students from making a horrible mistake and getting into a lot of trouble. Some people choose to forget and joke about certain matters that will offend other groups of people."

The information about the incident has slowly been passed from student to student since the incident occurred. The event coincidentally took place only days before Holocaust Remembrance Day and weeks before the school's Genocide Awareness Day.



Courtesy of Mr. David Miller

The wall near the south entrance where the two students drew the swastika and anti-semitic message as their two friends watched. The offense was removed the same day, Apr. 15, but news of the crime soon pervaded Schreiber and Facebook.

suspension. At the hearing, a hearing officer and witnesses are present, and a student and parent forum also takes place. The hearing officer gives his/her recommendation which the superintendent may choose to accept or reject.

Since these students were part of the Special Education program, this hearing took place before the penalty was imposed. Hearings were held for all four students.

The four students involved were classified students in the special education program at Schreiber. There are special procedures that make it more difficult to exclude them from school. "Under those circumstances, conventional suspensions cannot be used," said Mr. Lewis.

the committee on special education.

"We are planning for very long-term placements with these students," said Mr. Lewis.

As for the final punishments, one suspension was upheld and the school requested outside placement for a calendar year. A second student was given a stipulation agreement for next year. The two other students received much shorter arrangements.

While a number of students expressed concern over the graffiti, the administration was unable to talk to concerned students about the situation because of privacy rights. The assistant principals acted to raise awareness instead. Mr. Miller also received a concerned phone call from parents.

"I think it was disrespectful to

# Recent surge in gas prices affects stations and students alike

by Rebecca Greenblatt  
Contributing Writer

The dollar continues to plunge in value, the Federal Reserve is constantly lowering interest rates, and the market slides almost daily. While these economic downturns are occurring, gas prices are also perpetually increasing. With no end in sight, the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration has predicted that oil prices will average \$110 a barrel this year, up \$9 from last month's forecast.

The spike in gas prices has had a tremendous effect on seniors who drive. "My parents used to pay for my gas, but now I have to get a job to pay for some of it myself. This is because its at such an unreasonable price," said senior Juliet Labadorf. In an effort to combat the gas price increase, "kids are starting to need after school jobs in order to fill up their cars," said senior Tarun Singh.

A year ago, oil prices were roughly \$62 a barrel. Since then, prices have nearly doubled. Light sweet crude for June delivery is at nearly \$125 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Furthermore, because of demand in the Middle East and China, it is expected that this year global oil consumption might increase by 1.4 million barrels a day. Half of the oil used in the United States is gasoline. Each day, the United States consumes twenty-five-percent of oil produced worldwide. According to most experts, it is not likely that oil prices will soon decrease. The national average price of a gallon of gas was \$3.758, as of Wednesday, May 14.

The manager at a local Exxon gas station said that he thought that gas prices would continue to increase throughout the year. The manager, however, also believed that gas prices will peak at \$5.00 per gallon. The high gas prices have not solely hurt the consumers as gas stations have also felt the strain of high prices.

"Business has decreased by 30% since prices started drastically increasing," said the manager.

In order to alleviate some of the pain felt at the pump, the New York State Senate has passed legislation that would temporarily postpone the gas tax. The bill has not yet passed in the New York State Assembly, and would relieve drivers in the state from paying the thirty-two cent tax from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

The varying prices of gas in the tri-state region can be attributed to the differing tax rates.

"In Queens, gas is on average eight cents less. In New Jersey, gas is approximately forty cents less than Queens," said the Exxon Manager.

The cost of gas in New Jersey is particularly low because they place less tax on gas. According to a March 2007 report compiled by the American Petroleum Institute, "New York continues to have the highest gas tax in the nation." At the same time, New Jersey has the 48th lowest taxes in the nation, trailing only Wyoming and Alaska. For this reason, New Jersey generally has considerably lower gas prices than New York. On average, 20% of the price of gas goes to taxes,

according to the Department of Energy. Increasing gas prices have also changed the type of cars that new shoppers are purchasing.

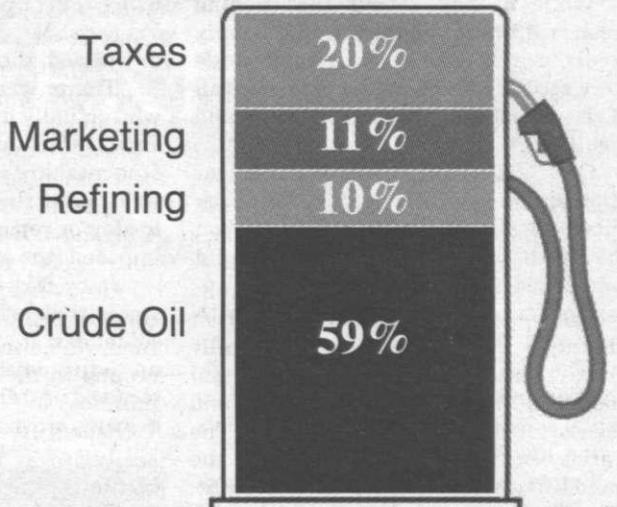
One out of every five vehicles sold in April was either compact or subcompact, while 10 years ago, it was only one in eight. Hybrid cars have also increased in popularity for being extremely fuel efficient. The Toyota Prius is currently the most fuel efficient vehicle sold in the nation, getting almost 50 miles per gallon of gas. Hybrid cars have been a recently popular choice among seniors for their fuel efficiency.

"Originally, I took the Prius because I thought it was a symbol of being

environmentally friendly; however, in practicality, it has been completely beneficial to a teenager's wallet," said Sarah Scheinman

With gas prices continually increasing, economists predict no end to this trend in sight. Feeling this pain at the pump and in their pocketbooks, consumers have turned to alternative practices to alleviate the high costs. Getting jobs and buying hybrids are just some of the ways that seniors at the school have combatted this issue. Implementing these practices and turning to more fuel efficient cars are all ways that the next generation of drivers are taking control of this issue.

## Breakdown of the Price of Gas



The Department of Energy's breakdown of the price of gas shows that the majority of it is dependent on the cost of crude oil.

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# Fashion

BY Amanda Schiff

Editor-in-Chief

Step aside, Russell Crowe, your favorite sandals have made it to the fashion A-list of the season. The latest it-shoe of spring has prompted designers at every price level to create their interpretation of the gladiator shoe. The sandals recently joined the summer shoe crowd and appear to have secured a spot on the runway amid a sea of wedges and peep-toe pumps for the season. With an abundance of styles to choose from, here is just a quick guide to the hottest shoes of the season.

## It's all Greek to me

When ancient Greek goddess-inspired style meets comfort and versatility, you know you have hit the jackpot. Spring's must-have shoe is unquestionably the gladiator sandal. The shoe generally has a multitude of straps and buckles that run horizontally across your feet. The sandals sometimes continue up the leg rather than simply stopping right at the ankle. Gladiator footwear usually comes in orangey-tans, dark browns and metallics. Some incorporate gems and jewels for an added pop of color. The variety of colors and styles make the sandal truly appropriate for any outfit. They look great with jeans or just as flawless with a sundress.

Although it may seem that the more straps there are, the more pain you will have to endure, with gladiators it is quite the opposite. Many of these Grecian sandals have individual straps with their own buckles, so you have the opportunity to adjust the entire shoe from heel to toe. This is especially beneficial for those with extremely wide or narrow feet.

To dress like a star in the latest trend, you need not travel to Greece or Italy. Instead, pick up a pair of gladiator-inspired sandals at Forever 21 for only \$8. You can also try Payless for

a more authentic Roman look for about \$15. This is the best way to shop for trends that will likely be passé by the time you have a chance to pay off the Gucci gladiators.

## Wedges in

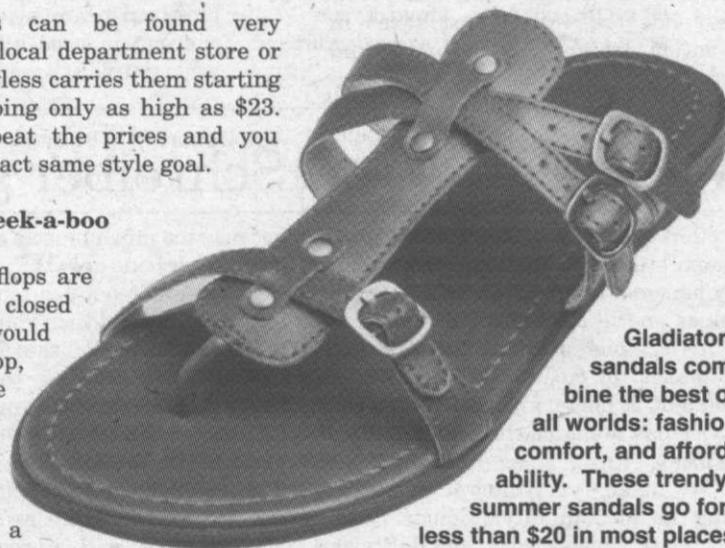
For the last three years wedges have stayed among the top shoe choices for spring and summer. Their appeal lies in the comfort, exact fit, and range of heel height. Because you are not placing all of your body weight on the area of a stiletto heel, you greatly reduce the pressure applied to the balls of your feet. The ankle strap can be buckled or tied and the feminine silhouette is perfect for a day at school or a night out.

Wedges, or espadrilles, come in every color and pattern imaginable and can add that extra element of modern fashion to any classic outfit. One of the best things about this season's wedges is that they are not all five inch heels. They have been showing up in stores with heels ranging from one half-inch to about six inches. Whether you choose cork or rope wedges, make sure you are comfortable in them and you can walk around in them for more than just five minutes.

Espadrilles can be found very easily at any local department store or boutique. Payless carries them starting at \$14 and going only as high as \$23. You cannot beat the prices and you achieve the exact same style goal.

## Peek-a-boo

When flip-flops are too casual but closed toe pumps would be over the top, compromise with a peep-toe flat. These are the perfect solution to a casual yet girly summer



Gladiator sandals combine the best of all worlds: fashion, comfort, and affordability. These trendy summer sandals go for less than \$20 in most places.

www.payless.com

## Walkin' on sunshine

outfit. Peep-toes are half shoe and half sandal and provide just enough room for you to show off your perfect pedicure. The peep-toe style has been around for decades, but recently made its way back to the top of the fashion food chain for yet another strut down the runway.

Peep-toes come in every style from ballet flats and wedges to stilettos and platform pumps. They can be paired with jeans and leggings as well as cocktail and summer dresses. Forever 21 is selling a high-heeled version of the style for just \$20 and Charlotte Russe is filling its shelves with pairs of peep-toe flats for just under \$19.

Whether you have a graduation party to attend or just another day of shopping ahead of you, make sure your feet are not forgotten. A great pair of shoes can take a pair of jeans and a classic white tee to a new level. Pick up a pair of gladiators, wedges, or peep-toe shoes without spending your entire paycheck to keep yourself at the height of fashion. This year, beauty does not have to be pain. With adjustable straps and open-toed shoes, you are sure to find the perfect pair for any occasion.

## Reusable Water Bottles

BY Ryohei Ozaki

Assistant News Editor

Plastic water bottles have become the new target of environmental concern. Excess plastic is a widespread issue throughout the country and the world. To combat this issue, numerous students have swapped their plastic water bottles with reusable eco-friendly water bottles.

The idea, first begun at Schreiber by sophomore Christina Zhou, was spread throughout the school through the Treehuggers Environmental Club.

As part of an initiative to encourage students and faculty to "reuse and recycle," the club, with Zhou, began to sell customized bottles made by SIGG, Switzerland. She was first inspired to pursue this project over the summer at the Brown Environmental Leadership Lab (BELL). Eliminating the use of water bottles is a viable way to both indirectly reduce carbon emissions and reduce the manufacture of potentially harmful PET plastic.

"Using the reusable bottles is an easy and convenient way to make a difference. It's a small step to leading an environmentally friendly lifestyle," said sophomore Elizabeth Corteselli.

The reusable water bottles being sold by the club are customized with the words "REUSE ME" as well as a logo of the Earth. SIGG, well known for its aluminum bottles, also advertises environmental friendliness to appeal to its "green" customers. The company advocates the decreased use of plastic in everyday materials. Although bottled water may be convenient, the empty bottles inevitably end up in bodies of water and parks.

Early in the year, members of the club volunteered to begin selling to friends, family, and other students. Since the Vegetarian Dinner, which took place in November, the club has made efforts to sell the bottles collectively as a group. The sale of reusable bottles have also spread to the elementary schools, with the help of freshman Ioanna Ioannides.

Using reusable water bottles is in no way a substitute for regular day-to-day recycling of plastic goods. The recycling receptacles placed in the cafeteria and Student Commons encourage students to take such actions.

Plastic water bottles, in their manufacture and use, can pose many problems to the well being of the Earth and its inhabitants. Mass transportation of water bottles, via CO2-emitting automobiles, is one of the causes of rising levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The production of plastic water bottles requires the use of petroleum, which causes further complications. Where water filtration and bottle manufacturing plants have been built, the water tables of the surrounding areas have been drained. Communities living around these plants have insufficient water for their everyday lives.

"I hope that through our actions, students and faculty become aware of how we affect the environment. We cannot completely reverse the damage we have already done, but everyone can take steps to lessen our future influence," said Zhou.

## Club Feature

BY Alex Hohaus

Staff Writer

With the spirit of social activism in the air, a relatively new club at Schreiber has been working to achieve real change. Schreiber's chapter of STAND as One is one of many in the "Students Take Action Now: Darfur" coalition, whose mission statement is "to empower individuals and communities with the tools to prevent and stop genocide." The national organization was founded in 2004 as a response to the escalating internal violence and genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan in Africa, and Schreiber's chapter was founded at the start of this year.

"What really inspired us was that many Schreiber students, when asked, did not even know what Darfur was," said junior Victoria Roedel. Roedel, along with fellow juniors Tatiana Mouarbes, Gabrielle Brilliant, Melis Emre, and Hayley Fuchs are the

founders of the club, which is advised by Ms. Anne Pellett.

To start the year off, the group urged students to participate in a one-day DarfurFast, in which people chose to

## 3 Things You Don't Know About Darfur

- 1) The United Nations now estimates that over 450,000 people have died from disease and violence in Darfur.
- 2) Due to banditry and the brutal murder of convoy drivers, only half of the food deliveries from the World Food Programme (WFP) are being transported to Darfur.
- 3) Profits from companies such as McDonald's and Coca Cola indirectly benefit the Chinese government which has stalled progress for peace in Darfur. On the other hand, profits from companies such as Burger King and Pepsi tend to avoid this dilemma.

## Stand as One

give up one thing for a day, in addition to making a donation. The event emphasized that, "just three dollars - less than the cost of a latte - can provide protection for one woman for a year." The event raised over \$1,500, all of which was sent to the Genocide Intervention Network. The club has also had a series of bake sales and has earned over \$300 from those, which will go to the same cause.

The members of STAND are devoted to educating members of the Schreiber community about genocide. Most recently, a picnic has been planned for Saturday, May 31, which will feature a guest speaker and a fund-raiser for more capital to benefit Darfur.

"It's important that people raise awareness about what's happening, and the picnic is both an effective and fun way to do that," said Brilliant. The proceeds from the picnic will also go directly to a the Darfur Peace and Development Organization.

# Survey shows that relationships are gender-biased

BY Ali Nirenberg  
Staff Writer

Relationship violence and sexual assault are two pressing social issues in today's society and in educational establishments around the country. However, information regarding these occurrences is frequently misconstrued by the media. In order to accurately publicize and spread awareness about the issue of sexual assault, science teacher Ms. Julia Brandt and her sisters run a non-profit organization against relationship violence called Take Back the News. This organization allows survivors of sexual violence to publish their stories in their own words in an attempt for more veridical information to be available.

In conjunction with Take Back the News, Schreiber has been working to gather information and educate its students on sexual assault and relationship violence. The first step in this process was a survey that polled a two hundred and eight senior students. They were asked to answer various questions regarding these problems.

"The results of this review were staggering," said Ms. Brandt. A total of thirty-six seniors stated that they have been pressured to have sex or engage in sexual acts when they did not want to. Additionally, twenty-six seniors have felt afraid of their boyfriend or girlfriend. Lastly, forty seniors have had a girlfriend or boyfriend call them insulting names, embarrass them, or

demean them. The information obtained showed that many of the students in Schreiber may in fact be in dangerous or abusive relationships.

As can be inferred from the survey, the Schreiber program is being held exclusively for senior students. The reason why this program is being directed solely to twelfth graders is because many of them will be entering college next year. Statistics show that one in ten college students will be sexually assaulted. The greatest amount of these attacks will occur during freshman year, prior to the first vacation. Therefore, it is extremely

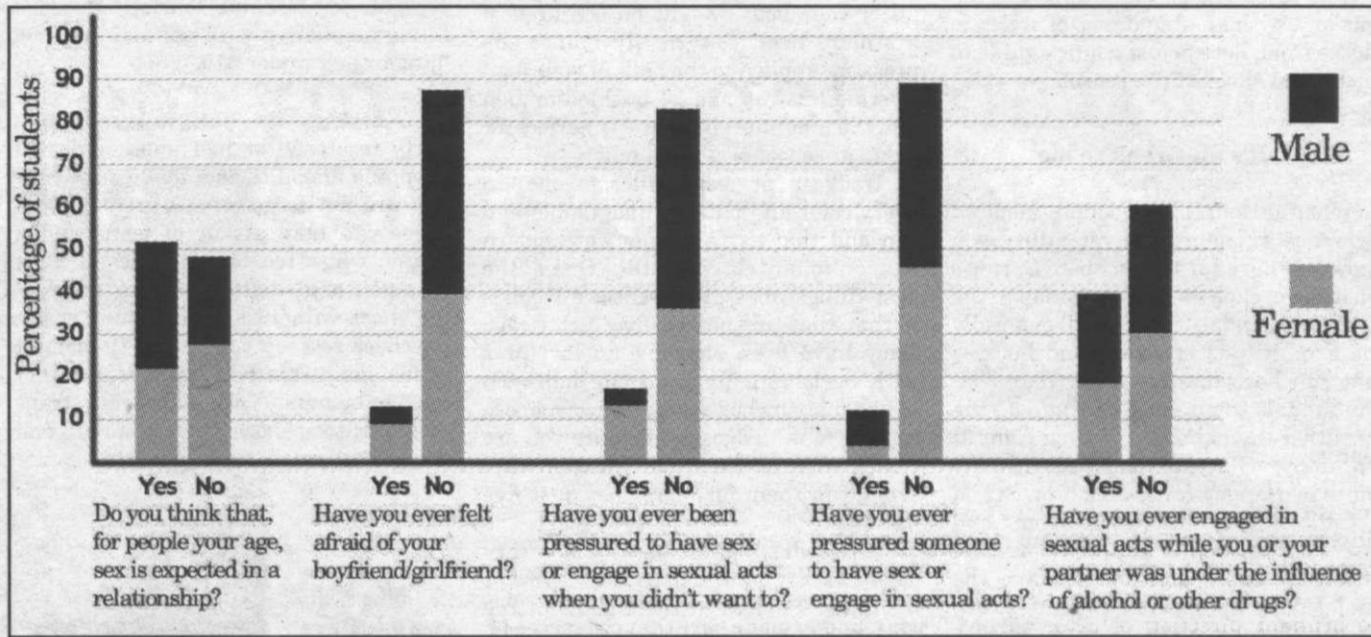
important to educate these students as a preventive measure.

Another aspect of the program involves a workshop for senior students. This workshop is being conducted in social studies classrooms by Natural Helpers. These individuals have trained extensively for these sessions. Therefore, at the end of the month they will be prepared to teach their colleagues about dating violence and sexual assault. It is believed that these peer-run sessions will be more effective than those run by teachers or other adults.

"Part of what makes this project at

Schreiber High School so unique is that most high schools do not talk about these issues in their newspapers," said Ms. Brandt.

The survey has shed light on relationship issues too daunting to discuss in a non-anonymous setting. At the same time, the workshop, to be held by the Natural Helpers, aims to educate, inform, and hopefully prevent future instances of relationship violence. Through such programs, Schreiber is acting as a prototype for other high schools around the nation. The school is helping to lessen the cases of dating violence.



## Restaurant Review Main Street Bakery

BY Leah Nash  
Staff Writer

Since its opening three weeks ago, the Main Street Bakery is already a great success and a wonderful addition to the Port Washington community. Many delicious pastry items are offered at the bakery, and the décor provides a very authentic French feeling. There is a wide variety of goods including cookies, muffins, chocolate covered pretzels, brownies, and éclairs. Instead of individual cookies, customers can purchase a gift bag of cookies for only \$7. Additionally, cakes are sold at the bakery. One particular specialty is the Triple Chocolate Cake, which is \$25.

"Personalized service is nonexistent nowadays, which will separate this bakery from the others," said owner Michael Mignano.

The most important aspect of the bakery for owner Michael Mignano is friendly customer service. He makes

an effort to provide this by recording all custom orders in a database, as well as any personal information, such as what cookies one likes, so that he can serve all his customers at the highest level. He makes all customers feel welcome and right at home, and he believes that service has to match the high quality of the food.

"We make everything from scratch using the finest quality products, except the breads, which we get from Balthazar in New York City," said Mignano. Only the finest ingredients, such as plugra unsalted butter, which is the most expensive butter, are used. Even the cocoa products are from Holland.

The bakery also has a very welcoming and friendly atmosphere. There are many posters with French themes, enabling the customers to feel as if they are actually in a small bakery in France. An authentic lemonade container used many years ago in France called a nonpareil is also displayed. Additionally, coffee is placed on an antique sideboard, or hutch, from 1830. Unlike many other bakeries in town, there are about five tables where one can eat their pastry and drink their coffee, providing a nice and cozy atmosphere.

The Main Street Bakery is the owner's first business venture. However, it seems to already be a hit in Port Washington. With the combination of superb pastries, excellent service, and authentic décor, the Main Street Bakery is deserving of five stars, and is a wonderful addition to the community.



Stephen Nash

The Main Street Bakery features a wide variety of homemade goods which include cake, muffins, and éclairs.



## Schreiber gets fit *Continued from page 11*

because too much muscle mass will slow down their bone growth."

"If you do too much too fast, you can injure a joint and then you won't be able to [workout] at all," said Ms. Klotz. "If kids are still growing, they can really hurt themselves." The maximum time a teenager should work-out is one hour and a half. "You can only work out every day if you do different muscle groups and focus on different areas. Mix it up. You have to go with a program and stay with it."

If weight-lifting and working out are done correctly though, they can be very beneficial. "When you lift weights it creates more muscle-mass and tones muscles. Toned muscles increase metabolism, which is good because it makes you burn more calories," said Ms. Klotz. Burning calories through exercise causes the body to naturally burn fat, which is a healthy way to lose weight.

### Diet Pills: healthy or unhealthy?

Diet pills can be bought over-the-counter in any convenience store, enabling students to have easy access to them. A study conducted by the University of Minnesota's "Project EAT" found that over the past few years, high school girls' use of diet pills has nearly doubled. This may be due to an increase in the number of advertisements in the media for diet pills.

Many teenagers rely on diet pills as a way to lose weight. However high school students are unaware that diet pills are in fact very unhealthy and also addicting. "Diet pills are really, really bad," said Ms. Ezratty. "They put extra stress on your liver. They also stress your adrenal glands and your kidney."

Very often girls will start taking diet pills to lose a few pounds, but then become fully addicted. Negative side effects of diet pills include heart complications, high blood pressure, or even death. When taking the pills, however, most teenagers are unaware of their consequences and effects.

"Diet pills get the water out of you; it's all water weight," said Ms. Joannon. While diet pills might help someone lose weight for the moment, once that person is off the pills, they will gain the weight back anyway.

### Schreiber's Policies

In September, Schreiber's food services contract went to a new vendor. The number of lunch choices available to students increased, along with the number of entrees that were sold as part of the lunch plan. One of the provisions in the contract was to improve the vending choices. The vending machines were nutritionally revamped with options such as Pirate's Booty and dried fruit slices. As was the policy last year, the soda machines in the cafeteria are not turned on until fifth period to limit students' soda intake.

It is important to be comfortable with your body and aware of your health.

"Seniors have gotten used to the fact that whatever it is their [bodies are] gonna be, they're gonna be," said Ms. Ezratty. "There's always going to be that kid who is obsessive about their weight, and a lot of kids should be aware of their weight because of their genetics."

Still, it is important to eat a balanced diet, be wary of diet pills, refrain from replacing meals with nutrition bars, and not be too obsessed with exercise and dieting.

# arts & Entertainment

## I am Iron Man—and my movie rocks

BY Nick Pray

Staff Writer

### SPOILER ALERT

Since his last starring role in 2005's *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, Robert Downey Jr.'s magic as an actor is back in the role he was born to play: Iron Man. Iron Man, a.k.a. Tony Stark, billionaire weapons designer and playboy, is just a regular guy who races his brand new Audi R8, build and sells weapons to the military and enjoys the company of a few beautiful models, every night.

*Iron Man* blasted onto the screen with the brilliant direction of actor turned writer/director Jon Favreau. The team of Robert Downey Jr. and Jon Favreau team up and created the best Marvel super-hero adaptation of all time. Full of great action, funny dialogue, terrific CGI and some great performances from all the cast members which also include Jeff Bridges, Gweneth Paltrow and Terrence Howard.

*Iron Man* kicks off with a scene in the desert, Tony Stark is riding in the back of a hummer with some troops after a test of his new super weapon, the Jericho Missile, when suddenly, an explosion in the front of the convoy renders him unconscious. Suddenly, the scene cuts to black.

Three weeks earlier we end up at a party honoring Tony for his brilliant achievements: rising from the shadow of his father and making Stark Industries the top weapons manufacturer in the world. Almost as immediately as we are introduced to the fast talking, smart and funny antics of Downey's character Tony Stark, we are also introduced to his Co-CEO and the main villain of the story, Obadiah Shade (Bridges), Stark's beautiful assistant, Pepper Potts (Paltrow), and Tony's best friend and Military consultant to Stark Industries, Jim Rhodes (Howard).

All of them fit the personality of their characters perfectly, especially Bridges who for the first time reveals the very dark and evil talent that he possesses in playing a bad guy. Each character plays off the other so well it's as if we are watching the actual lives of the characters and the true documentary of Iron Man. As for Downey Jr., he and Stark seem to have lived eerily similar lives. From early fame, to troubles with drug and alcohol addiction, after a few years out of the spotlight, both returned with a blast. After the terrific performance in *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, Downey was back with a bang; and

now after his portrayal as Tony Stark, Downey's fame, talent and respect as an actor has grown to its full potential, and will be admired for years to come for his perfection as Tony Stark and the great Iron Man.

As the story unfolds, *Iron Man* makes its way through the workings of Stark Industries, Stark's hilarious shenanigans and the beginning of the action ahead. On a business trip to Afghanistan, Stark is captured by terrorists who seek to get some of his inventions for their own use. During the explosion that enabled him to be captured, shrapnel got shot into his body, and to make sure that the pieces of metal never reach his heart, he creates a force field made from materials that only exist in comic books to create a life-saving device.

After seeing that his missiles are getting into the wrong hands and being used to kill the innocent, Stark, with the supplies the terrorists have given him, decides to built an iron suit built for destruction. When the suit is finally unveiled, it is very impressive for being built in a cave in three months. Stark uses the last of the force field's energy to blast his way out of the canyon and escape into the open desert. The terrific effects are mind-blowing and the first glimpse of Iron Man's capabilities are seen, and boy are they awesome.

Back in America, Stark's first order of business is to eat a cheeseburger, followed quickly with an announcement that his company will no longer make weapons, but instead build machines that will protect the innocent. Obadiah Shade becomes outraged, and the first glimpse of his evil is seen.

From there Tony begins production on the second class of the iron suit, going through many changes, Iron Man begins to take form into the suit we all know and love. Tony's first test goes well with help from some very funny robots that work with him to make the suit the best that it can be.

On the other side of town, Obadiah Shade is revealed to be the one selling the weapons to the enemy, but he is no longer interested in missiles, but instead acquiring the plans of the original Iron Man to create a suit of his own, to defeat Stark. Pepper Potts and Jim Rhodes sneak about to try and see what he is up to, but they get only glimpses of something big happening in Tony's workshop.

Finally, Iron Man is ready, the gold and fire engine red battle suit is complete, and after Tony watches a news

story following the events in the Middle East and seeing that the terrorists have acquired a super missile and are terrorizing small villages, it's finally time to see what his new baby can do. He blasts off into the atmosphere at full force, making it from an awesome house in Malibu to the Middle East in seconds.

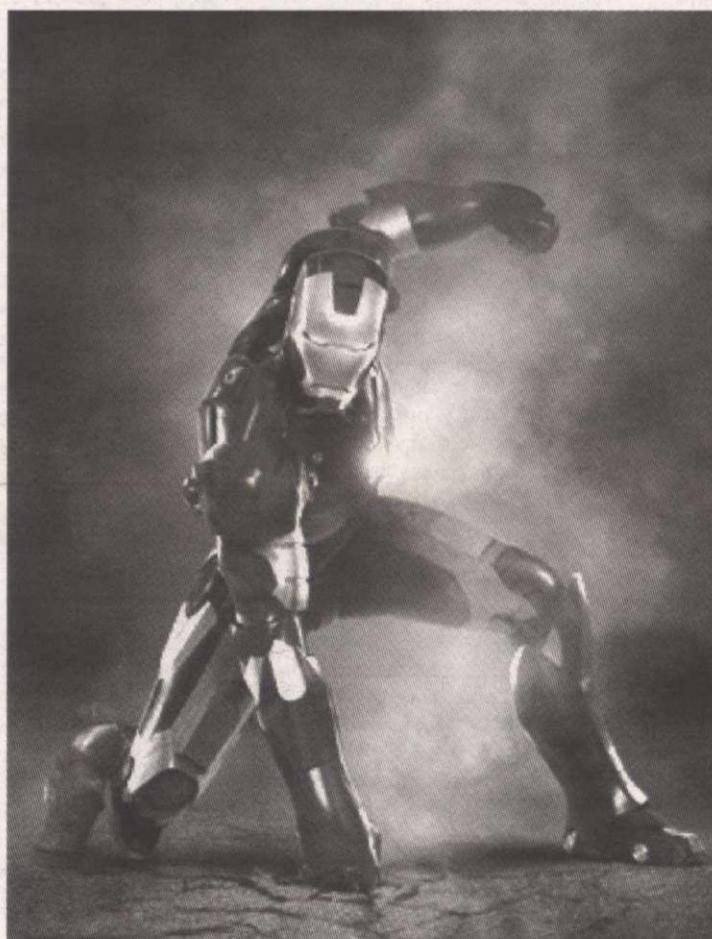
The same terrorists have prisoners, they have gunned down men of the villages, and as a boy is ripped away from his father to join the other men who are facing firing squad, the terrorist get something they were not expecting, Iron Man.

The epic camera shot rising from the suits boots all the way around the suit revealing all the detailed workings of the suit is simply incredible visuals and as it rises to the awesome helmet, the only world that comes to mind is "WOW."

Jaws drop on the terrorists, and Iron Man gets into action. Firing energy blasts, shooting rockets, stun darts, punching and bashing the terrorists left and right and destroying a tank with a rocket.

As the tank explodes turns around and walks towards the camera like the epic man of cool that he is. The scene is one of the best action scenes in the film and possible one that will go down in action film history.

The film ends with the destruction of a friendship as Obadiah and Stark become enemies, and after Obadiah nearly kills Stark, it is time for the final showdown between the Iron Monger and Iron Man. A terrific action sequence that takes it up a notch for superhero films involves destroying parts of a Los Angeles highway that you will have to



Iron Man (Robert Downey, Jr.) is a surprisingly intriguing superhero despite his non-human exterior.

see to believe. After the battle, a press conference is held to cover up the battle between Stark and Obadiah Shade, but Stark with his witty humor and addiction to the spotlight reveals that he is indeed Iron Man.

With great direction from Jon Favreau, brilliant CGI from the team that brought us other great films like the *Star Wars* saga, *Jurassic Park*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Iron Man* is a pleasure. Terrific casting enabled all the characters to become real to the audience. The length of the film as well as the action is just perfect for a great summer film that everyone can enjoy. The action is awesome, the visuals are stunning and overall it is the best superhero adaptation ever. *Spider-man* and *The Incredible Hulk* are in a run for their money. Robert Downey, Jr. blows away the competition with both his performance and with the portrayal as the best superhero put on the screen, except maybe Christian Bale in this summer's *The Dark Knight*, but that's for another issue. Enjoy the awesome power of the best summer movie so far; strap in and try to keep up to *Iron Man*.

# Crazy for You has the makings of a Schreiber classic

BY Melissa Quigley

A&E Editor

This spring the bi-annual musical was truly phenomenal. The production of *Crazy for You* was written by Ken Ludwig, with lyrics by Ira Gershwin, and music by George Gershwin. Whether it was because the script was so well written, the marvelous direction of Cam Gelb, or that the performers were so talented, this musical was one of the best musicals ever performed on the Schreiber stage.

The play begins in the early 1930's at the Zangler Theatre in New York City. On this particular night, it is the last performance at the Zangler Theatre because it is the end of the season. The theatre is owned by the married Mr. Bela Zangler (Jeremy Geller), who is constantly making a pass at the Dance Director, Tess (Skyler Volpe). The Follies Girls are Zangler's superstar dancers. They include Patsy, Mitzi, Elaine, Louise, Susie, and Betsey (Sarah Sidford, Heather Foye, Chelsea Morano, Cory Morano, Molly Ronis, Bridgette McDermott).

As this season is winding down, Bobby Child (Jonathan Schechner), is hoping to get an audition with Bela Zangler. At this audition he performs "Crazy for You," but does not impress Zangler, instead stepping on Zangler's toe.

When Zangler throws Bobby Child outside, he runs into his mother and his fiancée of five years. Bobby Child is the son of a very wealthy banking

family, and his mother, Lottie Child, (Sidny Ginsberg) highly disapproves of his theatrical ambitions. Also, she strongly disapproves of Irene Roth (Kate Hughes), said fiancée. Mrs. Child desperately wants Bobby to fill his role in the family banking business; however her pleas are not successful thus far.

After pleading with him, Lottie finally demands that Bobby go to Deadrock, Nevada to foreclose on a rundown theatre. While the audience watches Lottie and Irene silently fight with each other, Bobby dances and imagines dancing with Zangler's Follies Girls. Bobby agrees to go to Nevada as an escape from his mother and fiancée.

In the opening scene at Deadrock, it is clear that the coal-mining town is dead. The scene opens with all the "lone rangers" sitting at the saloon singing "Bidin' My Time." The talented cowboys are Moose, Harry, Pete, and Jimmy (Pablo Funes, Tommy Doyle, Andy Lieberman, and Conor Hughes). Everett Baker (Liam Higgins) received a letter from Child's bank informing him that his Gaiety Theatre was to be foreclosed on. As if nothing else could make this town more depressed, the only woman is Polly Baker (Caroline Pickering), Everett Baker's daughter. Polly vows to beat up Bobby Child if she were to ever meet him.

Bobby then comes on to the scene, not disclosing his identity. He instantaneously falls in love with Polly, who has not made her identity clear either. Lank Hawkins (Mark Labadorf), the owner of Deadrocks Saloon and determined want-to-be lover



Everett Baker (freshman Liam Higgins, right) shares stories of his old theatre with the faux Bela Zangler (sophomore Jonathan Schechner).

of Polly Baker, is not happy with Bobby's arrival.

Once Bobby learns who Polly is he faces a huge dilemma. If he forecloses on the bank he will lose all chance of gaining Polly's affections, and if he does not he risks his mother's wrath.

In order to make everyone happy he decides to put on a show at the Gaiety Theatre. Everyone agrees until Polly finds out Bobby is the banker trying to ruin her father's theatre. So, in order to fix this, Bobby manages to contact Tess and have her bring the Follies Girl to Deadrock.

"The musical was really done so well, it was so enjoyable to watch, and I wish they were all like this," commented junior Carly Weiss.

Meanwhile he poses as Mr. Zangler, and Polly begins to fall in love with him. The men of Deadrock are thrilled to see the girls, but Bobby is not so thrilled to see Irene who tags along, and threatens to expose him to everyone. With the arrival of all the new faces, Deadrock, Nevada starts to become the hot new epicenter.

On the opening night of Bobby's show it turns out to be a flop, and the only people to arrive were Eugene Fordor (Molly Fried) and Patricia Fordor (Nicole LaLena), who did not come for the show. The two are British tourists who are writing a guidebook on the wild American West. The two make a peppy energetic duo who worked perfectly in sync together. After the crew is celebrating the show, the real Mr. Zangler stumbles into Deadrock.

The second act opened at the Deadrock Saloon where Bobby is confessing his love to Polly. At this point Polly is still in love with whom she believes to be Bela Zangler. Bobby is about to confess everything to Polly when the real Zangler stumbles into the saloon in search of Tess.

When the real Zangler finds Tess, she requests that he produce the show. When he refuses, she storms off. Zangler, drunk, encounters Bobby (still dressed as Zangler) and the men mirror each other in the bar. It was truly incredible to watch Geller and Schechner perform together. They make a very entertaining duo. All the while the very talented Kate Hughes,

playing Irene, seduces the saloon owner Lank Hawkins.

The next morning Polly sees both men, and realizes what happened. She then slaps Bobby and storms off. The town gets together to discuss what they are going to do, and the Fordors try to cheer them up with the song "Stiff Upper Lip," which if you are very Broadway savvy you will realize is a parody of the barricade scene from the classic show *Les Miserables*. By the end, only Polly, Everett, Bobby, and Tess think the show should continue.

Bobby leaves for New York, and swears that he will never stop loving Polly, and Polly then realizes (too late) that she loves Bobby as well. Bela's affections for Tess are extremely strong and he then agrees to produce the show to gain her affections.

Some time later, Bobby is still lamenting the failure of the theatre in Deadrock. For his upcoming birthday, his mother gives the Zangler Theatre to Bobby, seeing as the bank foreclosed on it after Zangler spent all of his money on the show in Deadrock.

Bobby realizes that he loves Polly more than he thought, and he goes back to Deadrock to find her. Lottie Child, enraged, pursues Bobby. Polly then leaves for New York to see Bobby. As soon as she leaves Bobby arrives at Deadrock, who is then rushed back to New York.

Irene (who has married Lank) notices Lottie, and of course they start an argument. Everett Baker sees Lottie, and for him it is love at first sight. Polly and Bobby are reunited in the final scene.

The dance choreography was really phenomenal and some scenes were very innovative, like when the cowboys used the girls as basses. The choreography was directed by Skyler Volpe and Sarah Sidford. However, some of the scenes were hard to watch because of the large cast all dancing at once, although individually, everyone looked really good.

This was the most spectacular show that has been performed at Schreiber, and the chemistry between the cast was extremely natural. *Crazy for You* was very well done, and everything was executed perfectly.

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# Move aside theatre club, newspaper has the real drama

BY Christina Vlahos

Assistant A&E Editor

Forget about the theatre club, everyone knows the most drama is found in the newspaper club. That is, everyone at Cypress Bay High School does. On Apr. 14, MTV launched its new hit reality television show, *The Paper*, which takes place at Cypress Bay High School. The school, located in Florida, is the largest public high school in the country, and journalism is taken very seriously there, even warranting its own class. The school paper, around which the show revolves, is entitled *The Circuit*.

The first episode of *The Paper* begins with copy editor/future editor-in-chief

Amanda. "Journalists are the most important part of the world," said Amanda, and insisting, "Really. It's true." The race for the position of editor-in-chief is underway at *The Circuit*, and emotions are running high. Amanda's competition includes fellow staff members Alex, a sports editor, Adam, the business manager, and Giana, the clubs editor. As the first episode progresses, it is evident that the newspaper is very cliquy, with Amanda and her friend Cassia (the Arts and Entertainment editor) often being isolated and excluded from the group's social activities. While much of *The Circuit* staff goes out and parties at people's houses, Amanda sits at home diligently working on her application.

It is also evident that Amanda's "friends" are back-stabbing, ruthless, and hurtful people. They are generally very duplicitous. Amanda, on the other hand, does not have the greatest personality either, but she is not aggravating enough to deserve her peers' harsh criticisms. Amanda's competition plans to "impeach" her, disregard her authority and completely ignore her orders before the decision is even announced. They call and harass her, and viewers cannot help but feel pity for her. Ultimately Amanda earns the position of editor-in-chief, much to the dismay of her classmates. Amanda is elated and decides not to let her fellow staff members bring her down.

As the next few episodes progress, the tension heightens among the staff members of *The Circuit* and thus far the people that were beaten by Amanda for the position of editor-in-chief are not dealing with rejection very well. They seem to take every opportunity provided to display their contempt for her authority. While the whole power-struggle conflict is somewhat interesting, *The Paper* really consists of immature teenagers assaulting each other verbally and passive-aggressively, behind their backs and their computers, while editing pages and articles.

The main characters involved are Amanda,

Alex, Giana, Adam, Trevor, Cassia, and Dan. Amanda is the new, somewhat passive editor-in-chief who is eager to please. Alex, now managing editor is second-in-command and confused about where his loyalties lie since he has been friends with Amanda, but is more ambitious than he is concerned about other people's feelings. Giana, the news editor, is an arrogant, malicious girl who is in serious need of some make-up remover, a sweater that provides full coverage, and some self respect. Trevor is her boyfriend who doesn't seem to do anything on the newspaper despite his position of layout editor. Adam is the over-dramatic, *High School Musical*-obsessed business manager who is overall loud and obnoxious.

Cassia's personality is very dynamic and it seemingly changes every episode while she fills her responsibilities as entertainment editor. One episode she is making fun of Amanda, the next she is wallowing at home with Amanda about how they are excluded from everyone's plans. Dan is a staff writer who is Alex's friend, and he provides sarcastic commentary throughout the show.

*The Paper* is not a show you want to watch if you are looking to learn about journalism and the process of publishing a high school newspaper. Rarely will you be exposed to the actual practices of journalism. It is really not all that different from any other reality show except the setting happens to be a high school journalism class. The same amount of gossip, partying, and drama is present on *The Paper* as it is on other MTV reality shows. If you are interested, it is aired every Monday night at 10:30 p.m. on MTV, and episodes are available online the next day.



www.mtv.com

The staff of *The Circuit* gathers around their advisor and discusses possible article ideas for the upcoming issue and on MTV's new reality television show, *The Paper*.

# Comedy plays a new, significant role in the primaries this year

BY Alex Hohausser

Staff Writer

The most influential people in this election news cycle may not be on network television. They may not even be on Capitol Hill. Instead, they report from Comedy Central, late at night, on what many presume to be joke shows.

*The Daily Show* began in 1996 as a traditional joke news show, and rose to prominence after Jon Stewart became the host in 1999. Under the new format, Stewart expanded the political content of the show. Thus, a new era in presidential politics was born. The 2000 campaign was named "Indecision 2000," and while the show's influence was not particularly widespread in its early years, their correspondents to the National Conventions of each party gained considerable success. By 2004, the show had gained considerable fame, and "Indecision 2004" was as equally lauded as its predecessor.

However, by this presidential election, the influence wielded by *The Daily Show* is considerably more widespread. It has expanded to other politically-themed television programs on Comedy Central, *The Colbert Report* and *Lil' Bush*. Stephen Colbert's book, *I Am America, and So Can You!* has been a bestseller for months. In fact, during the writers' strike earlier in the year, many thought that the primary season was an inopportune time for *The Daily Show* and *Colbert Report* to

be disadvantaged. The more traditional news programs found on MSNBC or FOX continued during the strike, presumably because they are programs less focused on the writers. It seemed that traditional media would be on the rise again, and these comedy shows could be a mere passing fad.

Time has shown us that this is not the case. Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert are bound to have some influence on voters during this election. John McCain pops in on *The Daily Show* regularly, and host Stewart often refers to him as his "friend." Candidates are often criticized as being "scared" if they refuse to appear on either program, such as Barack Obama when his rival for the Democratic nomination, Hillary Clinton, appeared on *Colbert* before the Pennsylvania primary. Clinton had her own motivations for her appearance—the youth vote tends to heavily favor Obama in magnitude, and she was hoping to influence voters by showing her "fun" side before the important primary. Obama refused to be outdone, and appeared on the show via satellite.

Stewart and Colbert have tapped into something that many news anchors have been scratching their head about for years—the youth viewer, or voter. Many teens aren't watching *Countdown* with Keith Olbermann on MSNBC, or *The O'Reilly Factor* on FOX News. Both of these shows are opinion-focused and have their humorous moments, but are not quite as biting or comical as their late-night counterparts. Though

Colbert's persona is supposed to be a staunch Republican, many see it for the farce it is—both shows lean heavily Democratic, and make no apologies of it. Trends in the youth vote reveal the same thing, which begs for the question—who is influencing whom? Are these leftist shows another form of propaganda

to win over the young, or is it simply giving the people what they want? The intended audience is clear.

Stewart and Colbert are often given credit where credit is due. They have basically made politics trendy again. Both have featured a variety of staff members from each campaign on the show, and are surprisingly balanced in their critiques of each campaign—there is little bias here. Everyone is mocked equally.

The same cannot always be said of major news programs. Candidate interviews on *Meet the Press* or other



www.huffingtonpost.com

TV personality Jon Stewart discusses the campaign of Democratic candidate Barack Obama on Comedy Central's late-night hit show, *The Daily Show*.

Sunday talk shows are still a major media event for any candidate, but in this new age, so is appearing on *The Daily Show* or *The Colbert Report*. As important as it is to campaign traditionally, it is also important for candidates to appeal to teenagers.

Stewart and Colbert will continue to wield influence on the ongoing primary elections. Viewers will continue to follow Stewart and Colbert's shows through the ultimate presidential election. In addition, the pattern appears that they might retain this position for many years and for future elections.

# Music Box

## Off to good start with first concert

BY Ryan Larkin

Staff Writer

With its elegant opening, smooth transitions, and explosive ending, Spring Concert I left its audience clapping long after the music had ended. Though probably not unexpected, the program's success was certainly savored by the performers, who have been working hard for the majority of the year to perfect the pieces.

"They stepped up to the plate very beautifully for this one," said orchestra director Mr. Anthony Pinelli. Presentation, performance, and dedication; all were rewarded with fervent applause, at the May 7 concert.

Spring Concert I began with Schreiber's orchestra, led by Mr. Pinelli. Many people in the audience were particularly interested in the orchestra's performance because of their recent recognition from an overseas trip to London.

The talented orchestra made the evening enjoyable for all the people there. Everyone was really impressed with the cohesive brilliant sound. The orchestra's presentation of various works by Tchaikovsky, particularly his piece *Elegie*, served as a major topic of discussion after the concert had ended. It was called "tasteful" and "elegant" by concert band director Mr. Mark Brenner.

To leave an even greater impression, the orchestra then proceeded to a piece called *Finale (The Dargason)*. A movement of an entirely different

nature, *Finale* served as an additional surprise for the already-stunned audience; the piece literally served as the orchestra's "grand finale."

"The concert went very well for us this year," said Mr. Pinelli. "The students showed a true understanding of what is needed to make a performance great. It was clear to anyone there, that the whole evening was a wonderful success. We can't wait until the next performance."

Spring Concert I continued with Schreiber's choir, led by the energetic Mr. Philip Glover. The choir's performance was considered to be a good medium between the very different styles of the orchestra and band. Though the pieces it presented were strikingly different in nature, ranging from religious-themed numbers such as *Hallelujah* and *Amen, to Stomp Your Foot* (from *The Tender Hand*). The choir's performance was far from choppy; many audience members actually praised it for its smoothness.

"Our harmonization and playing were both even and good," said junior Eleah Burman. "Overall, I think it went well." These characteristics, key aspects of the choir's excellence during the concert, were surprisingly not the results of obsessive practicing but merely simple devotion to the program. "Choir is fun," said senior Mara Hollander. "It's a nice way to start the day and is a program worth the effort. We were all really impressed with how it went. It was so great to see how much everyone really enjoyed all of our hard work."

Spring Concert I concluded with

Schreiber's concert band, led by Mr. Brenner. There is likely a debate within the music department over whether this performance was the grand finale of the concert itself. It was certainly a performance worthy of the name. With a selection of various energetic and explosive pieces such as *The Screamer March* and *Circus Franticus*, the concert band concluded the program on a very enthusiastic and powerful note.

Both Mr. Pinelli and Mr. Brenner described the performance as spectacular. The band members themselves, however, attributed their success mainly to their final piece *In the Spring - At the Time When the King Goes Off to War*, identified by senior Colin Kerr as "the toughest piece the band has ever performed." *In the Spring* served as a representation and result of the students' devotion to the program.

"That they performed so well shows that each student is growing as a person," said Mr. Brenner. "I have tremendously high regard for each of them, and look forward to seeing their continued growth next year."

Overall, Spring Concert I was a remarkable success. Each division of the music department contributed a certain element that made for a lively yet sophisticated performance. The students in question are to be praised for their devotion to music and the concert itself, the key component of the evening's excellence. The music department and student body are very proud of all who participated, and eagerly await their performance next year.

## The Roots: Rising Down



BY Myles Potters

Sports Editor

The Roots eighth studio album, *Rising Down*, is a calculated commentary on the current political situation, the music industry, and the world as a whole. The album does not sound dark, yet the lyrics portray a dismal picture that is eerily accurate.

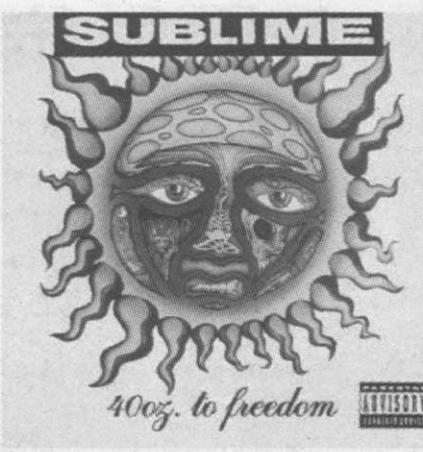
The album opens with "Pow Wow," a one minute phone conversation that is charged with anger, indicative of the current monetary situation and desperation that is so pervasive in poor communities. The conversation fades into static and explodes into "Rising Down," where guest rappers Mos Def and Styles P interject their political views into the song. The hook, "hello, hello, hello..." begs the question: "is anybody listening?"

Indeed, the long list of featured rappers are able to trace hip-hop from the street to the studio level. In "@ 15," Black Thought raps over silence and it is a track that he recorded by himself with a mic and no studio mastering. It is a unique poem with no hook or backing track, and is starkly different from any popular rap music. In "Rising Up," Black Thought returns to this criticism of popular rap music by offering his thoughts on its demise. "Yesterday I saw a B-girl crying; I walked up and asked what's wrong / She told me that the radio's been playing the same song all day long." This harsh critique points to the fact that many modern rap artists use identical hooks and voice-over effects in their music. It is a clear backlash against popular music that is becoming more and more homogeneous.

As in previous Roots albums, drummer Questlove brings the many vibrant sounds of rap, rock, jazz, soul, and electronic fuzz together with his simple, effective beats. He does with his acoustic drumset what many producers yearn to do with electronic drum machines and samples. His effusive beats ultimately get heads nodding and adds a very authentic and raw sound to the album.

In some ways, this album pays homage to the earliest form of rap, which was poetry. In other ways, it pays homage to the early days of the Roots in the early 90's, when they had smoother, jazzier beats. Bottom line, this album is raw and angry, but still showcases Questlove's talent and affinity for the acoustic drumset while allowing the pointed verses to drive their deep message home.

## Classic Album: Sublime: 40 Oz. to Freedom



BY Andy Werle

Senior A&E Editor

Often compared to Nirvana in terms of their influence on a single genre, Sublime had the potential to be at the forefront of a large reggae/ska movement if not for the untimely death of lead singer and guitarist Brad Nowell in 1996. At first merely a popular club and party band in southern California in the early nineties, the band finally broke through with their 1996 self-titled album that included the hits "Santeria" and "What I Got." However, many fans feel that their first album, originally sold only at live shows, *40 Oz. to Freedom*, contains the best mix of reggae, hip-hop, and punk.

The beauty of *40 Oz. to Freedom* is in the short songs full of charisma, emotion, and infectious grooves.

The laid-back feel and production of the songs are the key to Sublime's popularity, but they can also impress with quirky and amusing lyrics, such as in the smash hit "Date Rape." The album also showcases how the band can take covers of both classic and unknown artists and turn them into original and unique tracks.

"Scarlet Begonias," originally recorded by the Grateful Dead in 1974, is backed by a drum beat sampled from the James Brown song "Funky Drummer." It's one of the catchiest and funkier songs on the album, with Eric Wilson's bass standing out prominently. One of the most well-known Sublime songs, "Smoke Two Joints," is also a cover, having first been recorded by the T-1000s in the early '80s. This oft-quoted song has some of the most famous Sublime lines, especially the first verse. There are four other covers on the album from both famous bands (Bad Religion, the Toots and the Maytals) and more underground bands (The Melodians, the Descendents).

What separates Sublime from other relaxed reggae/rock band is their soul. Their songs reveal that Brad Nowell, the guitarist and lead vocalist, has some pretty interesting things to say. While there are some songs about the joys of being a punk, others, such as the title track, describe relationships gone bad in a unique and funky way.

Another hit from the album is "Badfish," which spins a tale of

depression and weakness despite the grooving bass and perfectly written guitar parts. The lyrics are full of metaphors and glorious lines such as "I dive deep when it's ten feet overhead/ Grab the reef underneath my bed."

Despite the ingenuity of all of the songs, my favorite has the least creative title: "New Song." The quick-fire lyrics are urgent and passionate, while Wilson's bass is just incredible. It could be one of the most aggressively funky basslines of all time.

Nowell, Wilson, and drummer Bud Gaugh are highly proficient musicians, a significant difference with Nirvana. Kurt Cobain, while famed for his simplistic and average guitar playing, was a hero to the band, especially Nowell, who rationalized his heroin use due to Cobain's own habit. Nowell's guitar playing is in fact very satisfying. Both his reggae up-beat skanking and his hardcore punk sounds are well-executed, and his solos reveal both his melodic sense and technical talent.

The only problem with Sublime is not their fault in any way. Because of their fame, many people style themselves as fans, without fully appreciating what Sublime is saying or branching out and enjoying more bands of the genre. While this is unfortunate, there are few things that are more enjoyable than playing some Sublime on a beautiful summer day as the soundtrack to a game of frisbee.

# Athletes of the Month

## Meghan Byrnes

BY Blake & Reid Mergler

Staff Writers

Sophomore Meghan Byrnes is a year round athlete, participating in three seasons every year.

During her freshman year, she played soccer and was a member of both the girls winter and spring track teams.

This year, however, she participated in cross country instead of soccer and enjoyed her second year on the winter track team.

She is currently participating in girls spring track and field, focusing on middle and long distance.

During her first season on cross country this fall, she was awarded the Most Improved Player award with a time of 21 minutes and 48.6 seconds in the 5K at Bethpage State Park.

She also received the Coach's Award at the end of the Winter Track season, which is given to athletes that show exemplary work throughout the course of the season.

Throughout the current season of spring track, she has been the leader of middle distance, making sure each team member is participating and running during practices.

She always has the motivation to run and will never let anyone on the team, including herself, slack off.

Junior Jessica Sloan, a middle distance runner on the team, appreciates having Meghan as her squad leader on the track team.

"Meghan is constantly helping everyone on the team to become stronger," said Sloan. "She is a motivational member of the track team and pushes me

to do better."

Byrnes participates in most events and excels in each area. On the 400 meter run, her personal record is 64.2 seconds and on the 800, she ran 2 minutes and 34 seconds.

Byrnes has also participated in hurdle races and the steeplechase.

Because of her improved times, she has qualified for the Nassau County Championships.

Coach Virginia McMahon, a first grade teacher at Guggenheim, believes that Byrnes has a strong dedication to the girls' track team.

"Meghan is always willing to run any race at any meet," said McMahon. "She is a delight to have as a member of the team, totally committing herself to the sport."

Byrnes will continue to excel at track and cross country for the rest of her high school career.

She is setting high standards by aspiring to be as fast as some of the top runners in her age class.



Megan was awarded the Coach's Award for outstanding performance.

BY Max Mancher

Staff Writer

Senior Kevin Stross is now playing his fourth year of varsity volleyball, and he has had a great high school career.

When he started out as a freshman on the varsity team his playing time was limited, but he kept playing and working hard, which has led him to become one of the main leaders of this year's team.

"He is a very dedicated and a highly skilled athlete. He's also a great team player," said the team's coach, Ms. Maria Giamanco.

Stross has been an offensive threat for the past three years.

He is one of the key reasons to the teams success during this season.

His height, combined with his athleticism, are an asset to the volleyball team that will be sorely missed next year.

Similarly, his bond with middleman Chris Ryder has resulted in a dynamic duo at the net.

The two "middles" have become a dominating force in volleyball games, often ending rallies with decisive spikes that can turn the tide of a match, and the crowd.

The team has but one loss this season and is looking forward to the playoffs where all the team leaders, including Stross, will have to step up.

In addition to playing on the varsity team for four years and being an integral component to the team, Stross also was an all-county honorable mention last year.

On May 6, Stross showed his importance to the team when they

defeated Syosset in five games.

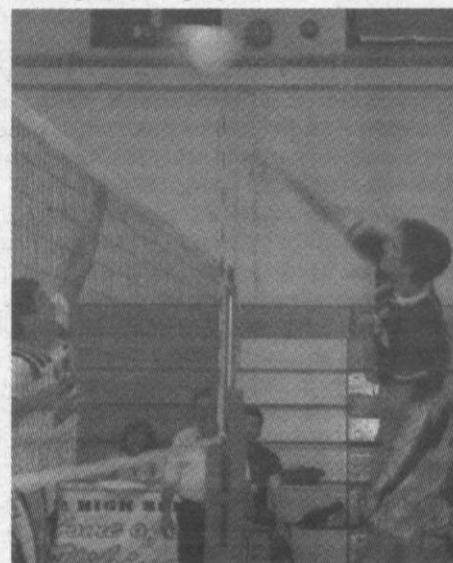
In those games, Stross tallied eleven kills and eight blocks.

Because the team practices every day after school, Stross, as well as all of the players, have been able to improve their skills to put them at a very competitive level.

"The honorable mention for counties was very unexpected for me, but I've been working hard for my whole high school career and I guess it has paid off," said Stross.

Stross is a hard working player who will continue to improve as he becomes more experienced.

With his skill level and leadership, he hopes to play an integral role on the team throughout the playoffs.



Gab Balaban

Stross has played with the varsity team for four years and earned an all county honorable mention last season.

# Varsity tennis defeated in first round of playoffs

BY Harrison Remler

Business Manager

As the spring sports season continues to wind down to its final weeks, the varsity tennis team once again flew "under the radar."

"Even though we are overlooked by many in the community, we have compiled back to back playoff appearances," said coach Mr. Peter Travis.

On May 13, the team's season was put to an end by the Long Beach squad. The Vikings entered the first round of the Nassau County playoffs as the fourth and final seed.

"To say the least, it was a tough end to a great season," said sophomore doubles player Ben Spivack.

The Vikings lost all three singles matches as Long Beach's Bogard brother tandem beat Port's second and third singles players.

"Going into the match, the team was a bit nervous knowing that our number one singles player, Jason Hubsher, would not be competing," said Spivack.

Hubsher, who is arguably the Vikings' finest underclassman, played as Port's first singles player this entire past season.

Only a freshman, he did not attend Port's playoff match due to an academic conflict.

Even though the team lost in the first round, many considered it to be a great season.

Port battled against some of Nassau County's powerhouses, beating Plainview JFK and South Side, a surprising team this year that seemingly came out of nowhere.

On May 6, Brian Kallenberg was victorious over Manhasset's sophomore Kyle Sutter in a three set duel. In the first set, Sutter defeated Kallenberg handily, 6-1. In the end, Kallenberg returned fire, coming back strong in the final two sets. He defeated Sutter 6-4, 6-2 to close the match.

The team was led by two experienced seniors, Matt Odell and Josh Cohen, who have both been on the varsity squad since they were in eighth grade.

Individually, John Cohen and Matt Odell are currently in the second round of the county doubles tournament, held in Oceanside.

The two seniors will battle against the best doubles teams in the county, many of whom they have already faced.

In Coach Travis's fourth year, he has established Port tennis as one of the school's finest programs.

Senior Matt Odell agrees and believes it is time for the team to be recognized by the community.

"Due to a lack of funding in the

budget, we struggle to have practice time when the junior varsity has a match," said Odell. "Despite these obstacles, we always seem to come together and get the job done."

Odell also credits Coach Travis to the team's success.

"Travis relates to us very well, and I could not imagine the team without him," said Odell.

The team will look to move forward from this year's first round exit as they return many starters for the 2009 season.

These players include juniors Karan Gupta, Matt Grainer, Bryan Kallenberg, Jonny Marks, Dan Schure, Adam Vojdany, Bradley and Daniel Wisselman.

In addition to the juniors who will remain on the team, sophomores Matt Kallenberg, Luke Record, Shaan Shivdasani and Ben Spivack will also look to keep up the standards of Port tennis.

The team will also obviously replace the graduating seniors with other members to help the team improve its record. As in most years, the junior varsity team holds much young talent.

"We should be back to the playoffs next year and our goal is to move up into the division above us, where it will be more competitive," said Spivack.

## Date Opponent Score

Date	Opponent	Score
5/13	Long Beach	L 5-2
5/6	Manhasset	W 6-1
5/5	@ Friends Academy	L 5-2
5/2	@ Garden City	W 7-0
4/30	@ South Side	W 5-2
4/18	@ Plainview JFK	W 6-1
4/16	@ Friends Academy	W 5-2
4/14	@ Manhasset	W 7-0
4/10	@ Garden City	W 7-0
4/7	South Side	L 4-3
4/2	Plainview JFK	L 4-3

# Vikings baseball upsets Braves; faces early exit

BY Myles Potters

Sports Editor

After a successful regular season consisting of a 16-2 record, the Vikings baseball team earned a date in the first round of the playoffs against the Syosset Braves.

Behind a stellar pitching performance by junior Jordan Epstein and timely hitting by the Vikings' offense, Port escaped with a 4-0 victory.

"In general, the coaches stressed that we could not look past Syosset, and that we had to focus on that game," said Epstein. "They did not want us getting any high hopes or ideas about upsetting them; just to focus on the game we were playing."

Epstein struck out seven batters, allowed four hits, and gave up two walks through his six-plus shutout innings of work against the Braves.

Senior Eric Ellegaard replaced Epstein after he allowed the first two batters of the seventh to reach base. Ellegaard earned the save by shutting the door on Syosset by striking out the final three batters in his one inning of relief.

Ranked number twelve in the Nassau County class AA playoffs, the Vikings were not expected to put up a strong showing against the Braves, themselves a highly regarded baseball program on Long Island.

However, behind the stellar offense of junior Andrew Weil, who went three for four with two runs batted in and

a double, the Vikings were able to persevere.

"Once we got the rally started the runs really started to come, and we had the momentum on our side," said junior Andrew Weil. "Jordan pitched a great game, and we were able to pull off the upset against Syosset."

Going into the game, nobody was looking for the Vikings to prevail over Syosset.

At the end of last season, Port graduated six seniors including an All-Conference player, so most people were looking for a season even worse than last.

However, in the off season, the conferences were overworked by the league administrators, and in the end the Vikings moved down a division.

One contingency of these new divisions, however, was that in order to qualify for the playoffs a team could lose no more than two games.

This difficult standard set by the league proves the skill that the team has.

The Vikings underwent a transformation over the course of the season and thrived in its new conference, evident by the sixteen victories.

Going into the last game of the season, the Vikings had already lost the maximum two games. Port held onto a slim 1-0 lead through most of the game which kept the entire team on edge.

Finally, the Vikings broke the game open and ended their season strongly, clinching a birth to the playoffs against a Syosset team that persevered over the

same Massapequa team in the regular season that would shut Port out in the second round of the playoffs.

"First of all, we knew coming into the game that [Massapequa pitcher Mike Mandrino] was a top candidate for the MVP award for Nassau County, and that he was going to be good," said Epstein. "We went into the game with

the attitude that we had nothing to lose; we wanted to have fun playing."

In the end, Port was shut out 13-0 by the top seeded Chiefs, who broke the game open with a ten-run first inning.

Pitcher Mike Mandrino kept a perfect game going into the fifth inning until he gave up a walk to Epstein, breaking his streak.



Gab Balaban

Junior catcher Mark Brewster waits for junior Jordan Epstein's delivery to home plate against the Syosset Braves in the first round of the playoffs. The Vikings prevailed by a score of 4-0, and earned the right to face former State Champions Massapequa Chiefs in the second round.

## JV boys tennis finishes 7-7

BY Blake Mergler

Staff Writer

Under the leadership of Coach Melissa Maringer, the junior varsity boys tennis squad recently finished its season with a 7-7 record in the first division of its conference.

The team was successful as the new freshmen easily adjusted to the team's ability level and fine-tuned their skills while the sophomores prepared for the varsity level and acted as role models to the younger players.

Coach Maringer has also been the coach for the junior varsity girls tennis team for the past two years.

"I really enjoy sharing my knowledge and love for the game of tennis with my teams," said Coach Maringer.

During each practice, the team reinforced its teamwork and skills by working on serving and volleying drills as well as playing single or double matches daily.

Sophomore captains Alex Aigen, Logan Schiff and Ian Tucker were on the squad last year.

They led the other players during warm-ups, while providing encouragement and team spirit.

"I wanted the team to improve its skills and strategies on the court as the season progressed," said Maringer on her hopes for the team. "It was very important that they were dedicated to their teammates and demonstrated good sportsmanship."

With the improvements, the players have been successful against various teams throughout the season, including Friends Academy, Cold Spring Harbor

and Roslyn, amongst others. They play each of their opponents twice throughout the season.

Freshman Sahil Doshi, the second singles player, had a 10-4 record, and earned the Coaches' Award.

The first doubles team, consisting of Schiff and Tucker, received the award as well.

"Sahil always demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and played each match to win," said Maringer. "In addition, Logan and Ian were great team members on and off the court. They were always dedicated to coming to practices and served as great role models for the freshmen."

Similarly, the third doubles team of sophomore Aigen and freshman Chris Verdi had a winning record of 10-4.

As many players of the team prepare for tennis at the varsity level in the upcoming years, their coach motivated the players to challenge themselves in all aspects of the game.

"I always wanted the players to participate in challenging matches, and take chances on the court," said Maringer. "I encouraged them throughout the season to play more aggressively and focus on fine tuning their strategies."

For the past three years, the team has had the constant record of 7-7, staying dead even at .500. Maringer, on behalf of the junior varsity team, hopes to have a different record next year.

"Hopefully, we can break the streak of our record next year by working harder and pushing the players to perform at their best potential," said Maringer.



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# Calling The Shots

## Operation eliminate the bullpen (...entirely)

*When relief pitching causes more stress than relief to the fans, change is necessary*

BY Lane Mergler

Sports Editor

When Atlanta Braves pitcher Tom Glavine earned his 300th win while on the New York Mets last year, many people were believing that he will be the last pitcher to accomplish such a feat. Media hype about it was found everywhere. However, going almost completely overshadowed in the past month was his former counterpart in the Atlanta Braves' 1-2 punch of the 90s, current San Diego Padre Greg Maddux, who earned his 350th victory against the Colorado Rockies on May 11. This win, which definitely deserved more attention, made Maddux the ninth pitcher in the game's long history to accomplish this goal.

Despite all of the pain that Maddux inflicted upon me and all other Mets fans of the mid to late 90s, I feel compelled to praise him for what he has just done. He was the last starter to play a game of baseball where his position held a more accountable role, and he will be the last name on the list of 350 win pitchers.

The reason for this is that the wins of each starter have been decreasing year by year. Four man rotations have become five man rotations; pitchers are being pulled after six innings when they could have gone seven. The game has completely evolved over the past years.

This change has been for the better, of course. However, it is not at its

complete stage of evolution yet. When the pitchers get pulled after six innings, the bullpen often seems to be too weak to carry it out. If you don't believe me, go ask New York Met Aaron Heilman why this projected 100 win team is struggling to stay at .500 and current Colorado Rockies reliever Jason Grilli why the oh-so-praised Detroit Tigers have a worse record than the Johan Santana-less Minnesota Twins or the Kansas City Royals.

The bullpen has proven to be such an integral part of nearly every game that it seems as though it is the reason why pitchers can't really win anymore. There have been numerous times in which pitchers have thrown great games but due to a complete bullpen meltdown the team ends up losing. In fact, it just happened to New York Mets pitcher Claudio Vargas in his first start of the year on May 14, courtesy of Heilman.

This is why I offer a new proposal—a revolutionary one at that too—for all pitching coaches in baseball: eliminate the prototypical bullpen. You obviously can't have five pitchers and have them all go eight or nine innings, so, obviously, it will be very difficult for there to be truly no 'bullpen,' but a massive restocking could help this 'bullpen' change.

The first step of this revamping process is to get nine starters and one traditional reliever. It may sound costly at first, but understand that you really don't need more than one ace. You then do what all managers do to their

rotations: rank each starter. Once you establish each rank partner up number one with number eight, number two with number seven, and so on. If need be, a change in the order could be done if there are other pitchers which may complement each other better and help them make up practically a pitching machine. After five innings, pull out the first starter and replace him with the pitcher he was assigned to.

Anyone that has ever seen a baseball game should understand why I suggest this. The pitcher often gives up the good majority of his runs when his arm gets tired closer to the sixth or seventh inning. Instead of dealing with the difficult to watch innings when the pitcher gets the boot with a runner on second only for the reliever to follow to seem as though he was paid off by the offense, simply eliminate the awful middlemen.

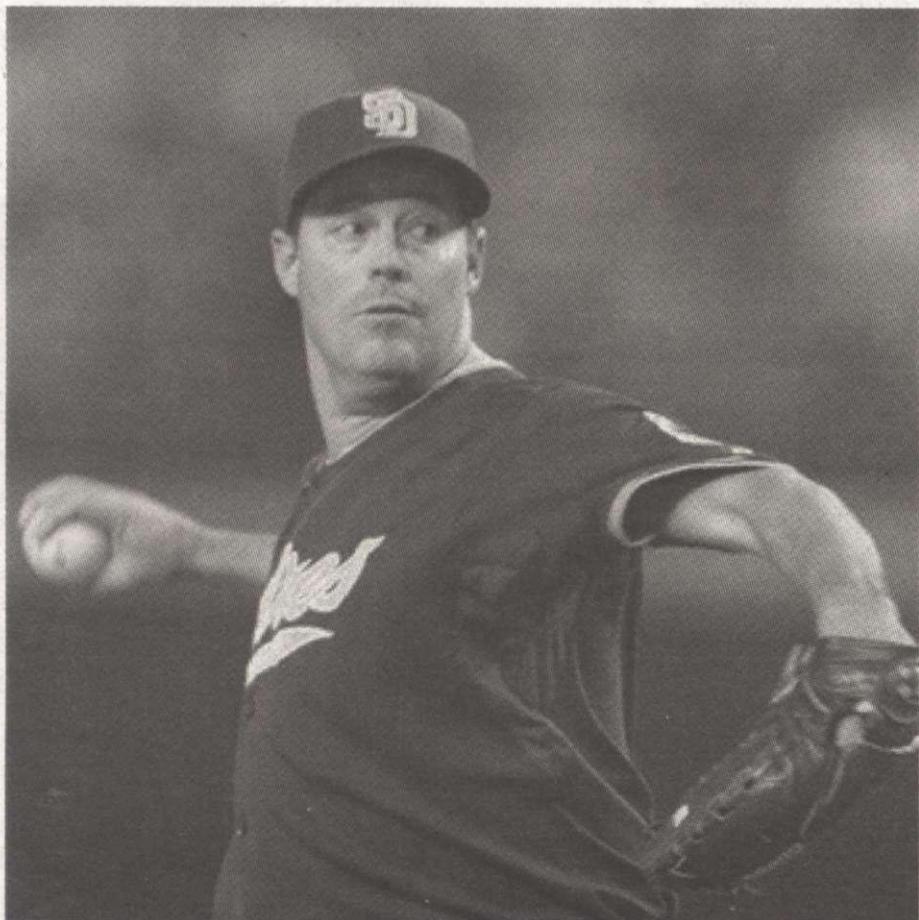
Upon first thought, this eight man, four game pitching rotation seems foolproof, but there are some flaws to it. The primary concern for all NL teams would be pinch hitting. If its the seventh inning, your team is losing 3-2, there are runners on second and third with two men out and your pitcher is due up, there is no way possible that some team could hire you as manager if you don't send a pinch hitter to the plate. But if you do indeed send up the pinch hitter, who will replace him?

Odds are quite high that your second starter will have already been pitching

for an inning or two, so that is why you will need a reliever. He will be the player to get you through the next two innings. The reason why you will need a ninth starting pitcher is because he will be your emergency man. He will cover two other flaws with this system—he will play the role of a modern day emergency starter and he will also be the go-to guy if the game enters extra innings.

If the game enters extra innings, this pitcher will act as a conventional starter of today's game. If the game goes into seventeen innings, and the second pitcher of the night pitched until the tenth, this pitcher will be throwing seven innings. If there is a game which works this pitcher beyond the hundred pitch mark, then it will be time to go to the reliever if you didn't use him already. If he is worn out too, this will be the one time that you will have to suffer a loss. Of course, the occurrence of such an event is about as common as two catchers getting injured in the same day, and in that scenario the team is doomed for the day also.

This innovative strategy to the game is simply a theory which I had thought up of with the help of others. It may seem pricey at first to keep nine starters on the pitching staff, but as of now the typical pitching staff includes twelve or thirteen pitchers. The two or three pitchers which could then become cheaper bench players could help save some money for the team to spend on the starters.



San Diego Padres pitcher Greg Maddux earned his 350th win on May 11, becoming the ninth pitcher in Major League history to do so. Maddux will be remembered as one of the top pitchers in the League with possibly the best pitch control out of anyone to ever play the game.

## Giovenco and Mezzetta lead JV girls lacrosse

BY Reid Mergler

Staff Writer

The girls junior varsity lacrosse team recently finished its spring season with an average 4-6 record.

Many goals of the team have been accomplished and all the players have improved greatly.

The two sophomore captains, Heather Giovenco and Jill Mezzetta, enjoyed leading the team throughout this season.

"Being a captain is a good experience because I was able to help out my teammates throughout the season to improve," said Mezzetta.

Giovenco had similar thoughts about the experience of being the captain.

"It is extremely rewarding to see how my effort as captain affects the team," said Giovenco. "When the team did well, I gained confidence as I know I helped them improve and win the game."

To excel in lacrosse, the team practices six days a week.

Its practices are tough, but the players accomplish a lot within those hours.

The players worked on their skills and strategies of lacrosse.

The coaches of the Vikings are Mr. C.J. Gober and Ms. Elizabeth Hutchinson.

Coach Hutchinson is a seventh grade English teacher at Weber also. Coach Gober is strict, but improves the team's performance while Hutchinson lays the plays out to be executed by the squad.

With these effective coaches, the team has accomplished many goals this season, including improvement, sportsmanship and teamwork.

"The goals that we accomplished during our season was not only winning our games, but working well as a team on and off the field," said Mezzetta, reflecting on the strong bond formed by the team.

The skills the players on the team have improved on include being able to play well with their weak hand. The coaches helped them to perfect that important stick skill.

"Being able to play with my weaker hand was necessary for the successful season," said Giovenco. "I thank the coaches for helping me with this important skill."

# VIKING SPORTS

## Vikings win Port Invite by fifty points *Port Track stays focused on County meet at end of season*

BY **Graham Potters**  
Staff Writer

As the Boys Track season begins to come to a close, the team has accrued a winning record in their Conference and have beat many well-known tough teams on the Island such as Syosset, Freeport, and Long Beach.

Coach Jeremy Klaff has similarly been able to accomplish many of his goals as the head coach for the Track team.

"This year we are rebuilding with a good young nucleus," said Klaff. "Despite the graduations, we are still a strong team in the conference. We have actually improved in certain areas. Our goals were to win the Port Washington Invitational meet, and have a strong showing at Counties. We would also like to send runners to the State meet in Buffalo this June."

Coach Klaff trains the team hard to prepare them for their meets. He groups boys of the same ability-level together so they can run together and successfully compete with each other.

"Runners always run better when they have competition next to them," said Klaff.

For the more experienced runners, the workout is more difficult. The distance runners usually run three miles during a practice, each mile faster than 5:15. The 400 meter runners will run eight quarter miles in under 65 seconds each. These workouts are meant to keep runners in tip-top shape, without pushing them too hard.

"Klaff's workouts really keep me in good condition," said Sophomore Jacob Levine. "He mixes things up to make us improve in practically every important part of track. He is also extremely dedicated to keeping us in extremely good shape. He even called Richard Schmitz to get an old workout that he did before the State meet. It consisted of two consecutive miles, followed by a 400 meter run. It was a very difficult workout, but it is just one example of how hard Klaff works us and keeps us in shape."

The hard training has been paying off over the course of the season. Port successfully won the Port Washington Invitational meet by over fifty points. The team also claimed twenty medals for the event.

"We really ran well. It almost seemed like just another practice," said Levine. "It felt really great to be on our home track in front of our fans. It also helped that some of the top teams that we face in Quad meets or Divisions weren't at the meet. It allowed us to really excel, and let the distance runners place among the top in the meet."

The team has also had great success in many of its other meets. Sophomore Marco Bertolotti won the North Shore Invitational mile, running his current personal record of 4:21.1.

"I was very happy about my personal record. I know that it is the fastest time currently in the school, but I am

continually striving to better myself," said Bertolotti.

Also, Sophomore Andrew Vasquez won the sophomore 400 meter race at the Nassau Coaches meet.

As well, Junior Noah Bondy ran a 4:29 mile at the North Shore Invitational. Coach Klaff is very confident in his players and praises them for their abilities.

He is confident that the team will be able to work itself into Counties and even States.

"We are working hard on the track and on the field. It is worth noting that besides runners, or triple jumpers, Albert Suh and Vasquez are amongst the best in the County. Also, our discus thrower, Kyle Warner is among the best in the County. Dan Gabrielli is a premier high jumper, jumping 5 foot, 6 inches," said Klaff.

Going back to Counties is also an aspiration desired by the runners as well.

"It would be great to go back to Counties and prove that we are still an amazing team. We have a lot of talent on our team," said Levine

The team has overcome the hardship of losing key senior players last year. Richard Schmitz was an important runner to the team.

He was the fastest distance runner on the team. He ran a 4:16 mile, a time which has yet to be beaten by anyone on the team. Bertolotti is striving to break that record by his Senior year and is already close to breaking 4:20.

"Breaking Schmitz's record has been a goal of mine since I started running track," said Bertolotti. "It would be a great personal accomplishment to be able to run faster than one of Port's fastest runners yet. It is always a personal goal, but it is also important to keep in mind how much he helped me and served as a mentor while I was still developing as a runner."

Bertolotti also has leading times in the 800 meter race (1:58) and the 3200 meter race (10:00). Combined with the other players on the team in the 4 x 400, and 4 x 800 relay races, Marco helped reduce times by multiple seconds.

Ebube Abara was another important loss. He was the key sprinter for the team. He was a positive influence for younger and less experienced sprinters.

Vasquez has begun to follow in his footsteps, leading the team in most of the sprinting races. In the 400 meter event, Vasquez ran 52.7 seconds, which was the fastest time on the entire team. In his 4 x 100 relay team, including Sherman Lam, Hernandez, and Daniel Hickey, they ran 45.8 seconds.



Edward Chang

Senior Eric Ruvio hands off to Freshman Timo Santala in the 4 x 800 meter event at the Port Invite. The event, held on Port's home track, attracted many teams, such as Carle Place and Great Neck South.

Overall, their losses were regretted, but were overlooked by the success of the team during this season.

Under classmen Bertolotti, Levine, and Vasquez are already key parts of the team, who, as juniors and seniors next year, will be leading the team and hopefully bringing the team to new heights.

"We had our best season in decades last season, finishing 12-1. Because we lost a lot of runners to graduation, we have focused a lot on our younger players, who will become the future of this team," said Klaff.

One of the key aspects of the Track team is the versatility of the team. It was one of the key factors leading to the victory in the Port Invitational.

The wide variety of events usually leaves some track teams lacking in certain events or overusing their runners in multiple events.

These disadvantages were visible during many of the meets that the Vikings ran in. For example, at the Port Invite, many of the distance runners also ran in short distance events.

"Despite the challenges imposed by a lack of runners for certain events, we were able to pull through victorious on the Port Invite, by a decent amount of points," said Bondy. "We all ran very well and a lot of people set new personal records. It was a great meet and every year I look forward to it because it is a fun meet to run in on our home track in front of our friends."

Bondy continued strong running after the Port Invite and ran a 4:29 mile at the Quad meet.

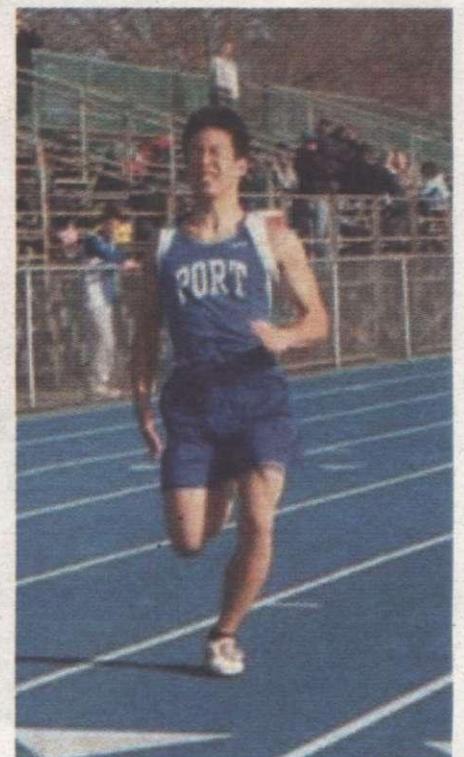
The Vikings are fortunate enough to have a decent number of runners in every event.

"What is so special about the Port

Track team is that we have strong runners in every event," said Klaff. "Most teams are either distance, jumping, or speed teams. We are fortunate enough to have a nice balance on our roster. With such a young team, the future looks bright."

Klaff is proud of his achievements this season and is counting on extending the season by getting into Counties and possibly even States.

"So far so good, the Counties are in late May, but we seem to be coming on strong," said Klaff.



Edward Chang

Senior Sherman Lam ran a personal best of 11.6 second, in the 100 meter