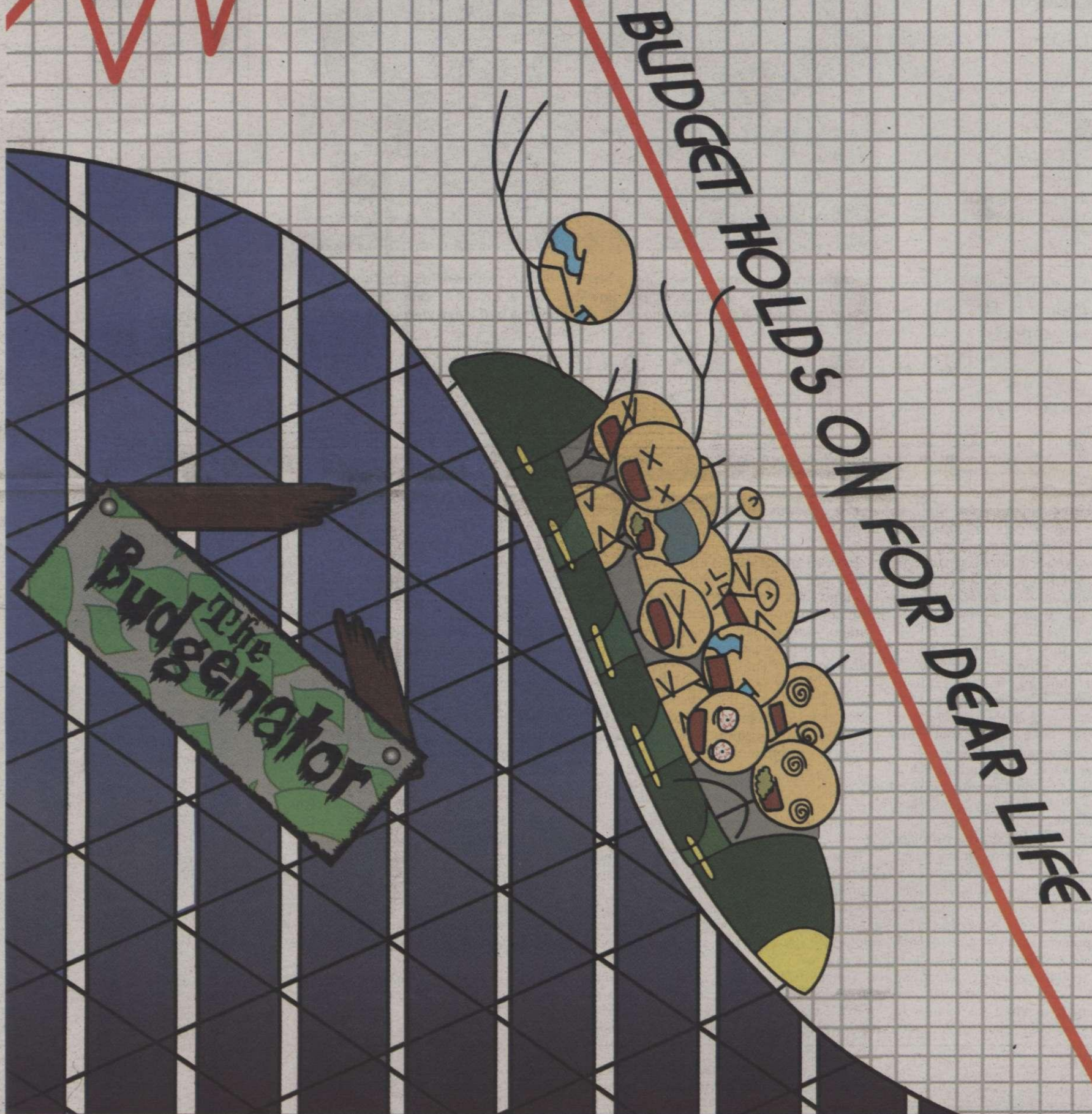


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# THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LIX No. 1 September 2008



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-Sports-



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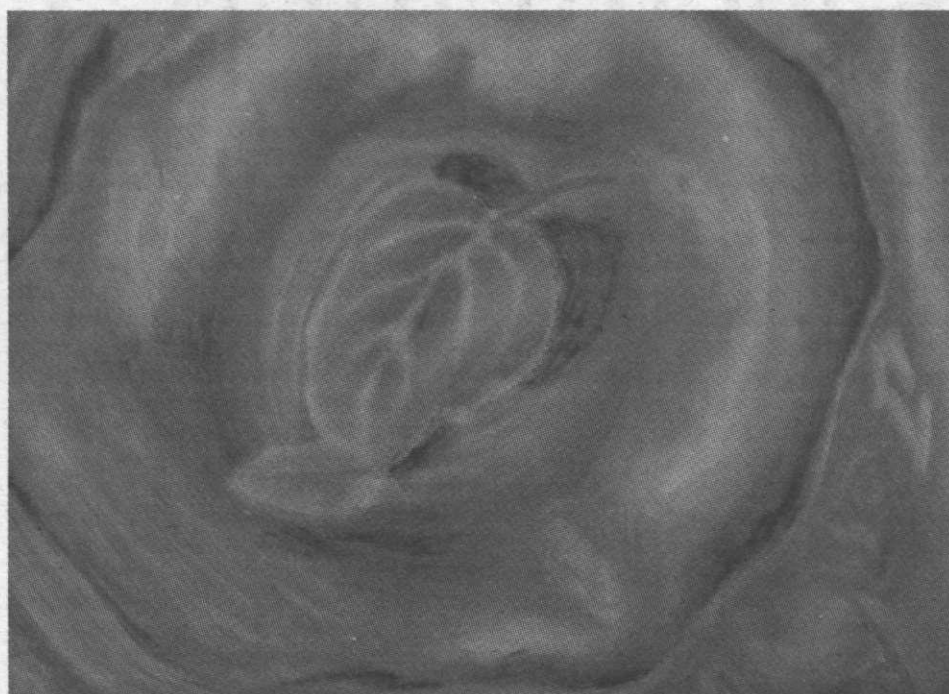
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Sophomore Timo Santala re-created a black and white picture with oil pastels for his Advanced Painting assignment. His drawing of a leaf on a tree stump shows deep contrast between the lights and darks and shows a bird's eye view perspective.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### New track sent to be approved by state

The Port Washington School District has recently received approval from the Board of Education to build a new track and is now waiting for approval from the state.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Mary Callahan, who is the main overseer of the construction project for the new track, and who is in direct contact with the architect tasked with planning the layout of the track, said that a design for rebuilding the track has already been approved.

This design should be covered by the current funds that the school has the authority to spend, approximately \$900,000. Most of this funding has come from remaining money leftover from the 2001 bond for construction of the new wings of Weber, Schreiber, and Daly, as well as other repairs of schools throughout the district.

"It's about time," said junior Eddie Grove, a Student Council executive officer and member of the boys' cross country and spring track teams.

The current track, which has been a major part of Port Washington for many years, is now in disrepair. It is very worn down, with many cracks and holes within its lanes. Also, because it is as hard as a normal road, it degrades runners' knees. Newer tracks use a different, spongier material that is much softer than the current concrete track.

The track is no longer up to competition standards; it is not of the standardized 400 meter length required for records in competitive races, and the lane and distance

markers are not clearly visible.

"The fact is that the track has passed its useful life," said Ms. Callahan.

These problems will all be fixed with the building of the new track. The process required to build the track, however, is a long and cumbersome one. Although the actual building of the track, once it begins, will not take very long, that is only the last step in the process.

First, an architect must design the layout for a track that meets school district requirements and limits. Then, this plan must be sent to the State Education Department Office of Facilities Planning, where another architect reviews and must approve it before the school begins the official construction.

Once the project is approved, the school district will advertise this construction project, and after a period of time, will open up bidding to contractors; the lowest bidder will win, as long as it is within the \$900,000 budget.

-Rohit Khullar

### Junior raises over \$25,000 for cancer

Last year, junior Jordan Sutton joined Schreiber's Relay for Life's \$10,000 fundraising club with his freshman efforts. This year, Sutton has done it again. He has been recognized by the American Cancer Society, a charitable cause known for its cancer research, for the second year in a row.

Sutton did something that no student at this school has ever done before: he has raised over \$25,000 to fight cancer. Sutton has been acknowledged by the American Cancer Society,

the organization that runs Relay for Life, for his leadership in philanthropy.

Throughout his fundraising efforts, Sutton has worked with health teacher Ms. Pat Kosiba for guidance and support.

"It has been a pleasure working with a student who is so motivated and dedicated to raising money for the cause," Ms. Kosiba said.

Port Washington's annual Relay for Life event has been held for the past seven years. Last year, the event raised approximately \$175,000, the highest amount raised in Nassau County. The American Cancer Society presented recognition to Principal Mr. Jay Lewis and the school for Schreiber's achievement and role in this event.

Sutton had the support of his family during his record-breaking fundraising efforts. He draws inspiration from his recent family members who passed away from cancer.

"I hope that the money I raised will be significant in the long run for the cancer research that the American Cancer Society conducts," said Sutton, "My mom was standing by my side the whole time."

Sutton hopes to equal or exceed what he has accomplished during his freshman and sophomore years for his last two years at high school.

"Jordan is a great kid who deserves to be recognized by his hard work and determination," said junior Lewis Calem.

-Ben Spivack

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Jay Lewis, principal  
Craig Medico, Evelina Zarkh, advisers  
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# Senior Experience classes finally become a reality

## New class options give seniors the chance to experience "the real world"

by Lauren Effune

News Editor

After waiting several years for a change in the senior social studies curriculum, seniors now have the option of broadening their horizons in the new Senior Experience program. The course, which has been in discussion and planning since the 2006-2007 school year, is now being offered for the first time with four sections, and some classes with up to 30 students.

"I've always thought that senior year was a problem because there was not much reason for students to continue working hard and succeeding, including after they got accepted into college," said Principal Mr. Jay Lewis, one of the administrators involved with the development of the program.

The Senior Experience is offered as an alternate to the typical social studies senior sequence, when students usually take Participation in Government and Economics classes. Instead, the Senior Experience allows students to take classes that focus more on their particular interests. This year, Urban Studies, America in the World: A History of Global Interaction, and 20th Century American Culture are currently being offered.

About two and a half years ago, several faculty members discussed whether senior year was meaningful and interesting enough to keep students motivated during periods of "senior slump" otherwise known as senioritis. The idea was then pitched to Mr. Lewis, who supported the idea, which in turn sparked brainstorming

and discussion sessions.

The following school year, Mr. Lewis proceeded to establish three different types of focus groups, each consisting of either students, faculty members, or parents. The goals of these focus groups were to brainstorm different ideas for senior classes as well as to find out the perspectives of each of the focus groups.

After a mutual agreement was reached between the focus groups to expand the current Senior Options program, the Senior Year Task Force was created. The members of the focus groups joined the Task Force to continue their research about the potential program and studied similar classes across Long Island to generate more ideas. They created a proposal to be submitted to the Board of Education for approval for the 2008-2009 school year. Ultimately, the course was approved with "minimal to no" pressure on the budget.

One of the key components of the Senior Experience is the second semester internship. The internship is an extension of the Senior Options program, a class that was previously offered at Schreiber for the past 15 years where senior students would spend their second semester completing an internship at a company or field of their choice. As part of the Senior Experience, students spend both semesters focusing on their elective choice and, in addition, the second semester will be spent with an internship opportunity.

"We always wanted to look at different electives, in lieu of the economics classes, that would teach seniors what the workplace is like," said social studies teacher Ms. Patricia Dietz.

Students have to submit a proposal

to a faculty mentor, typically the teacher of their Senior Experience course, which details the plan of their internship to have it approved. Students also need to find a sponsor from outside the school district to guide them in their development and progress as an intern. They will have to keep a journal tracking their experience, meet with their mentor regularly, and ultimately present a final presentation detailing their

**"We always wanted to look at different electives, in lieu of the economics classes, that would teach seniors what the workplace is like," said Ms. Dietz.**

experiences as an intern. A number of different internship opportunities are available, including works in the field of architecture, construction, law, or art.

Ms. Dietz is one of the teachers instructing a Senior Experience class this year. She teaches the Urban Studies class, which examines the structure, problems, and issues of modern cities today, particularly New York City. Students who take this class are able to get an insider's view of New York City through visiting different neighborhoods and presenting oral projects. This class is currently the only class in Schreiber that deals specifically with New York City.

"Not only do students learn about the cultural, social, political, environmental and political perspectives of the city, but they are motivated to learn since they

were given the opportunity to choose a class they were more interested in," said Ms. Dietz.

Originally, a variety of interdisciplinary courses were proposed as another type of option for the Senior Experience, such as the Sports and Literature class. Due to the small amount of students who signed up, it was not offered this year. However, Mr. Lewis has designed a publicity plan to inform the community and the current juniors about this new program.

In the spring, there will be a Senior Experience Fair for juniors that details information about each type of course available. It will also include presentations from students who spent time as an intern. Guidance counselors will be briefed about the Senior Experience and will meet with juniors to discuss their senior year options with them. In addition, advertisements placed in the Port Washington News will target available sponsors for students to ease the search process, and also publicize and inform the new program to the community.

In the future, Mr. Lewis hopes that each student in a graduating class will have the ability to participate in some component of the Senior Experience, whether it be through the elective and internship, the independent study program, or just the internship.

"Through this new program at Schreiber, students are now able to see a wider view of the world they live in, and even get to pursue their personal interests by experiencing first-hand what the workplace is like through their selected field of study," said Mr. Lewis.

## NYSSMA All-State Qualifiers

2008 NYSSMA All-State Conference, Rochester, New York  
December 4 - December 7, 2008

### Symphony Orchestra

Double Bass — Jess Block  
French Horn — Elyse Lauzon

### String Orchestra

Violoncello — Dahlia Hassan

### Symphonic Band

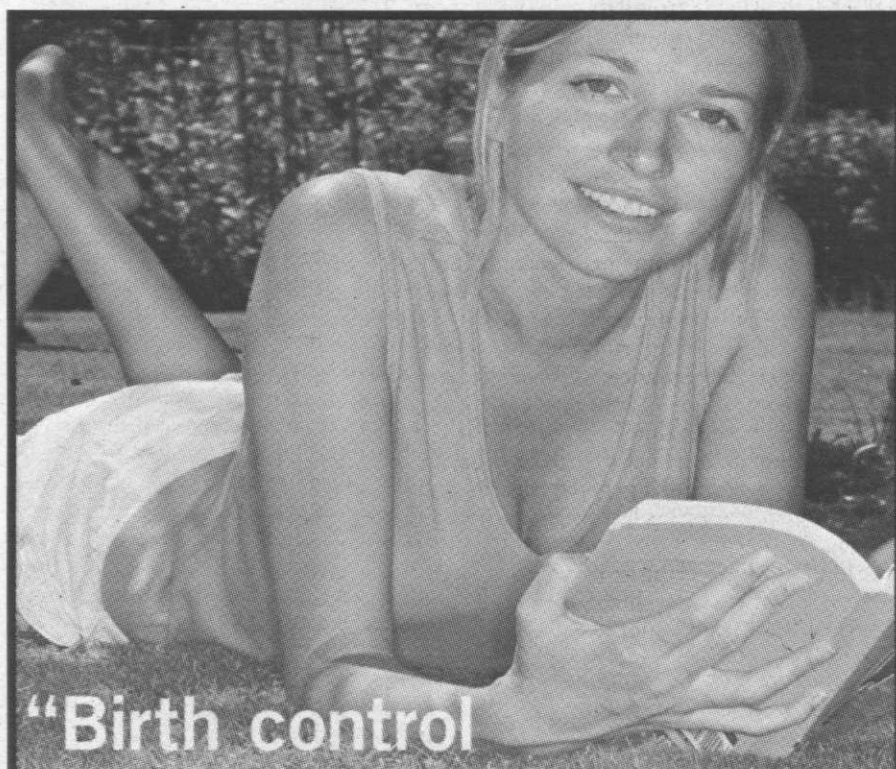
Bb Clarinet — Solomon Hoffman

### Mixed Chorus

Bass — Jeremy Geller  
Bass — Isaac White

### Alternates

Jazz Electric/String — Jess Block  
Jazz Guitar — Matt Brown  
Soprano — Haelin Kim  
Viola — Ryohei Ozaki  
Jazz Alto Saxophone — Sam Rosenberg  
Bass — Jonathan Schechner



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# Schreiber brings in a flock of eleven new teachers

For the 2008-2009 school year, Schreiber has hired a total of 11 new teachers in various departments. Each teacher comes with a broad background in the subject he or she teaches, as well as outside interests in the field that contribute to his or her knowledge as a teacher.

Of all of the departments, the Foreign Language department has hired the most teachers this year. Ms. Lauren Baldwin, Ms. Griselda Dupuy and Ms. Elizabeth Griffin, each of whom have studied

Ms. Griffin, who teaches all of the Latin classes, has a broad background in many international cultures. Her resume includes an undergraduate degree from the University of Buffalo and a master's degree from the University of Oregon.

She has previously studied abroad in Spain and Cuba—by studying there, she was able to understand the hardships and lifestyles of these countries.

"I want my class to be as enjoyable as possible while taking part in the foreign

knew then that this was what I wanted to do."

Besides his passion for science, when Mr. Campanella is not teaching at school, he enjoys playing ice hockey, playing the guitar and watching baseball.

## Social Studies Department

Two of Schreiber's new teachers are no strangers to the building. All of them were either student teachers or leave replacements last year.

Mr. Andrew Vinella taught alongside Mr. Craig Medico in Global History and Geography and Ms. Renee McClean in U.S. History last year. Now, he has joined the social studies department full-time to teach both Global History and Geography and U.S. History.

"Everything about this school has exceeded my expectations about what a career in teaching would offer," said Mr. Vinella. "I am glad to return to Schreiber—I think it is an outstanding community with great teachers and students."

Mr. Vinella has always loved history and the social sciences. His interests in particular are politics, economics, and the study of classical civilizations.

He pursued his interest in politics by studying political science as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Following his graduation from college, he attended Boston University School of Law. After working as a lawyer, he decided to go to Stony Brook University to get a master's of teaching in social studies.

By the end of the year, he wants his students to have the ability to interpret historical events on their own. Outside of school, he has set up a blog where his students can contact him if they have any questions or need help.

Mr. George Muhlbauer was a leave replacement last year. Before teaching at Schreiber, Mr. Muhlbauer worked in the Bellmore School District. He has always taught social studies and will be teaching U.S. history, government, and economics courses this year.

Aside from teaching, Mr. Muhlbauer also has many other hobbies, one of which is building model planes. Additionally, Mr. Muhlbauer collects DVDs and has a collection of over 400.

Mr. Muhlbauer is looking forward to having a lot of fun and teaching his students well. So far, he said that he has really enjoyed his time at Schreiber.

## Performing Arts Department

Last spring, Mr. John Meyer, Jr. replaced Mr. Jeffrey Byrne when he retired in April as the conductor of the Symphonic Band. Mr. Meyer went on to direct their spring concert, and this year he has returned to teach the band full time.

This is his first experience being a band teacher and teaching at a high school. So far, he has enjoyed the new experience.

Mr. Meyer has had prior experience with marching bands. He has played the drums in the bugle corps since he was about eight years old, and has been teaching marching band since 1998. However, the last time he actually marched in one was in 2004.

"My goal for the Symphonic Band this year would be for everybody to grow as musicians and positive citizens for the entire community," said Mr. Meyer.

## Physical Education, ESL, Health Departments

The physical education, ESL, and health departments have each welcomed one new teacher to their ranks.

Mr. Joe Mascaretti currently teaches regular 9-10 and 11-12 physical education. He attended Hofstra University, where he majored in physical education as an undergraduate, and he is currently pursuing a master's degree in health education.

In addition to his studies, he played lacrosse in college, and he currently plays lacrosse professionally for the Long Island Lizards.

He was first inspired to become a teacher by his middle school and high school gym teachers and coaches. One of his goals this year is to help others in a career that combines his interests in strength training, conditioning, exercise science, administration, and nutrition.

At Hicksville High School, he played football and wrestled. As a result, he hopes to be able to coach football, wrestling and lacrosse.

"I understand that the physical education program is very in depth, and the administration has been very helpful as has been the entire faculty," said Mr. Mascaretti. "The students have also been wonderful to work with so far."

He enjoys the music of small, local bands such as Envy Arcadia. He also likes to read biographies and autobiographies.

Ms. Julie Barbieri had wanted to become an ESL teacher since she volunteered to help out ESL students during her senior year at college. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with English language learners, and soon developed a love of teaching.

Ms. Barbieri loves that the department provides the students with numerous resources, such as the teachers' assistants and the resource rooms. Ms. Barbieri uses visual aides with her students to make the lesson easier to understand, and encourages creative writing.

She received an undergraduate degree from Binghamton University, and a graduate degree from Queens College. She taught in the Montauk and Sewanhaka districts, before coming here.

Out of school, she enjoys traveling and singing. Ms. Barbieri loves the fact that Schreiber is going green and thinks very highly of the Treehugger club.

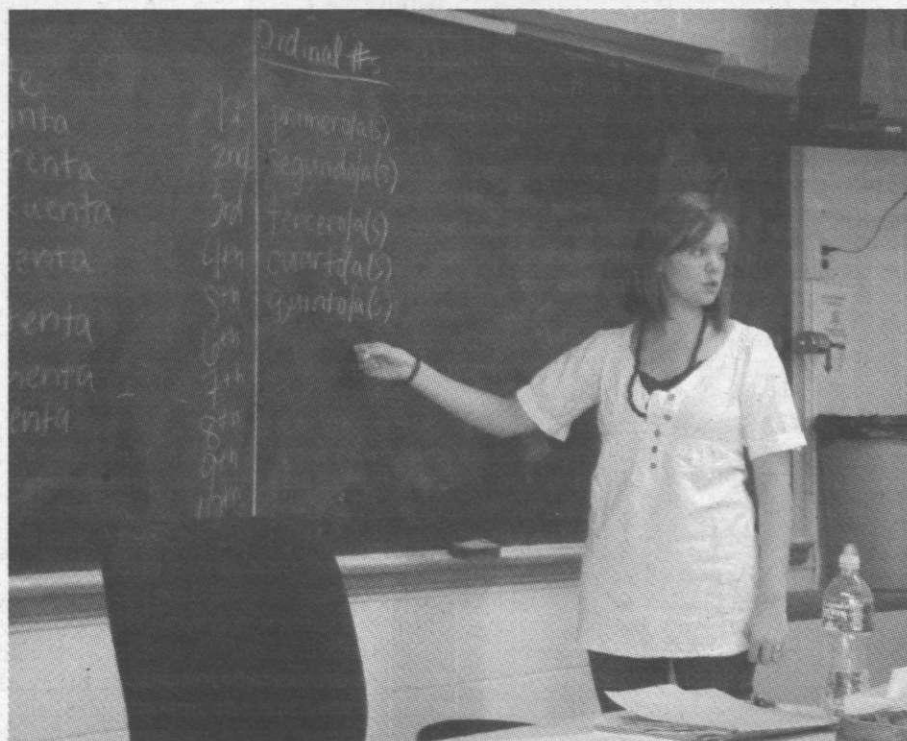
Ms. Lisa Vernale, the new health teacher, has also had many experiences teaching. She began her career at the Mary Lewis Academy in Queens, a Catholic school, where she taught health and dance. She decided to teach health, because she believes it is the most important thing a student can learn in school.

"Health teaches you lessons you will use for the rest of your life, and it's fun," said Ms. Vernale.

She decided to teach at Schreiber because of the emphasis that is put on health education and because, unlike other schools, health is not combined with physical education.

Her interest in this field has led her to pursue a master's degree in nutrition, and she plans on getting a second master's or a Ph.D. in nutrition.

*Reported by: Katya Barrett, Daniel Bialer, Sahil Doshi, Matthew Heiden, Grace Jung, Connie Kim, Ali Nierenberg, Corrine Tingir, Dainn Woo, Christina Vlahos and Christina Zhou*



Connie Kim

**Spanish teacher Ms. Lauren Baldwin teaches a lesson on numerals. Ms. Baldwin is one of three new foreign language teachers joining the faculty this year. She hopes to make her students more motivated and excited to learn Spanish.**

abroad, have joined the Foreign Language department this school year.

language requirements," said Ms. Griffin.

## Science Department

Both Mr. Michael Campanella and Ms. Jamie Darling have diverse interests in many fields of science.

Ms. Darling is currently teaching Regents and honors biology. She is also the new advisor for the sophomore science research group, which she describes as a great but worthwhile challenge.

She got her teaching degree from Stony Brook University; she taught chemistry at Greenport High School for six years and spent four years teaching at Center Moriches.

She cites her chemistry experience, as well as her involvement in research as a student, as motivation for a career in teaching science. Ms. Darling has had a strong passion for science since she was a child.

"It never occurred to me to do anything else. Social studies, English, no. It was always science for me," said Ms. Darling.

Besides her passions for science and entomology, Ms. Darling loves to cook. She also enjoys spending time with her family. A project that she is currently tackling is building a new house with her fiancé, partly by hand, an endeavor she has described as being fun.

Mr. Campanella teaches both earth science and marine science, but prefers to teach the former. Mr. Campanella did not seriously consider studying earth science as a career until his senior year of high school.

"It all started during my final year of high school," said Mr. Campanella. "My science teacher was my inspiration and I

## Foreign Language Department

Ms. Baldwin, even as a young child, always wanted to become a teacher and fell in love with Spanish when she started learning it in the seventh grade. Since she is not a native Spanish speaker, one of her goals is to make students fall in love with the Spanish language whether or not they have a previous background in it.

While she was in college, she studied in Spain for four months. This gave her an opportunity to experience the language she loves firsthand. Since no one was able to speak English where she stayed, she was able to improve her language skills during her experience in Spain.

"I've heard a lot of great things about this school," said Ms. Baldwin. "The pleasant atmosphere of Port Washington made me pick Schreiber as my first place to teach."

Ms. Dupuy has had previous experience with teaching. She has taught at both the middle and high school level of the Syracuse School District and has also taught Spanish business to high school students at OCC College.

She attended Cortland State University with a major in Secondary Education concentrating in Spanish. After receiving her undergraduate, Ms. Dupuy received her master's at Syracuse University for a total of six years of training, four for her undergraduate, and two for her master's.

She decided to pursue a career in Spanish so that she could educate students in a new language and help them learn how to speak it.



# Mysterious blogger informs students via new webpage

## Student posts information about school sports, clubs, and updates daily

BY Stephen Nash  
Editor-in-Chief

Secret identities that can see all are usually only reserved for dramatic television shows or movies, but this year Schreiber has its own anonymous set of watchful eyes. The blog known as "The Pit" ([www.thepitblog.com](http://www.thepitblog.com)) has captured the attention of almost all students for its thorough and accessible coverage of daily Schreiber events.

Arguably the most enticing part of the blog, however, is the individual or individuals behind it. Working under the secret identity of "Schreiber De' Medici," this person explains that, "Like my ancestors before me – Lorenzo the Magnificent, Cosimo the Elder, Catherine de Medici – I enjoy running things from behind the scenes."

Despite the intense and at times privacy breaching demands to reveal himself or herself, Schreiber De' Medici has maintained its anonymity.

Although De' Medici has insisted that he or she is a student, there is wide speculation that this is a plot by an administrator or teacher. At first, despite Schreiber De' Medici's insistence that it was not the case, some students expressed concern that it was an attempt by the administration to gain access into students' Facebooks.

"When I got the friend invite, I thought

that it might have been an administrator trying to view students' Facebooks," said senior Nicole Botsaris. "After I realized that this mystery person tried to friend a lot of people and that it was very elaborate, I thought that even though it might still be an administrator that nothing bad would come of it."



Facebook.com

While those initial concerns faded, there were still rumors that an administrator was the person behind the blog.

In the beginning of the year, the leading administrative candidate was Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss. Speculation dissipated, however, when Mr. Weiss was on leave and "The Pit" continued its

daily and updated posts.

The focus behind the mystery blogger has now been centered on several students. Schreiber De' Medici does indeed insist on its Facebook profile that it is a student and is even willing to confirm this, if someone can come up with a method for this verification with revealing its identity completely.

The predominant student candidates at this point are seniors Eddie Chang and David Becker. Both candidates casually denied any involvement.

While the identity of the creator of "The Pit" is unknown, the purpose of the blog has been made quite clear. In the "About Me" section of Schreiber De' Medici's Facebook it assures students that "All I am trying to do is provide a way in which Schreiber students can get info about the happenings in Schreiber daily."

Schreiber De' Medici writes posts about club happenings, sport games and news events. The blog also features a poll asking students about school issues.

Additionally on the blog itself, the first post lets readers know that it was "partly created in response to the school's outdated website."

### MYTH V. REALITY

#### Common myths about Schreiber De' Medici

**Myth:** Schreiber De' Medici is an administrator, and more specifically is Mr. Weiss

**Reality:** Schreiber De' Medici is a Schreiber student

**Myth:** Schreiber De' Medici is working alone

**Reality:** Schreiber De' Medici gets direct assistance from at least one other person

**Myth:** A student was set up or asked by an administrator to start the blog

**Reality:** Schreiber De' Medici is in no way associated with the administration

**Myth:** Schreiber De' Medici is simply trying to gain access to students' Facebooks

**Reality:** Schreiber De' Medici uses Facebook as an advertising tool, not as overstepping privacy boundaries; its purpose for the blog is as what has been stated.

## Senior wins \$30,000 scholarship

BY Sahil Doshi  
Assistant News Editor

Last year, senior Marilyn Sanchez applied to the Discovery Card Scholarship Program and was one of ten students to receive \$30,000.

Every year, up to \$300,000 in scholarships are given to high school juniors nationwide to support their education after high school. All high school juniors who have at least a 2.75 grade point average after their first two years of high school were eligible to apply.

According to Discovery.com, the juniors who applied should have demonstrated significant accomplishments in community service and leadership while facing a significant roadblock or challenge.

Marilyn first learned about this program in English teacher Ms. Lynn Kennedy's classroom. Marilyn heard it through the announcements and proceeded to investigate it.

In order to apply, she had to fill out her personal and school info, including her GPA, and write three essays relating to her community services, leadership skills, and a personal road block she had faced. Mrs. Kennedy provided her support by advising her through the whole process.

"Marilyn never calls attention to herself, she always prefers to work behind the scenes, supporting others," said Ms. Kennedy. "Everything she does has a professional quality about it. Even the way she carries herself in grace and dignity. I was delighted when she decided to seek out scholarships because it meant that she was growing in confidence. Winning the Discovery Card Award is an achievement beyond most students' dreams. It is a huge award that carries great prestige."

Marilyn has had many leadership positions throughout her high school career and participated in many community service activities. While she was looking for ways to practice her leadership skills, she learned about the Hispanic Heritage Day

celebration at the Port Washington Public Library. She signed up as a volunteer and helped to organize the event. She began to apply herself by contributing theme concepts and brainstorming ideas for the decorations, food, and entertainment for each country that was showcased at the event; she also served as a translator and guide.

As a sophomore and junior, she worked at the Landmark Theater by answering phones. She soon began to help in the box office and organized the green room for the actors at the theater. By working for two years, she understood the greater benefits of volunteerism and learned about theater management.

Marilyn has faced many hardships in her life and has learned to overcome them. Her mother, who was diagnosed with colorectal cancer, was no longer able to work, and soon after, a tumor was found in her father's head. She began to deal with her hardships by volunteering. She worked at her church's consignment shop by pricing clothing, serving as a translator, and designing displays for the store.

Last March, she was notified that she was one of the 300 semifinalists, and then in May of the same year, she received a phone call that she was one of the ten national winners.

"I remember I was on the phone, and the woman told me I had just won the scholarship and I started crying," said Sanchez. "I was shocked and surprised because I never thought I would win such a big scholarship."

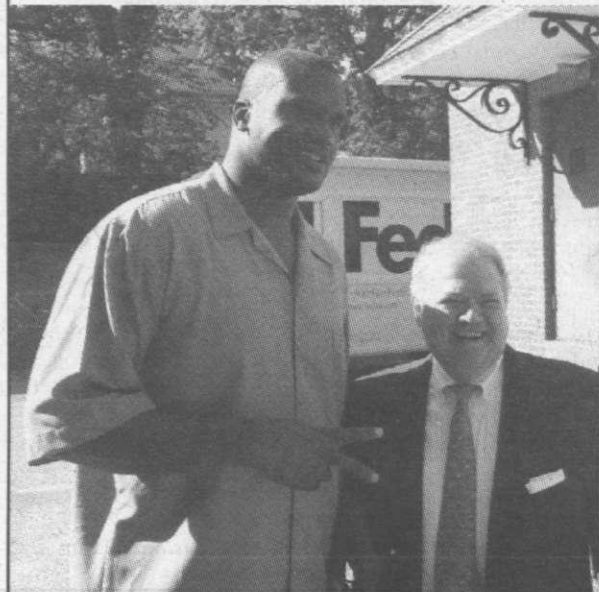
She got into contact with Sarah Cooper, who was organizing their trip to Riverwoods, Illinois, where the ten students would be awarded their scholarship. They all went to the Discovery Card Headquarters where the ceremony was held and the \$30,000 scholarships were awarded.

"I cherished the moment I was given because I know that throughout the hardships I've been through, I was able to overcome them and receive the award," said Sanchez.

## Shaquille O'Neal pays a surprise visit to Weber



Courtesy of Ms. Regina Faranaccio



Basketball player Shaquille O'Neal visited Weber as a surprise to students and faculty. He spoke to 1,000 seventh- and eighth-graders about following their dreams and the importance of an education and working hard. He also spent some time talking about his life and career. Above: O'Neal speaks to Weber students. Left: Superintendent Dr. Geoffrey Gordon poses with O'Neal.



# Point Counterpoint

## Should Schreiber join the "green movement"?

By Dorothy Kim

Contributing Writer

In the first nine days of school, the Xerox room already produced 277,800 dittos, with each student having 200 pages of paper added to their binders. This statistic has quadrupled since last year when the page use was only 65,500 pages worth of dittos.

Evidently, our mission to go green has been completely ignored in the start of school and will continue to be if Schreiber does not take responsibility of the growing problem in our nation. We should all take part in minimizing the number of trees we destroy by taking responsibility as a school to minimize the amount of paper we use. By bringing laptops to class every day, we can do just that.

Students should be encouraged to bring in their laptops to school and use them in classes as an alternative to taking notes on paper.

"It would be so much more convenient to bring laptops to classes instead of notebooks and binders, because you could just save notes and other information you need for class on laptops rather than using paper," said freshman Grace Kim. "It would also help you to get less tired from taking notes with your hand all day."

There are benefits to carrying a laptop to school instead of using your average school supplies; part of the convenience of using laptops is that instead of having to haul notebooks, papers, and folders to each class, the laptop would be the only thing you really need for class.

Also, having a laptop may be beneficial in the sense that you would not have to constantly restock on school supplies throughout the year. Moreover, laptops are easy to use and can help students keep their work together and organized.

Not only are laptops more eco-friendly and convenient, but also having a laptop in school would save time and energy for many students. The majority of people find it much faster and easier to type than to write by hand. Notes put up on the board would be easier to copy and would be taken down much faster via laptop. This technology might even enable teachers to get their lessons to us before class begins, making it easier for teachers to educate their students.

Laptops are also time-saving tools in other regards. Instead of taking time at your locker to try to figure out which binders you need for that morning, you could simply bring your laptop back and forth from your house to school every day – the same simple tool for every class everyday.

Using a laptop would save students crucial time in the morning and might even help prevent some students from being late to their first period classes. You would not be burdened by heavy binders and notebooks either. Switch-

ing to an "all-laptop" school would help students go through a less-tiring day in general.

However, there are a few drawbacks to the "all-laptop" school situation. Many students might not be comfortable with bringing laptops to school, worried that they may be stolen. Also, having such a laptop-rich environment would be unfair to kids that do not have laptops. For these reasons, our school is not yet ready for a full-time switch, but we can and should gradually work up to that point, as long as we continue to promote more laptop use and safety among students.

As well as promoting more in-school laptop use, the school should encourage students to take a bigger part in helping the environment.

"Using laptops would save a lot of paper, and I also think that the importance of recycling should be emphasized more – not only through words but with actions as well," said sophomore Shahana Yeasmin.

Within the school, teachers should only make handouts that are absolutely necessary for class, and students should only print what is needed from their computers. And even those papers should be recycled as part of a larger effort to conserve and recycle within our school and community.

By Jon Heiden

Assistant Opinions Editor

It's a great thing to be environmentally friendly, but for a school such as Schreiber, such concerns must be subordinate to educating the students. While it would be great to make Schreiber a so-called "paperless" laptops-only environment, the disadvantages of mandating such a system would far outweigh any benefits gained.

For starters, not everyone at Schreiber can afford to purchase a laptop for class. In the name of fair play (and because there are state laws that would mandate that it do so) Schreiber would be obligated to buy dozens of machines for students—an unappealing prospect for taxpayers already burdened by the blossoming recession.

"Yeah, it would be cool to have a laptop, but I don't know if my parents would really think that I need one for school," said junior Regan Nebenhaus, showing how even parents who can afford to acquire computers for their children might not want to, viewing the extra expense as an unnecessary luxury.

The specter of the haves and the have-nots would rise again when it comes to who has which laptop. The wealthiest students will have the best computers,

beautiful machines no

thicker than a dime that can run faster than a cheetah; the hierarchy of affluence will continue down its usual path until we reach the students who must rely on the school to provide their laptops.

These students would receive the most ancient and decrepit of devices, glorified calculators that can barely compute the simplest of algorithms without crashing. This would add yet another object to the list of those that proclaim the user's "status" (a list which already includes such items North Faces and BlackBerries) and could even be considered an academically unfair advantage.

Another concern that would quickly arise from the multitude of laptops being bandied about Schreiber is how students would keep track of their property. If you lose a notebook, you can buy a new one; computers are not so easily replaced. Students could even have their laptops stolen by unscrupulous individuals hoping to, as the saying goes, make a quick buck.

Laptops are also not necessarily the most reliable of tools in general: What happens if a student spills water on her laptop, or forgets to charge it the night before? Suddenly, that's a whole day gone in which the student cannot take notes, or do homework. Being required to use a laptop would force students to keep all their academic eggs in one proverbial basket, and for some of Schreiber's more forgetful students, that's just asking for trouble.

While surely some of Schreiber's staff would welcome the conversion to a "paperless" school environment, the change would probably not suit many faculty members. In most departments there's the odd tenured curmudgeon who thinks that all technology is evil and who will continue to teach his class in a non-computer-compatible way regardless.

A more pressing issue than these lone Luddites is the fact that numerous members of Schreiber's faculty have lessons that are heavily ditto-based; these teachers can't really function without handing out mountains (or, we should say, forests) of paper each day, reams of white sheets telling their possessors everything from the correct pronunciation of Spanish irregular verbs to Japanese myths of how the world was born.

The only way such teachers could react to having a laptops-only environment in Schreiber would be to overhaul their entire lesson plans to suit the new, paper-free order, an extremely cumbersome and labor-intensive solution to a problem that doesn't even have to arise at all.

This is not to say that Schreiber shouldn't ever go "paperless," of course. The goal for this school to use less paper is an admirable one; it's just that now is not a good time for us to attempt it. The administration should wait—a few years, a few decades, however long it takes—until computers are less expensive and better-assimilated into our culture.



Jon Michelson

### Schreiber Speaks

"I don't think that the school could ever make the student body 'go paperless,' forget the high costs of providing students with laptops, but the effort of having to lug around a laptop all day would be ridiculous."

—Johnny Koo, senior

"I would love to see Schreiber without any paper. It is amazing to think how much paper we waste in a day. It could be truly revolutionary if our school were the first to be completely paperless."

—Justine LaManna, senior



## Health conscious students' choices are lackluster

BY Sophia Jaffe

Contributing Writer

Our cafeteria menu has come a long way from the basic macaroni and cheese, tuna casserole, and Sloppy Joes, but in many respects it is still very "last millennium," a time when organic and vegan were hardly household terms.

Go to any supermarket today and you will see entire food sections dedicated to organic and vegan foods. Supermarkets like Whole Foods have now become apart of the mainstream.

Schreiber should take these concerns into consideration by expanding its cafeteria options. Take a look at the menu for September: overall there are many good items, but it would be so easy to substitute organic products or provide a wider variety of choices suitable for vegans.

Before going into the details, let us make sure we have a common definition of organic and vegan. In order for a food to be considered organic, it must meet certain criteria.

First, it must be grown without conventional pesticides or artificial fertilizers. Furthermore, food additives cannot be used, and livestock must be raised without growth hormones.

A vegan diet excludes any animal products. Vegans do not eat meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, or dairy products.

What is the upside of expanding and adapting the menu? First of all, there is the health rationale. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Nutrition Handbook states, "...reducing [pesticide] exposure from foods can certainly benefit the child." The AAP goes on to say that children are more vulnerable than adults to the dangers of consuming pesticides.

Additionally, children take in more food per pound of body weight. They also tend to consume larger amounts of milk, fruit juices, cereals, and fruits in general, which all commonly contain traces of pesticides.

Therefore, schools should be especially concerned with supplying their cafeterias with organic food products. Long-term exposure to pesticides in animal studies has been proven to cause cancer, as well as produce negative effects on the brain, behavior, and endocrine system. Although similar effects have not been proven in humans, it only makes sense that avoiding pesticides is safer than ingesting them.

Aside from the health reason, there are also environmental motivations for using organic products.

Farmers use pesticides to make their job easier and more profitable. Using these chemicals increases the amount of usable crops for sale.

However, what those farmers don't fully appreciate is that they are poisoning the soil they depend on. Pesticide runoff can be harmful to our ecosystem, including fish, wildlife, and ultimately humans.

We can do our part at Schreiber to protect the environment by purchasing organic products.

There is also the "inclusion" rationale. Schreiber's diverse student body requires an equally diverse menu. Some students have dietary restrictions due to their religious or cultural beliefs. There are also students who eat a vegan diet as a lifestyle choice or for health reasons.

As a result, Schreiber needs to respect these specific needs. A vegan option would satisfy many students who otherwise cannot eat the cafeteria's food—keeping students from being able to purchase school lunch on dietary restrictions is clearly not fair.

"Because there are rarely vegetarian meals, I sometimes end up eating a bag of chips for lunch," said freshman Isha Gupta.

Of course, some people may argue that this effort will increase costs. However, in this case the benefits outweigh the costs. It is worth the extra expense not only to better serve our diverse student population, but also to help the environment and limit our exposure to pesticides. For those of you who still remain unconvinced, feel free to pick up a copy of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*; it may help you realize why organic food is the only way to go.

Port Washington takes pride in its school district. In the realm of cafeteria choices, however, it is significantly lagging. We can learn from the example

of districts such as Great Neck which currently offers vegan meatballs and soy milk.

If any students are interested in pursuing a more complete cafeteria, they should get together with the head of the cafeteria and discuss some ideas. Perhaps students could do some fundraising to offset the extra cost. Student initiative will be the only way that this policy gets effected.

One part of the menu that can be addressed immediately is milk. The cafeteria can replace all of the different types of milk with organic substitutes and add an organic soy milk option.

Then we could potentially move on to replacing the fruits and vegetables with organic ones. Next, we could incorporate organic grains, this would ultimately help students to have a well balanced meal.



Blue Chips, a healthier option than Doritos, should be offered in the student cafeteria to stimulate better eating habits in Schreiber.

When students have a well balanced meal, often times they remain more alert and focused throughout the strenuous school day.

Ideally, the cafeteria would offer a vegan entrée daily along with a large variety of organic products. If this proves to be successful at Schreiber, we could inspire other schools, like Weber or neighboring high schools, to follow in our footsteps.

As the old saying goes, "You are what you eat." Let's make our Schreiber student body a "better body" by offering diverse and healthier choices.

## Prioritizing days at Schreiber

BY Blake Mergler

Assistant Opinions Editor

If you have not realized this already, you cannot do it all. And much as you try, you will never be satisfied if you do not prioritize what is most important to you. In high school, most students are told by their parents to get involved in extracurricular activities. Luckily here at Schreiber there are many sports to choose from and many clubs to join. But instead of trying to do everything the school has to offer, you have to ask yourself, "What do I want to do most?"

Prioritizing is a life lesson and it starts here. I know that there are clubs in the morning for three-season athletes to join, but after those late-night games, do you really want to be waking up at the crack of dawn? There is no solution to this problem, but let us get our priorities straight when it comes to sports and clubs.

As most people know, sports usually take place every day after school, whether for a practice or a game/meet/match. Sports are bigger commitments than most clubs, as they take place every school day for almost three months. Although clubs last the whole year, they usually meet only once a week. And sports are usually much more time-consuming during their seasons. Furthermore, sports tend to make their athletes much more tired than clubs do. If one does a sport throughout the season, it will be very difficult for him or her to be active in clubs unless he or she wants to walk around school half-asleep.

It is a hard thing to decide which clubs or sports you want to do, so you need to sit down and talk to yourself, as ridiculous as that seems. It is very important to enjoy whatever extracurricular activities you do. If you like what you are doing, you will be a happier person, helping form who you are for the rest of your life.

On the other hand, it will be very difficult to try to do clubs you have absolutely no interest in. That is why you need to follow a specific passion, and set your whole heart toward it. Prioritize, and you achieve great accomplishments.

"I prioritize each school year and in my sophomore year. I am focusing on tennis and clubs that take place in the morning," said sophomore James McCallen. "Being part of a team and clubs that do not interfere with each other allows me to focus on each activity individually."

When it comes time to choose between sports and clubs, it is each person's decision to make. It depends on who you are. So, I am not going to advocate either one and try to persuade you to go and try out for fencing; but if that's what floats your boat, go right ahead.

"People should join clubs because you can meet new people that have some of the same interest you have, and you can have fun," said sophomore Sela Grabiner.

Another great aspect of dedicating yourself to a club or sport that suits you is that they help you to feel a sense of belonging and gives you a chance to take a leadership role. The characteristics that you can acquire by being a leader or an active member could help you in the outside world after your high school days end.

Whatever you do, make sure that you don't get stressed, as clubs and sports should be for your enjoyment and not something you dread before or after your long school days. If they are something you dread, get out while you still can.

## Free lunches do not invade students' privacy

BY Will Zhou

Contributing Writer

Lunch cards are a big issue here at Schreiber. For those of you who don't know, our ID cards also serve as a "debit card" that our parents can put lunch money on.

Some people feel that this method of subsidized lunching for people who can-

not afford to purchase a regular lunch is somehow "unethical." Their basis for this claim is that you can figure out the financial statuses of the users of these cards, because instead of giving the cashier at the end of the lunch line cash, one gives her a card that she scans through the system.

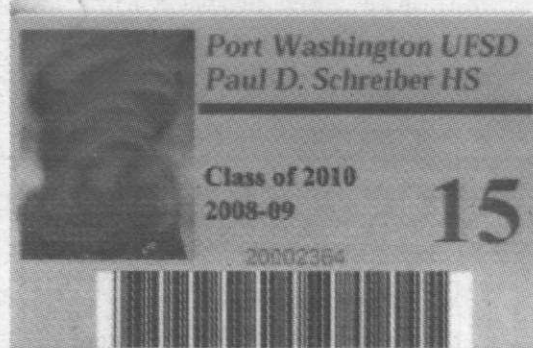
"I used to live off of these things, so I think that they are a great idea," said sophomore Kaleb Robbins. "I don't think it's unethical. I'm getting my food. Honestly, what difference does it make?"

It is true that anyone who wants to opt into using the lunch card system can do so with his or her Schreiber ID card, but few choose to do so. It is simply much easier to just pay cash for one's food. Although people may know the financial status of card users, the

trade-off is quite nice and most people really do not think much of it.

"I used to use the cards in my old school," said junior Douly Yang. "I don't think they are unethical, because you get lunch. It would be hard to have everyone in Schreiber start using the lunch card system, because the administration would have to convince everyone to start using the cards, and then deal with some kind of special chip or coding to designate the subsidized ones."

Yang makes a valid point. If I were using a card, I would not care if people knew of my financial status, because I get my food no matter what. In truth, it should not matter as long as everyone has food to eat. Having everyone use the cards would be too much work for the Schreiber administration. This method, with its minimal trade-off cost (which has no actual monetary value), is the best and should be kept.





# Editorials

## Lack of funding for crucial clubs

After surviving a year on austerity less than five years ago, many in the community believe that a passed budget would allow more than enough funds for the basics to be accounted for. This year despite having a passed budget, however, this notion is being proved startlingly wrong with regards to club funding.

The wide diversity and multitude of clubs at Schreiber has always been a feature that students and teachers have taken pride in. Yet this year, there is a disconcerting amount of clubs which are being under funded or not funded at all. Two prime examples of this shortage of funds are Stand as One and Bridging the Gap. While these two clubs are new to Schreiber, they have already played an important role.

Stand as One organized an impressive picnic for victims of genocide of Darfur with over two-hundred people in attendance to hear speakers from human rights organizations. Similarly, Bridging the Gap has made efforts to address the issue of racial tension in our school, an issue which has been too often ignored.

These two clubs are just a part of the many examples of clubs which find themselves in a situation where money is too tight to go around. Although The Schreiber Times understands the current economic downturn we are in, it is also important to understand the amount of money which is needed right now. Fortunately, clubs do not require the sort of expense a new teacher or new equipment do. With the funding of clubs, \$10,000 would go a very long way, if not all the way.

While \$10,000 is a lot of money, it is minute relative to what the passed budget

is. The approved budget for the 2008-2009 school year was \$121,850,198 which accounted for a 4.95% increase. This means that if the district added \$10,000 more to fund clubs at Schreiber it would have resulted in less than a hundredth of a percent increase. In other words, the budget increase would have been 4.96% compared to 4.95%. Now if one would argue that a budget at 4.96% would fail, yet the budget at 4.95% would pass that is one argument, but The Times seriously doubts that would be the case.

What also undermines the argument that the budget was simply too tight is that just this month the Board of Education approved for two members to attend the New York State School Board Convention for \$800. While The Times unquestionably does not doubt the potential advantage gained by going to this convention, it begs the question: if the district could afford \$800 in discretionary funding to attend a school board convention, why can't it afford maybe \$2500 in extra club funding? Or even, that \$800 alone could have helped one club which is currently being under funded. The district cannot maintain that the times are too tough and the budget is too tight to find a couple of thousand dollars for clubs, but at the same time spend nearly a thousand dollars to go to a school board convention.

This club funding crisis has not just hit Schreiber. All clubs have been removed from the elementary schools and clubs at Weber are experiencing a similar crunch. This shortage of money for crucial clubs is an issue The Schreiber Times feels can not be and should not be ignored. While it is fully understood the extent of the difficult state the economy is in, with a budget of over \$120,000,000 it just doesn't make sense how there can't be \$10,000 to help out clubs.

Classroom discussions can also help students to prepare for the real world. Port Washington is a fairly liberal town, and the Schreiber student body is much the same. Many liberal students have gone practically their whole lives without being exposed to a serious challenge of their political beliefs. In a classroom where students are encouraged to share their beliefs and ideas with others even when they may be met with disagreement, students can come into contact with new opinions, and new schools of political thought. They can learn that sometimes you can't win every argument and that part of being an adult is learning to agree or disagree and knowing when to back down from a fight.

While political dialogues such as these are generally quite academically nourishing to students, there is a fine line that teachers must be careful not to cross for fear of sapping some of this virtue from them. The teacher's main role in a discussion-oriented classroom is to act as a guide for students, planting the seeds of discourse and occasionally nurturing them with a relevant comment. It is not the job of such teachers, however, to share their own political beliefs with the class, no matter how fiercely they may believe that X candidate is too liberal or too conservative or too old or too young to be president. It is vital that teachers do not cross this "fine line" because doing so could intimidate students with opinions

differing from the teacher's own not to chime in to the discussion with their own thoughts and beliefs. A similarly monochromatic classroom environment would result from the efforts of other students to curry favor with the teacher by sycophantically echoing his or her thoughts, regardless of whether they agree with them or not.

## Not-so-standardized tests

Despite the SAT's recent reorganization by including a writing section and the increase in the ACT's compatibility with college admissions, standardized testing remains highly scrutinized.

The flaw with current methods of standardized testing can be traced back to a perversion of the now infamous Intelligence Quotient test. The first true standardized test to be issued in America, the IQ examination was originally designed to determine whether or not a student was in need of special attention in school. What began as a method of helping children evolved into something much different; indeed, it is the IQ exam that indirectly gave rise to these less than useful standardized tests.

A secondary education commission recently suggested that universities decrease the emphasis placed on SAT and ACT scores. The report was the final product of an educational study led by the dean of admissions and financial aid at Harvard.

Standardized testing's purpose was once to test a student's aptitude; high schoolers were expected to show up the day of the test without any prior preparation. It was truly a test of innate knowledge.

Now, test taking has shifted from the hands of students to the hands of Test Takers, and other test-prep programs. Students easily spend hundreds of dollars by using these preparation programs, purchasing study aids, and hiring private tutors.

The commission found that students, by using these programs, try "to game the SAT." The report also noted that there is a stark contrast in the preparation opportunities in "fancy suburbs" and other communities that are less privileged. The

SAT often evaluates socioeconomic backgrounds more than anything else.

The Schreiber Times believes that an entirely brand new system of standardized testing is necessary, an opinion expressed in the report's findings. Instead of students being able to manipulate and play the current standardized testing game, one comprehensive aptitude test should be devised. Students should not be able to "buy" a grade on either the SAT or ACT.

When applied appropriately, exams that are issued across the board can be a valuable constant by which all individuals can be compared. The key is to adjust the questions so that they: a) actually measure what they claim to and b) are normalized according to average results of previous years. So, for example, a randomly generated, generation adjusted exam that asked questions related to innate intelligence would be a far more constructive tool than the current SAT or ACT.

Associated with the flaws of standardized testing is the recently reinstated policy of score choice. Score choice was eliminated in 2002, but it will be put in effect for the Class of 2010. The Schreiber Times believes that like the expensive test preparation courses available, the policy favors the affluent, those who can afford paying for the costly \$45 SAT every month it is administered. The Times not only finds a fundamental flaw in the merit of the SAT but also its score choice option.

In truth, it will probably be years before a perfect standardized test is even designed, let alone implemented. But that's not to say that standardized tests are as important as they were just several years ago. Already, schools have begun to pull away from traditional methods of testing, and focus on other, more telling criteria. With any luck, the standardized exams of today will be completely overhauled for future generations and will once again become valuable means of assessment.

*Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next Newspaper General meeting on Oct. 4. All new writers are welcome!*

## Politics in the classroom

With the upcoming presidential elections, classes here at Schreiber can often be found ablaze with discussions about the issues and the candidates. On the whole, The Schreiber Times feels that such political dialogues can be an enriching and often vital part of students' classroom experiences. At the same time, however, the teachers who conduct these conversations should be careful to retain their impartiality and not let on about how they feel about whatever is being discussed.

In many classes, especially English and a few Social Studies ones, classroom discussions are the cornerstones of the curricula. In a given argument, they can often force students to really think about the positions that they're taking, perhaps causing them to examine the reasons they've adopted those positions in the first place or maybe inspiring them to come up with better rationales for the views they hold. For instance, students at Schreiber often tend to "inherit" the political views of their parents: that is, if their parents are Democrats, so are they, and so on. A thoughtful, well-mediated dialogue in class will often compel these students to stop simply parroting the thoughts of their parents and to fashion some original beliefs of their own.

## 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.



# Diner's missing "G" is found in goodness of food

## Port Washington Diner shows that it will be staying in Port for years to come

BY Zach Halperin  
Contributing Writer

Located on Main Street, adjacent to the candy store, the Port Washington Diner has become an established favorite and hot spot. Known for its delicious pancakes, the diner attracts large breakfast and lunch crowds on a daily basis.

The businesses occupying the building have changed countless times in the past ten years. Previous occupants include Johnny Pumps and Pickles, a kosher deli. Since its opening four years ago, the Diner

**"Although the Diner is well established, there is an obvious imperfection that has been apparent since its opening. On the royal blue signage it reads: 'Port Washinton Diner.'"**

has become a fixture in the town.

The French toast and pancakes have the recommendation of the employees. According to the manager, the chicken fingers, burgers, and wraps are among the top sellers. Last year, the Port Diner even donated chicken fingers to Gambol.

Adding to the homey feel of the res-

taurant is the little known fact that all of the towering baked goods available are made on site. Employees recommend the seven-layer cake and brownies. The desserts are known for their large serving sizes, with portions equivalent to multiple orders anywhere else.

On Fridays, after students have been let out of school, many kids stop in for burgers, chicken fingers, and French fries, both regular and waffle style. The Port Diner fries and cheeseburger deluxe are two popular dishes.

"I just love the fries," said freshman Aaron Feinberg.

The beverage selection is also extensive. The list includes all of the staples of any diner.

"The hot chocolate is good," said freshman Adam Pollack.

Because of the numerous breakfast specials available and the after-school rush, Saturday mornings and Friday afternoons are the most crowded times of the week.

Although the Diner is well established, there is an obvious imperfection that has been apparent since its opening. On the royal blue signage it reads: "Port Washinton Diner." Obviously, the name of our town has been spelled incorrectly.

Nobody noticed the faulty sign until one or two years of business had gone by, remarked the manager. Apparently, it only came to the attention of the staff when the brother of the manager realized the mistake and told the owner. As of now, there are no plans to change the sign, as it is just another fun little quirk, and gives passers-



Laila Irvani

**Although the sign above the Port Washington Diner is flawed, the management thinks of the four-year-old mistake fondly and has "seen no reason to change it." Many students frequent the diner though it no longer delivers to the school.**

by something interesting to observe.

Many Schreiber students have been asking, why has the Port Diner stopped delivering to Schreiber? When questioned, the diner employees explained that while there was no lack of orders for delivery to the school, when the food came, it was often unclaimed and unpaid for. The manager of the diner was able to

sum up their sudden stop in delivering with two words, "We tried."

After a huge afternoon meal in the well kept, clean surroundings, anybody who walks into the establishment can hear content sighs everywhere.

"Go for the deluxe," said Feinburg, with a grin on his face as he offered the advice to any newcomer to the diner.

# [Fashion] Political style: Michelle Obama

BY Brittany Berliner  
Staff Writer



Charming the world as first lady, Jackie Kennedy was globally admired for her distinguishing allure and fashion sense. Michelle Obama, the style-setting wife of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, has shown the same stylistic charisma.

Her fashion sense is becoming as much of a topic as her political views. She gives off an aura of class and pride in both everything she wears and everything she does.

With an air of confidence, Ms. Obama stands next to her husband and daughters in front of hundreds of thousands of people. Ms. Obama has posed for *Vogue* magazine and was described as "Camelot with a tan." Like Jackie Kennedy, Ms. Obama likes to flaunt accessories; among her favorites are pearl necklaces and high-waisted belts.

"She's such a fashionista," said sophomore Perri Ginsberg. "She has such a great sense of style which is not too conservative nor too liberal. It's nice to know that she cares about fashion and how she presents herself. Her sense of style makes me think that she is a normal person. Her fashion sense has made me more interested in watching politics and in watching her speak."

At the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado, Ms. Obama

caught the eye with a chic purple dress, accentuated by pearl necklaces and a high-waisted pattern leather belt.

Ms. Obama attended a New York City fundraiser hosted by Calvin Klein in an

**Neither overdressed nor overdone, Ms. Obama has been the motivation behind many fashion exploits, including Tyra Banks' high fashion magazine.**

elegant palazzo pant Isabel Toledo outfit.

"I almost fainted," said Toledo to *Fashion Week Daily*. "We knew that she was one of our clients that buys Isabel at Ikram in Chicago, but we never imagine she would wear it for a professional appearance."

Neither overdressed nor overdone, Ms. Obama has been the motivation behind many fashion exploits, including Tyra Banks' high fashion magazine.

"She is always dressed appropriately, though never dully," said ABC News. Earlier this year, the members of *The View*, a daytime talk show, marveled at her eye-catching wardrobe.

Not only is Michelle Obama an up and coming fashion icon, to many, she exemplifies the modern woman. A mother of

two, Obama is even more pressed than many average working moms.

Unlike many conventional first ladies, Michelle Obama represents the modern working American mother. Mrs. Obama juggles two children and a prestigious career in the health care industry.

Obama accompanies her husband on the campaign trail, supporting him emotionally and publically.

At many rallies and conventions, she has given impassioned speeches to crowds of thousands.

"I truly admire her fortitude and hard work," said sophomore Evan Rosone. "I think that Michelle Obama's speeches are only surpassed by Barack himself."

Although she has responsibilities that differ from other mothers quite drastically, Michelle Obama does not seem overwhelmed by the pressure. Ever cool and collected, she always seems to show up to events with an outfit that ties together the many facets of her personality and identity.

At merely forty-four years old, Obama has already become a role model for many, in a multitude of respects. Her independent nature is reflected in her novel ideas about style.

The public eye has become infatuated with Michelle Obama's style and persona and cannot wait to see her ensemble at her next public appearance. Not only does she talk the political talk, she walks the fashion forward walk.



# Students have shied away from ordinary summers

*Vacations were spent on the track, building houses, earning money, or in the classroom*

BY Leah Nash

Features Editor

By the end of June, students are counting down the minutes until summer vacation. For some, summer is the time for no school, no stress, fun, and relaxation. However, more students are spending their summers being active. Whether it is a sports, educational, or community service program, students are engaging in more interesting summers.

Many students decide to spend their summer exercising and playing sports. With the many competitive sports teams at Schreiber, practicing and getting in shape during the summer is a great way to improve both skill and overall athletic ability.

Students who want to keep their minds stimulated by learning and taking classes are often found at college campuses during the summer months. Participants have the ability to choose what they want to learn by selecting their classes, and they can enjoy academic freedom.

While doing community service, other students have a meaningful summer along with an educational experience. They are exposed to situations that expand their awareness of both local and national social issues.

Other students see the summer as an opportunity to earn money. They learn how to handle and make money by getting a job. Jobs also provide a social setting where many people can gain new friends and contacts.

Summer is still the time for no stress or worries, and even though students are getting involved with activities and programs, they are still able to enjoy their days in the sun.

## Community Service

Painting murals in Latin American countries is not the conventional arts and crafts activity performed at sleepaway camp. Summer vacation has shifted away from the macaroni collages and to the streets of Costa Rica. As students have gotten older, many have their sights set on community service during the summer.

"The idea of community service seemed iffy at first, but as the days passed, words cannot explain how rewarding the experience was," said sophomore Payal Doshi.

Doshi and fellow sophomore Casey Condon traveled together to Costa Rica as part of the Puteny Student Travel program at the beginning of July. Once there, they worked alongside the locals and other volunteers to repair gabaones, or levees, restore benches, paint buildings, and repair local schools. They also used their talents to paint murals and play soccer with the local kids and other helpers.

Sophomore Sherry Kim is another student who traveled to a Latin American country to lend a helping hand. She spent her time in the Dominican Republic with her fellowship group to work with the youth there.

These volunteers took home more than tans and certificates; they gained new perspectives and experiences.

"I have gained self-respect and friends for life," explained Condon. "I would do it over again in a heartbeat."

"Even though these kids did not have half of what I had, they were just as happy, if not more," said Kim. "They were able to enjoy life as it was, and I learned that with their attitude, I could too."

Although their summers were not filled with luxuries, these students learned the meaning of charity, and had their eyes opened to the living conditions around the world.

## Jobs

Many students work over the summer, doing everything from sundae-making at an ice cream store to getting an internship. Summer jobs help gain valuable working experience.

"I think that more students should have summer jobs," said sophomore James McCallen. "It gives them good experience working, before they really need a job." This summer, McCallen was a caddy at National Golf Links of America in Southampton.

"My summer job was a very beneficial experience," said McCallen. "Especially because I did not work in town. I got to

experience a new place for an entire summer, and I met lots of new people."

Junior Sean Graf interned at the Queens District Attorney's office in the special victims unit. He helped in the prosecution, most of which was against people convicted of sex crimes against young children. He also wrote subpoenas and visited court nearly every day.

"It was a great opportunity, because I felt great everyday going home, knowing I had helped a less fortunate person get their life back on track," said Graf.

Although they are good experiences, summer jobs are difficult to obtain. The national unemployment rate for teenagers, ages sixteen to nineteen, is 20.3%, the highest it has been since 1992. Students looking for summer jobs, or graduates getting jobs out of high school, will be hard pressed to find one.

"I think that these percentages are embarrassing," said sophomore Laila Irvani. "Many teens go to camp, instead of finding a job, which would probably be much more beneficial for them in the future."

Despite the numbers, students did well in finding fun, diverse jobs over the summer.

## Sports

Students passionately participate in sports throughout the school year, and their dedication does not stop once school is out. Many students choose to continue to play throughout the summer and get in shape for the upcoming sports seasons.

Junior Meghan Byrnes spent her summer running. This summer she gained more knowledge and a new perspective on the leadership and sportsmanship aspects of being on a team by attending the United States Scholar Athletes Games, which took place in Rhode Island. For Byrnes, a highlight of the program was hearing Colin Powell speak. There were about 900 athletes attending the program from over 32 different nations. Only two people were from Long Island, including Byrnes.

"Going to the United States Scholar Athletes Games was a great experience. It emphasizes peace among countries through sports," said Byrnes. "In the one-week program, the athletes learned the values of being a leader on a team and the importance of sportsmanship."

Running did not stop there for Byrnes. The last week of summer she attended The Running School in upstate New York. This program was designated to training and running.

"It was more running than anything else. I would get up and run, and then eat and run again," said Byrnes. The program taught stretches that Byrnes feels she can introduce to her team.



Sophomores Casey Condon and Payal Doshi along with other students traveled to Costa Rica to build houses, paint buildings, and repair schools.

Meghan Byrnes and other athletes who participated in sports programs over the summer were able to enjoy the summer weather by exercising and playing sports.

## Educational Programs

Whether to meet new people, to pursue areas of interest, or to put it down on a college résumé, summer educational programs are becoming more popular among high school students.

"I went mainly for the experience, to learn about the subjects I'm interested in from a different perspective," said junior Subah Nanda, who attended an Exploration summer program at Yale University.

However, it is not all about becoming smarter and getting accepted into a suitable college. The programs are intended to provide a constructive alternative to a traditional summer vacation.

Center for Talented Youth (CTY) is another popular educational summer program. Students who have gone have had the opportunity to take a variety of courses and meet people who share similar interests.

"I liked it so much after my first year that I just kept going back," said sophomore Kristin Yu, CTY program alumni. "Besides it being good for college, it's an opportunity to meet people and be independent."

"This was actually my second CTY experience. There are dances and activities...which range from bubble-blowing to acting improv. One has to score a certain mark on the SATs to get in, so people have affectionately dubbed it 'Nerd Camp,'" said freshman Otter Lee. "I wanted to learn and meet new people, and I think I was very blessed to have found CTY as it's definitely a life-changing experience socially, educationally, and maybe even spiritually."

Although these programs are different from the traditional sleepaway camp, many of the students who attend them have a great time and sometimes, a life changing experience.

Reported by: Leah Nash, Sarah Paul, Kristin Yu, and Kaia de Bruin.



Queens District Attorney, Richard Brown, is conducting a press conference. This past summer junior Sean Graf had the opportunity to intern at his office. Some of his responsibilities included working on subpoenas.

www.wcnyh.org



# Annual Italian Feast is a place of fun, games, and Italian culture

BY Laura Werle  
Features Editor

An established Port Washington tradition, the annual Italian Feast (pronounced "Fest") is a center of games and rides. Starting on the Wednesday after Labor Day and ending the following Sunday, the Italian Feast is an epicenter for thrill seekers and local Italian communities alike.

During the carnival, countless kids and adults can be seen tottering out of the mouth of the Gravitron. A fixture every year, it is a ride that simulates a gravity-deprived room. This is only one of the many popular rides at the Feast. Some rides are legendary for their constant lines, as well as the enjoyable experience they provide.

"My favorite is the Zipper," said sophomore Kristen Courage. "The lines can be

insane but for the good rides, it's totally worth it."

The Zipper, one of the largest rides at the carnival, is a towering metallic structure that spins, flips, and turns at the same time, thrilling the rider. On a busy night, the line for the Zipper can stretch back and pass multiple other rides.

Sponsored by the local chapter of the Order Sons of Italy in America, the carnival features stands that sell both traditional and Americanized Italian food.

The Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) is a national organization for Italian-Americans. Founded in 1905, the OSIA was created to be an aid to Italian immigrants and Italian-American descendants.

Today the OSIA provides services to Italian-Americans and creates networks between local chapters.

The local chapter of the OSIA is run by the John Michael Marino Lodge. On the website, the Lodge boasts the Italian Feast as the largest festival centered around Italian culture on Long Island.

However, the rides only make up half of the many festivities available at the Italian Feast. The Feast is also a party, filled with food, games and dancing.

Food is available from various booths that are run by Italian families in the area. Among the most popular foods sold are cotton candy, zeppoles, can-



www.marinolodge.org

Although the Feast offers rides and games for all ages, the main focus of the event is the celebration of Italian culture in America. Food stands sell traditional Italian goods and they are run by locals. (Left) An aerial view of the Italian Feast activities and food areas taken from the top of the ferris wheel. The grounds of the Italian Feast usually serve as a parking lot for Bar Beach Park.

died apples, and funnel cake.

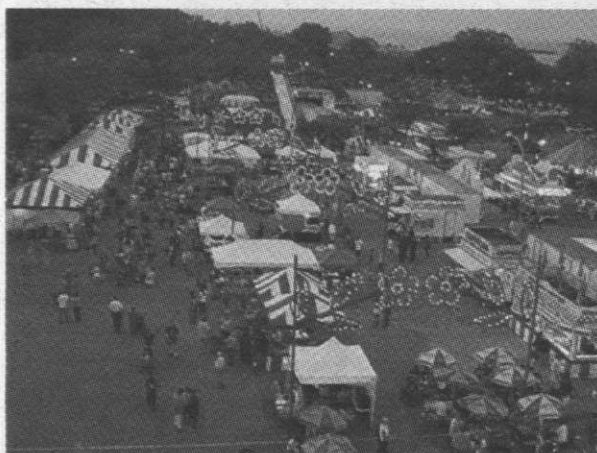
"Although the rides can be nauseating, the food is extremely enjoyable," said junior Zoe Blicksilver.

There are also activities that cater to an older crowd. Traditional live music is featured with an area for dancing. Every night, couples can be found waltzing to traditional Italian music performed by local artists. There is also a casino tent which is only open to people over 18.

Every year on the last day of the car-

nival there are fireworks to celebrate another successful year.

"It's really fun because everyone comes out for it, from grade school students to Schreiber graduates," said senior Noah Bondy. "No matter what brings you down, whether it's the rides or the food, like the disgusting but delectable funnel cake, you're bound to have fun. It's become a tradition for me and many other Schreiber students, and it shows how our community is set apart from any of the others."



www.marinolodge.org

## THE WRITING CENTER

"The art of writing is the art of discovering what you believe."

—David Hare

### WHAT IS THE WRITING CENTER?

A place where any student can go for help with any writing assignment

### WHERE IS THE WRITING CENTER?

Room 212

### WHEN IS IT OPEN?

Every day during 4-1/4-2

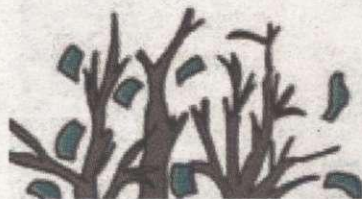
### HOW DO I USE THE WRITING CENTER?

Come in during 4-1/4-2 to meet with Ms. Zarkh or a Peer Responder, or make an appointment for another time.





# If the budget passed... why are the students COMPLAINING?



## Club underfunding and crowded classes lead to student discontent

BY Ryohei Ozaki  
News Editor

While school administrators have been appealing for increases in the funding allocated to clubs, no significant changes have been made to the budget to accommodate this request. Last year, approximately a third of the 60 functioning clubs, activities, and organizations were either underfunded or not funded at all. Those clubs that are given no funding at all are advised by teacher volunteers who have agreed to direct the club until funding is granted.

"The Board of Education may not be completely aware of the state of our clubs, but there is no easy answer to this problem," said Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres. "We are lucky not to have had our funding cut like some of the elementary schools. The funding we are given right now is barely enough to sustain the numerous clubs we have to offer."

The funding, counted in units, goes toward the additional pay teachers earn for advising a club. Currently, the amount of one unit is \$2,636. Based on the time it takes an advisor to direct a club, the number of units differs. Clubs being funded a quarter unit (\$659) are considered underfunded. Underfunded clubs have fewer meetings and by consequence cannot accomplish as much as a club that is funded in full. The units given to each club are strictly for the advisors—any additional money needed for specific events has to be raised by the club.

The Treehuggers Environmental Club, originally founded by a group of students in the 2004-2005 school year, was only given funding last year. The club is currently underfunded, receiving a quarter unit, which means it can meet only once every

month. The new advisor, social studies teacher Ms. Sarah Brenner, has agreed to meet with the club every other week, despite the lack of funding. For clubs like these that do not have regularly scheduled meetings, it is hard to keep in touch with members and to plan events.

"We don't get to meet every week, which means we don't get to organize important activities and events," said junior Alex Zippo, co-president of the club. "Things are becoming very disorganized this year. It's hard to establish ourselves as an active club with regular members when our meetings are so scarce."

The list of needs is sent to a district-wide Units Committee, on which Principal Mr. Jay Lewis has a seat. The committee determines the distribution of funds for various extracurricular activities throughout the entire district. Perhaps realizing the tight situation at the secondary level, cuts—where needed—were made at the elementary schools.

"We petitioned for 16 additional units to be relegated for clubs from the budget," said Ms. Torres. "If we were to fund our clubs the way they should be, this is the amount we would need. Most of the clubs are not getting the funding that they deserve. The Board will probably consider our requests and add a few more units, but how many they add depends on what else they need to take into account."

The school is currently trying to organize an Interclub Council, an assembly of representatives from each club to voice their different opinions on important topics. The school administrators can build a closer relationship with these clubs, ultimately leading to a mutual cooperation to mitigate situations, like the present lack of funding.

Clubs like the 3rd Wave Feminists, advised by English teacher Dr. Helen Sachs, and STAND as One, advised by English teacher Ms. Anne Pellett, are currently receiving no funding from the school. These clubs have to rely upon funds from groups such as the Port Washington Education Foundation. These "unofficial clubs" are not deprived of any rights that an official club, funded with units from the school, has. The school provides unofficial clubs with a place to meet, and gives the group the recognition of an "active club." However, new clubs are being discouraged from forming unless they are going to "fill a void" in the school's extracurricular field.

"It's definitely disappointing to be starting our third year without official recognition and support for 3rd Wave Feminists, particularly when our club numbers have doubled, and our activities and student-written production last year (*I Heart the F-Word*) have been so successful, influential, and highly lauded not only at Schreiber but in the Port Washington community at large," said Dr. Sachs.

Students with ideas for new clubs appeal to Assistant Principal Mr. Craig



Kevin Granger

Last spring, STAND as One hosted a picnic to raise money to support the fight against genocide in Darfur, Sudan. The club was not funded by the school at the time and appealed for support from Student Council and donations from local companies. Underfunded and unfunded clubs are indistinguishable from the school's "official clubs," which organize similar events.

Weiss or Ms. Torres for consent. Before being approved, a proper proposal of their purpose and goal must be submitted. A potential advisor, interested participants, and the viability of a club are a few deciding factors in the establishment of a new extracurricular activity. Clubs are only granted permission to meet if their cause can only be accomplished through the creation of a new club. Ms. Torres encourages students with ideas to look into other, similar clubs, where the same goal can be fulfilled. There is a need to merge ideas and to save the little funding that is available.

"Students that are adamant about a certain charity or cause often want to start new clubs. I tell them to go to an already existing club to see whether they can incorporate those ideas in their program," said Ms. Torres.

Last year, Newline was divided into two separate groups, Film Making and Photo Club so that each new club could be given part of the funding that the original group was not using. With the problem of underfunding that the clubs are facing, there is a need to reevaluate the worth of certain clubs. As was the case with Newline, non-active clubs may need to be dissolved so that the funding can be given to other clubs that need it the most.

Clubs appeal their participation within the school by hosting events and activities, to which the student body and faculty are invited. Art exhibitions, fashion shows, talent shows, and dinners are all ways clubs show their function in the school community. If advisors and student officers feel it is necessary, there is a means to appeal for increased funds for a club. The cheerleaders, who are performing at more games, are requesting increased funds for the increased commitment needed by the advisor. However, when a sixth of the functioning clubs are not being funded at all, there is little opportunity for these clubs to gain mobility.

For underfunded clubs, there is also

the option of requesting funds from Student Council, which in the past has helped fund events such as the Picnic for Darfur held last June. Although this is certainly not the ultimate solution to the funding dilemma, there are limited options of what a club can do to alleviate their situation. There is little hope of more funds for the twenty underfunded clubs being granted by the end of this school year. However, by the time the next budget is proposed, there may be an increase in the units to be distributed to the already existing clubs that need the money.

Until then, many clubs will have to be underfunded or be given no funding at all. These clubs will rely on the volunteering spirit of their advisors to stay as active, functioning clubs. Oftentimes these clubs do just as much as any of the other official clubs do.

"It would have been rewarding for the efforts and legacy of this wonderful group of strong, intelligent, highly capable, talented, and energetic young women and men to be recognized," said Dr. Sachs on her club efforts. "We continue, however, to be grateful for the continuing support of Mr. Lewis, the parents of our club members, and the Port Washington Education Foundation."

The stringent limitations of the district budget to provide for clubs is becoming increasingly more apparent as more clubs are being formed. Sixty clubs—although most of them have been established years ago—need a large sum of money to cater to their needs. Once an addition is made to the number of units available for distribution, some clubs will end up getting the short end of the stick, as this increase will probably not be enough to cover all of the necessary funds.

"It's never easy to choose one club over another, but this funding situation will give no other choice," said Ms. Torres. "Some of our clubs will continue not to be funded what they deserve. It's just another economic hardship of the times."

### SCHREIBER'S CLUBS BY THE NUMBERS

60 functioning clubs

3 new clubs

6 nonfunded but  
operational clubs

12 clubs requesting  
increase of units

\$2,636 in a unit



One of the largest freshman classes in recent memory has already left its mark on the school with a scheduling conundrum early in the school year for administrators and counselors.

"We started the year with 426 students, but we are down to 424 now," said Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller, who is in charge of the class of 2012. "It is by far the largest in the school" and "in recent memory."

With a relatively small senior class of 377 students graduating last year, and a large freshman class entering Schreiber this year, the school has seen almost a net increase of 50 students.

"By the time the smoke clears, there will be around 1560 students," said counseling department director Mr. Hank Hardy.

The guidance department, under the direction of Mr. Hardy, is responsible for creating the master schedule for the school in conjunction with Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss. The challenge in creating the schedule for the 2008-2009 school year was trying to accommodate students' preferences, while taking into consideration the staff and classroom constraints.

Despite the net increase in students, there has not been a commensurate increase in the number of teachers at the school, despite the budget having been passed last year.

"Based on the budget, there is no increase in staff," said Mr. Hardy.

Fulfilling students' electives requests was particularly difficult in the schedule making process. Specialized classes, like technology and digital media, have fewer teachers and in turn, fewer sections running.

"There were scheduling issues," said Mr. Miller. "For example, there were at least 140 technology requests that we couldn't fill. There was no money to hire an extra teacher."

Both Mr. Miller and the guidance director cited that the core classes remained relatively unaffected by the recent freshman class size increase and staff constraints. Meanwhile, electives' class sizes

have been increasing.

"We have increasing class sizes and an insufficient amount of sections. Simply put, we need to run more sections," said Mr. Miller.

In a course like Advanced Placement European History, for example, the optimal number of students in one class would be around 20 students. With the social studies department currently running four sections of the course with around 25 students per class, obtaining the optimal number of students is a challenge.

"To get 19, 20 students, that is another section," said Mr. Miller.

Increasing the number of sections for a class is not a solution that is as easy to implement as it may seem. On the surface, it seems as though hiring extra teachers would alleviate this issue. However, when taking into consideration the logistics, the problem is much more complicated.

In addition to needing more teachers, more classrooms are in turn needed. With the school running to near full capacity during the day, the schedule juggling that takes place will only get more difficult.

"Room is tight. The school is getting close to maxing out room availability for teachers to use," said Mr. Hardy.

One theory as to why class sizes are disproportionately large in certain sections is because of the school's waiver policy, whereby a student chooses to waiver into an honors or AP class with parental consent, thus forgoing the recommendation and/or entrance test process.

But when asked if the waiver policy is a primary contributor to increased class sizes, Mr. Miller said, "[the waiver policy] is not a problem but an impact."

On the other hand, the waiver policy has indeed raised some questions as to what its effect is on the size of sections. The guidance department, in particular,



Kevin Granger

Many students complained about crowded classrooms, preventing them from focusing and learning effectively. This AP Economics class is just one example of a class that has more students above the Board policy.

has been analyzing not only waivers but the entire relationship between honors/AP classes and the corresponding regents classes. The study has focused specifically on the attrition rate.

Attrition is defined as the dropping of programs or the loss of subjects during the course of a study. In the case of Schreiber, the guidance department has been examining the rate by which students move into Regents level courses from honors.

There was a recent study done with the school's biology program. Biology, the science typically taken by freshmen, is divided into two different courses at the ninth grade level; there is an honors biology class and a Regents level class.

In eighth grade, students take an entrance exam to determine whether the honors class is the appropriate setting. Others can also opt to waiver into the class. The department therefore examined the frequency by which an honors section reduced in size based on the number of transferring students.

"Generally, we lose anywhere from 18-25%," said Mr. Hardy.

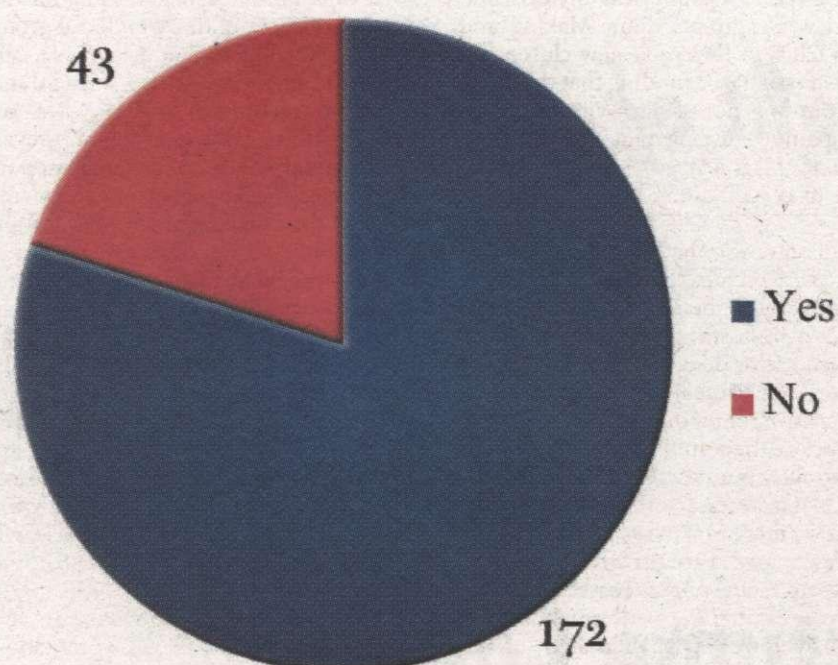
With that piece of information, schedules and sections are created accordingly. Consequently, some of the disproportionate enrollment issues found in certain classes will be allayed closer to the second marking period.

The class size issue has been a persistent problem ever since the budget's failure to pass three years ago. And ever since that time, administrators have been striving to reverse the ill effects of that contingency budget that was implemented in the proposed 2005-2006 budget's stead.

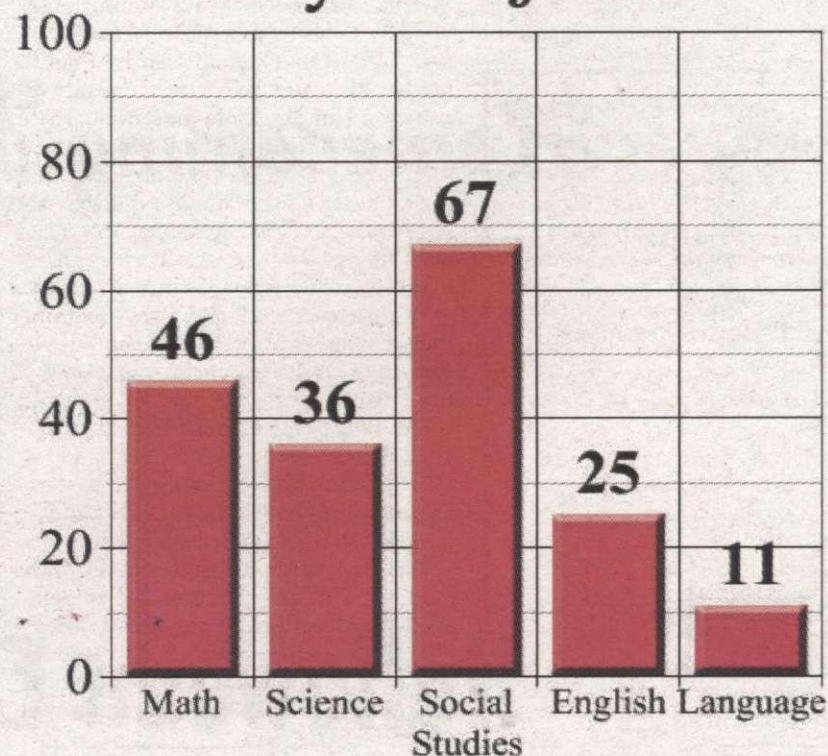
Last year, when Principal Mr. Jay Lewis was predicting the outlook for this problem, he said, "The potential for a perfect storm is there."

Mr. Lewis' prediction has held true with the large class of 2012 and the steady number of faculty at the school; the perfect storm is here, and it is here to stay.

## Are Your Classes Too Large?



## Class Breakdown by Subject





# Student Council



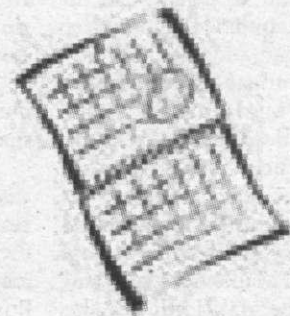
"Free Bagels"



## Future Meetings:

Fridays  
7:30 a.m.  
Student Commons

- October 3
- October 17
- November 7
- November 21



## **EVENTS TO WATCH OUT FOR:**



*Homecoming Night of Fun*



## **Halloween Costume Contest**



# arts & entertainment

## Burn After Reading sizzles among students

BY Christina Vlahos

A&E Editor

### Spoiler Alert

Never has it been easy to revel in the mocking of others, nevertheless, the Coen Brothers have made it so. From the guys who brought you *No Country for Old Men* and other dark comedies, *Burn After Reading* is an amalgamation of hilarious, witty dialogue, an all-star cast, and an outrageous plot that is so complicated and over-the-top, "your head will be spinning faster than the wheels of your Schwinn bicycle."

The story begins as a low-ranking analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency, Osbourne Cox (John Malkovich), gets laid off when he least expects it. Little does he know, his frightening, austere better half Katie Cox (Tilda Swinton) is involved in an affair with the womanizing, enigmatic Harry Pfarrer (George Clooney), an employee at the National Treasury. She is also scheming to seize Ozzie's assets and divorce him as soon as possible. The disk on which their financial information and Ozzie's memoirs are stored is accidentally left on the floor of a locker room at Hardbodies, a fitness facility which was founded by a ludicrous personal trainer, Chad Feldheimer (Brad Pitt). He is ecstatic as he realizes that "there are numbers,

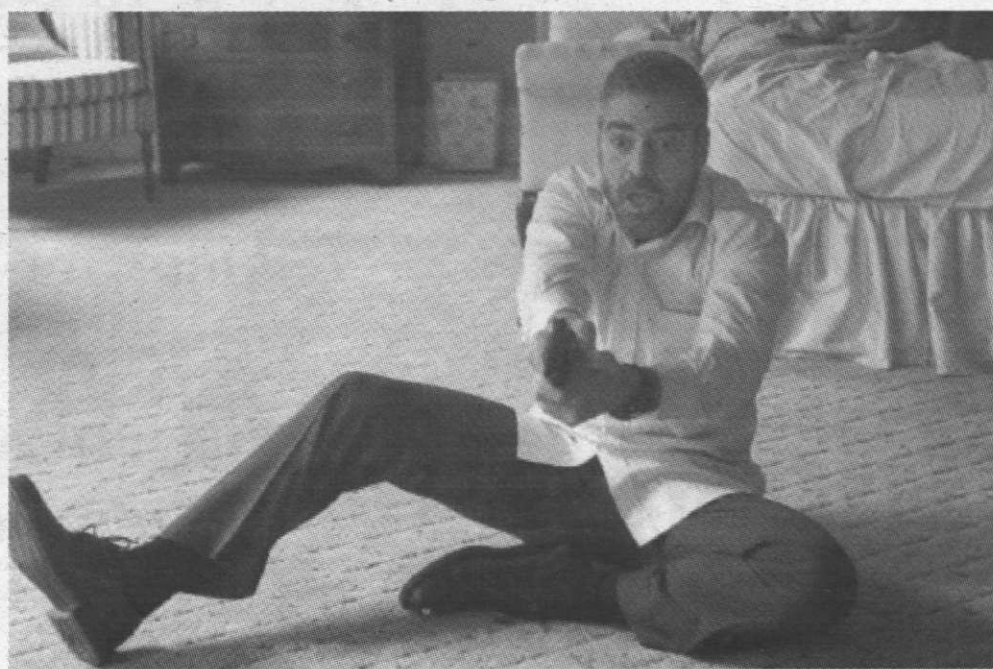
and dates, and [expletive], and numbers, and dates, and CIA [expletive], and numbers, and [expletive]!" His manager Ted Treffin (Richard Jenkins) is uncomfortable about the situation, but his coworker Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand), a narcissistic, unintelligent internet-dater, sees this as her golden opportunity to obtain money for numerous cosmetic procedures she adamantly believes she needs. What begins as a way to obtain money for Linda's plastic surgery results in a sketchy rendezvous on the National Mall, house break-ins in Georgetown, trips to the Russian Embassy, and a complex situation where everybody seems to be sleeping with each other, while the CIA attempts to make sense of it all.

This dark comedic thriller was written and directed by the well-known team of brothers, Ethan and Joel Coen. Other films they have written and directed include *The Big Lebowski*, *Fargo*, and the aforementioned *No Country for Old Men*. They have dabbled in many different genres and are known for their successful combinations of comedies about dramatic ideas.

*Burn After Reading* was no exception, for it was a crafty blend of violence, crime, "threats" to national security, romance, ignorance, and rather cruel humor. One of the film's greatest strengths was its irony. The plot twists and unexpected encounters as well as the pointless deaths and love affairs all contribute to the paradoxical nature which makes the film very stimulating.

The main cast of *Burn After Reading* consisted entirely of Academy Award winners and nominees. Malkovich brought out the pathetic laziness and sloppiness of the ex-CIA analyst, Princeton graduate, and severe alcoholic Osbourne Cox. His aggressive, anti-social manner was startling and he sounded absolutely ridiculous as he drunkenly shouted about the "league of morons" (the gym employees) that was harassing him about the disk.

On the other hand, his stone-cold, stuck-up wife was



www.latimes.com

Harry Pfarrer (George Clooney) gracefully tumbles into the bedroom wielding a gun in a scene from the Coen Brothers' new hit film, *Burn After Reading*.

always poised and rigid, and Swinton, having previously portrayed characters with similar personalities, did not fail to impress.

Linda Litzke is a rather tragic character, and throughout the film her witlessness and insecurities are mocked and exploited. McDormand's portrayal of Litzke's sense of purpose, resulting from her belief that she is a part of some enormous CIA secret plot, is entertaining, but also cheerless. She gets swept up into a scheme of her own imagination's creation and therefore finds it necessary to do drastic things, like visit the Russian Embassy multiple times with "secrets of national security." Litzke is so easily manipulated and McDormand does well representing the character's vulnerability.

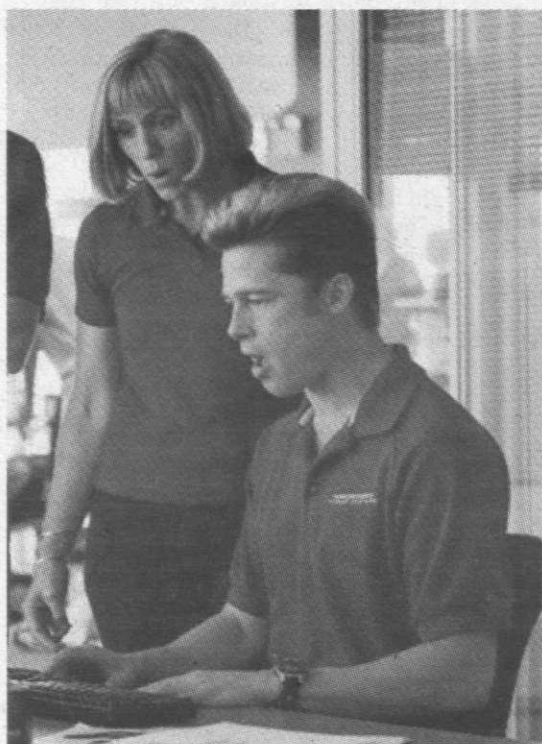
Pitt's portrayal of Chad Feldheimer's character was flawless. He has an endearing quality which seems irrepressible in his acting and is irresistible for his audiences. Throughout the film it was obvious that he must have had an amazing time acting the part of Chad. A goofy, "can-do" personal trainer, he was an eager, innocent, blissfully ignorant guy who thought it would be fun to get some money out of blackmailing a CIA analyst. But his stupidity ultimately serves as a detriment to his well-being. Pitt's timing and delivery, his facial expressions – heck, his awkward dancing stole quite a few scenes – and his presence dominated. His inclination towards the use of an expletive four letter word that starts with "s" and means excrement surprisingly enhanced the dialogue. At one point, Chad

calls Ozzie about the disk and states, in all seriousness, "Osbourne Cox... I thought you might be woocommerce... about the secuurity... of your [expletive]." The successful execution of a line like that can only be done by great masters of the art of acting. Pitt's portrayal of this naïve, happy "good Samaritan" is flawless.

Clooney's portrayal of Harry Pfarrer must also be acknowledged. It was seamless and engaging, and Clooney's charm and suave personality shone throughout the film. His character's charisma made him appealing to the audience, despite that he was a two-timing adulterer. Clooney's depiction of this man with severe paranoia and commitment issues was so well received. And as the movie went on and viewers saw him repeating old habits, it was as though the audience shared an inside joke that only his character and we understood. Clooney had a lot of fun with his character's determination to impress women, in multiple ways, including his efforts at building a special chair with only \$100 worth of materials from Costco.

There are many reasons to see *Burn After Reading*, all depending on the sort of person you are. Regardless of whether you are interested in the superstar cast, the Coen Brothers' previous films, or a dark comedy, *Burn After Reading*, a must-see film for this year, should be seen after reading this review.

Rated R for excessive use of four-letter swear words, some gym employees dying, and George Clooney sleeping with everybody.



www.aceshowbiz.com

Chad Feldheimer (Brad Pitt) and Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand) are overjoyed as they discover that the disk they found contains information from a CIA Analyst.



# The Dark Knight does not joke around with its excellent performance

BY Ryan Larkin

Staff Writer

For the past few months, few movies have prompted as much discussion as Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight*. The biggest and most successful film to hit the box office this summer, *Batman* has garnered immense hype to the point of hysteria thanks to an extensive online viral campaign and unfortunately, due to actor Heath Ledger's death. Though some fans initially questioned whether Nolan's film could ever meet such expectations, the general consensus is that he far exceeded them.

It has been several weeks since I saw this film and I am still in awe of it. *The Dark Knight* takes place a year after the events of Nolan's previous blockbuster *Batman Begins*. The mobsters that once ruled the city of Gotham with an iron fist are now running scared because of one man, the Batman (Christian Bale) who has single-handedly waged a crusade against the criminals that once plagued the streets of Gotham.

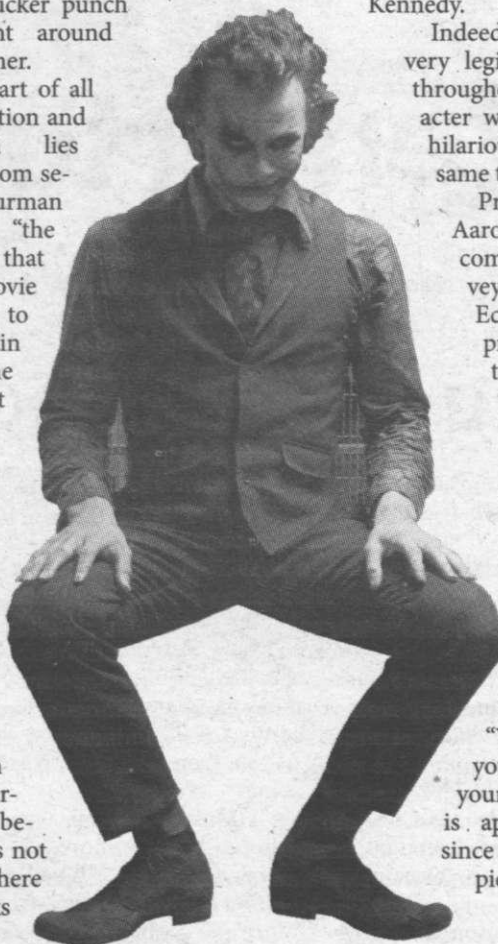
He is joined in this quest by police lieutenant James Gordon (Gary Oldman) and Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart), the seemingly incorruptible new District Attorney whose honesty and sense of justice have earned him the nickname of "Gotham's White Knight."

As the triumvirate continues to flourish, Batman hopes that he may finally be able to hang up his mask and devote more time to his love interest Rachel Dawes (Maggie Gyllenhaal), who he realizes is growing closer to Dent. However, things turn ugly when the now-desperate gangsters turn to a mysterious and violent criminal known only as The Joker (Heath Ledger), who promises to silence the Batman and his al-

lies once and for all.

*The Dark Knight* is excellent at exploiting and manipulating audience expectations. Just when you think the movie might die down, there is another sucker punch coming right around that next corner.

At the heart of all this misdirection and manipulation lies the Joker, whom senior Eleah Burman identifies as "the character that raised the movie from 'good' to 'brilliant' in the eyes of the fans." Most viewers have not hesitated to use words such as "outstanding" or "masterful" when describing the late Heath Ledger's performance, because there is not a moment where Ledger breaks character; from



Ledger's masterful performance as The Joker at times captured audiences' sympathy, while at others revealed the evil nature of the character.

beginning to end, he is the Joker.

"Every time the Joker came on screen, I was terrified, because it is established very early that whenever he is onscreen, anything can happen," says junior Brian Kennedy.

Indeed, the Joker creates a very legitimate sense of danger throughout the film. He is a character who manages to be both hilarious and terrifying at the same time.

Praise must also be given to Aaron Eckhart, who nails the complex personality of Harvey Dent from start to finish. Eckhart's likeable onscreen presence works beautifully to his (and Nolan's) advantage here, because it creates a connection between the audience and his character.

Junior Alexander Beall said that this connection "makes the misfortunes that Dent ultimately experiences hit the audience twice as hard." His already infamous line, "You either die a hero, or you live long enough to see yourself become the villain," is appropriately ambiguous, since it provides a beautiful piece of foreshadowing.

Though Batman has less screen time in this film compared to the last one, this has generally

been deemed acceptable because *The Dark Knight* is an ensemble piece; each character gets his own moment to shine. Christian Bale gives another fine, if somewhat overshadowed, performance; Heath Ledger set a standard even he could not match.

The one running complaint about Bale among fans concerns his character's voice. As junior Chris Yap said, "You cannot understand a thing he is saying. The deep, throaty tone Bale uses while in the Batsuit serves as a minor annoyance that does not, however, detract from Batman's overall likeability."

*The Dark Knight* is a very uncompromising movie that makes us deal with difficult issues and subjects. The battle fought throughout the film is one that leaves many people dead — good and evil alike. No good deed goes unpunished, and at the end of the film, there is the possibility that evil may have won out. The Joker's ironic way of exploring what makes people kill under what ethical circumstances is something that will leave you thrilled and contemplative for a while afterwards. This film is a blockbuster that will excite, provoke, and entertain audiences everywhere — it is a true masterpiece.

Though it is tragic that Heath Ledger's career ended as soon as it did, at least he finished on such a high note. This outstanding actor has taken his final bow with an award-worthy performance.

"I thought that this movie was terrific," said sophomore Chris Verdi. "The movie was exiting and eye-grabbing from beginning to end. Heath Ledger deserves an award for his brilliant performance as the Joker. This movie impressed me with its script, its effects, and especially its acting. In my opinion, this movie is the best movie of 2008, not just the summer."

## Despite views of many, *Tropic Thunder* was not a torrential downpour

BY Morgan Quigley

Assistant A&E Editor

Despite some subpar reviews, I thought that *Tropic Thunder* was terrific. It had the right blend of humor and outstanding cast members.

As the movie begins, a bunch of hysterical, fake movie previews are shown, just to introduce the characters. The first actual scene of this movie starts out in the middle of a forest, where the characters are trying to film an action scene in the movie that they are trying to make, called *Tropic Thunder*.

At a crucial point in the movie, Tugg Speedman (Ben Stiller), an actor trying to get back on track after a string of bad movies, is trying to cry after his limbs were amputated via explosions and gun shots, but Kirk Lazarus (Robert Downey Jr.),

who portrays a five-time Academy Award winner, is crying profusely. Tugg Speedman calls to cut the scene, but explosives are being airmailed as they are trying to get Tugg back into the scene. The explosion goes off and causes millions of dollars worth of damage, and the tape is not even rolling. So just five days into shooting the movie, they were already a month behind.

The movie that they are filming is based on a fake book called *Tropic Thunder*. John "Four-Leaf" Tayback (Nick Nolte), the man who supposedly survived all of the horrors of Vietnam, and allegedly has only one hand, and the author of the book is with them to help make sure facts are accurate.

Tayback tells the director that they need to experience something real in order to play the part, so the cast is dropped off in the middle of the jungle where they are alone, and all they have are their guns and director. He subsequently steps on a mine and blows himself up within minutes of being in the jungle. Since Tugg Speedman is not the brightest of the bunch, he thinks that it is just a stunt to get them scared.

With Speedman leading the way, they get lost. It turns out that Speedman was reading the map incorrectly. Everybody leaves Speedman, while Tayback and Cody Underwood (Danny R.

McBride), the special effects wizard, try to locate the dead director.

Then Speedman is captured and brought back to a place in the middle of the jungle, which just happens to be a heroin ring called the Flaming Dragons. The Dragons believe that Speedman is an agent spying on them, and Speedman believes that he is still in the movie.

Then the rest of the gang, which included Jeff Portnoy (Jack Black), Kevin Sandusky (Jay Baruchel), Alpa Chino (Brandon T. Jackson), and Damien Cockburn (Steve Coogan) see Tugg being tortured by the Dragons. They make a plan to rescue Speedman which proves successful, but it also proves that Tayback has both hands when his hook falls off. It turns out that the entire brave-hearted story of *Tropic Thunder* was completely made up.

In addition to all of the phenomenal names in this cast already mentioned, there are still many more that deserve a nod. One of which is Matthew McConaughey who plays Rick Peck, Tugg Speedman's agent. Throughout the movie, Rick is constantly fighting for Tugg to get his TiVo, which was a part of Tugg's contract to do the movie. Another notable actor in this movie is what seems to be a Tom Cruise comeback. Tom Cruise plays Les Grossman, who plays a movie producer. A third notable actor, Bill Hader (aka the cop from *Superbad* that is not Seth Rogan), who plays a very funny studio executive.

*Tropic Thunder* has been in the middle of much controversy. During all of the fake previews at the beginning of the movie, Tugg Speedman is the main char-

acter in the movie *Simple Jack*, playing a man with a mental disability who tries to do normal things. This was protested before the movie premiere by 22 groups including the Special Olympics, claiming that there was an over-usage of the word "retarded," but no edits were made. There was a website called simplejackmovie.com, but it was taken down on Aug. 4, due to protests. There are many other fake websites involved with the movie including bootysweat.com, alpa-chino.com, pandarelocationfoundation.org, fatties2.com.

Ben Stiller got the idea for *Tropic Thunder* while filming the movie *Empire of the Sun*. *Empire of the Sun* was a World War II movie released 21 years ago. Much like the *Scary Movie* series does making fun of scary movies, *Tropic Thunder* does the same with war movies. These movies include *Platoon*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Full Metal Jacket*, *Hamburger Hill*, *The Deer Hunter*, and many others. Also, one of the false advertisements proved not to be false anymore. Booty Sweat, an energy drink, displayed in the movie, is available for purchase at amazon.com.

Sometimes movies "lose their funny" toward the end. Many other comedies will have a serious point. Not *Tropic Thunder*. At no point did the movie get serious, it was just funny throughout.

Contrary to other beliefs, *Tropic Thunder* was a hilarious, well thought out, "stupid movie." The cast was phenomenal and the movie was very well played.



In the movie, the characters do not try to prove their intelligence, but flaunt their stupidity and illogical behavior, adding humor to the movie.



## After a successful season four, the *Entourage* crew is back for more

BY Dave Marx

Staff Writer

It is a series about everything you would look for in a show: movie stars, making money, and Hollywood. What reason is there not to watch? The HBO original series *Entourage* recently premiered its fifth season, attracting many viewers because of the controversial and surprising ending to its previous season.

*Entourage* is an Emmy Award winning show about a young, good looking movie star named Vincent Chase, played by Adrian Grenier. Its seven Emmy nominations include Outstanding Comedy Series. In 2006, cast member Jeremy Piven won for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series.

The plot for most of the earlier seasons of *Entourage* revolved around Vince Chase trying to make his name in the business. In more recent episodes he has become an A-List celebrity, appearing in multimillion dollar films and being paid massive sums of money to endorse products.

The show derives its title from its plot, which revolves around the people that make up Chase's "entourage." These characters include Eric Murphy, Chase's manager (Kevin Connolly), Ari Gold, his agent (Jeremy Piven), Johnny Chase, his brother (Kevin Dillon), and "Turtle," his driver/assistant/mooch/childhood friend (Jerry Ferrara).

*Entourage* is widely popular because of its appeal to a variety of spectators. It often appeals to women due to the cast of Hollywood heartthrobs, while also ap-

pealing to many young people because much of its plot involves living the "good life" in Hollywood. The themes of male bonding and loyalty to friends attract many male viewers.

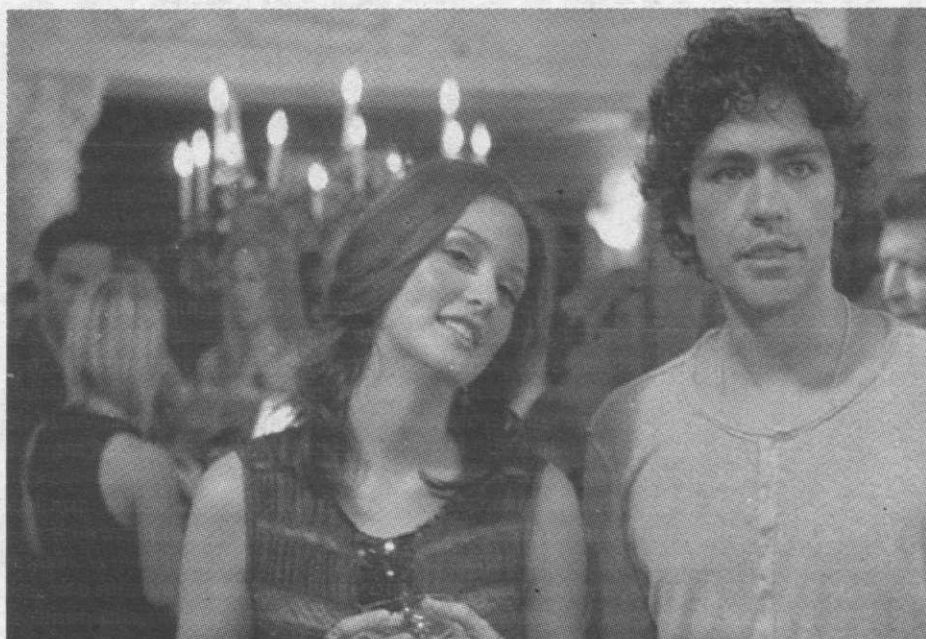
Vince is an actor who became a major Hollywood celebrity, but his three best friends are still his brother, his childhood buddy, and his original manager. *Entourage* takes a modern approach to the classic lesson that the most important part of life is to keep your best friends and family close even with tremendous financial success and popularity.

Despite *Entourage*'s previous popularity, the new season has caused some groans among viewers. The first two episodes have been considered "stale" and "boring" by many. When asked for summaries of what happened in the first two episodes, most students replied, "well, nothing really."

"I was a big fan in the past few seasons, but so far this season has been pretty boring. I think it will get better soon though," said junior Dylan Kane.

After the unexpected ending to the last season, many critics and spectators have predictions about what is to come for the rest of season five. In season four's finale, the motion picture in which Chase starred, *Medellin*, premiered, which was the climax of the entire season. Surprisingly, this movie was hated by viewers, and we find out in the first episode of season five that it would be released straight to DVD, which is a huge disappointment for Chase and his entourage.

Predictions for this season definitely include Chase's rise back to the top with



www.hbo.com/entourage

Seductive singer, Justine Chapin (Leighton Meester), returns to meet her love interest Vincent Chase (Adrian Grenier) on *Entourage*.

another big motion picture. Additionally, Chase's brother, previously a D-List actor eclipsing Vince's career, and Chase's manager are getting new clients who could remove attention from Vince, causing great conflict. With ten episodes left of the new season, there are many twists and turns to come.

"I think Eric's management company is going to become more popular," said senior Sam Garman. "It will probably make him very busy, which will take his focus off Vince and probably cause lead to a fight."

Overall, *Entourage* is a favorite among

Schreiber students, as well as adults. The much anticipated fifth season has disappointed some, but was still able to gain a 9 out of 10 rating on metacritic.com, a website made for reviewing television and movies. Out of all the students interviewed, none planned to stop watching due to the somewhat disappointing and lackluster start to the season. The show's theme of loyalty has taught viewers well, and will clearly keep them coming back every Sunday night to watch.

## Despite controversy, *Scrubs* survives

BY Brett Fishbin

Contributing Writer

"When I was young I could sleep through anything..." were the words that started this once Emmy nominated sitcom. However, after seven relatively successful years on NBC, a controversy that cannot be slept through has negatively affected *Scrubs*.

There have been network changes, confusion about returning cast members, and the show's creator, Bill Lawrence is unsure about the fate of *Scrubs*. Viewers and fanatics seem to be outraged over the trouble and the rumors have caused critics and fans to be very doubtful about the future of *Scrubs*.

It all started towards the beginning of season 7, which many Schreiber students agree was its worst season yet. After a well-received season premiere, the writers' strike swept over NBC and caused *Scrubs* to go on a temporary hiatus. This is when things began falling apart.

After three and a half months of anxiously awaiting the show's return, *Scrubs* finally returned. Many Schreiber students sat on their couches, happily rejoicing that their favorite show was back.

But, there was a problem. As season 7 continued, there was a change. The once quick witted, funny dialogue was overrun by something much worse: a boring series that was just flat out unoriginal.

Before, and throughout season 7, both Bill Lawrence and star Zach Braff insisted that this would be the last season of *Scrubs*. But their minds were changed when they realized, "how could they possibly end the series so poorly?"

Just as these thoughts started coming

to mind, ABC came out and declared that they wanted to pick-up *Scrubs* for another 18-episode season.

Although NBC did not add *Scrubs* to its fall primetime schedule, it still threatened legal action against ABC for stealing its show. Later, NBC president Ben Silverman said, "I don't know where *Scrubs* is going, but it's finished its run on NBC."

As season 8 is around the bend, Zach Braff, Bill Lawrence and supporting actress, Judy Reyes, have all made their decisions that season 8 will be their last. Some fans of the show are most likely glad because the show has, quite frankly, already dragged on long enough. Yet another problem arising in the midst of this controversy is that ABC released a statement saying that *Scrubs* will go on past season 8 with an entirely new cast. The general opinion of Schreiber students about the situation was rather negative and dire.

Looking forward to the new season of *Scrubs*, I often find myself praying, "Please, please make this the last season." And these are the hopes of many fans.

It would be a shame for such an excellent show to end on such a poor note. But though its quality will continue to reduce and the show will inevitably go downhill, *Scrubs*' true fans will continue always to walk around humming, "I can't do this all on my own, no I know, I'm no superman."

"I really hope that *Scrubs* has a successful season. It is a great show that adds tons of humor to my week. It's extremely unique, as you can rarely find a show where hospitals and comedy are a great pair. However, if it continued with a different cast, it would probably stop watching it," said junior Rebecca Greenblatt.

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# Remembering 9/11: A Muslim point of view

Mohsin Hamid's best-selling novel forces readers to think about how people were affected after 9/11

BY Christina Vlahos  
A&E Editor

In the weeks preceding and following the anniversary of September 11, Schreiber students spend much of their time remembering that fateful day in 2001 when our way of life was changed forever. However, we do not always consider how the events affected the treatment of Muslims in America.

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist* is a powerfully written, controversial novel by Princeton and Harvard graduate Mohsin Hamid. It is his second novel, following his widely acclaimed *Moth Smoke*.

Hamid grew up in Lahore, Pakistan, and his writings reflect much of his personal experiences. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* follows the life of Changez, also a student at Princeton and an immigrant from Lahore, Pakistan.

The novel begins in Lahore, Pakistan where an American businessman and Changez sit at a local cafe. The American is paranoid and uncomfortable in his surroundings and during their conversation Changez begins to tell him the story of his brief life in America.

Having grown up in Lahore, Changez was from a large family of high social standing. He begins to attend Princeton in 1998 and is at the top of his class, graduating in 2001.

Immediately recruited to the selective, prestigious valuation firm, Underwood Samson, Changez is living the American dream. He is making more money than he ever thought he could, and has many friends from his class at Princeton.

On a trip to Greece, he befriends and ultimately falls in love with his "regal, elegant" classmate, Erica. Upon their return to New York, Changez's career and their relationship begin. He seems to have it all—a well-paying job, a beautiful girlfriend, and rising social status in New York City.

And then, while he is on assignment in Manila, the terrorist attacks take place. Changez's response, as he explains to his American dinner companion, is mixed, initially.

He is obviously upset by what has taken place. However, he becomes embittered when at the airport for his flight back to New York, he is taken aside and delayed after being subject to a special investigation because of his ethnicity.

This is just the beginning of his problems, and upon his return to the United States his way of life has visibly changed and people's treatment of him and their perceptions of him have become negative.

The story continues to describe Changez's internal struggle over his proud allegiance to his native country, Pakistan, and his many opportunities in America; it is difficult for him to forget where he comes from.

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist* was, to say the very least, beautifully written. The flashbacks and Changez's conversations with the American foreigner are seamlessly woven together.

His remarkable insight and descriptive observations add an entirely new dimension to the novel. The style of narration is formally conversational, and his quick witted and evocative remarks enhance the story even more. His emotional intelligence is exceedingly prevalent throughout the novel and his analyses of people's personalities are intriguing.

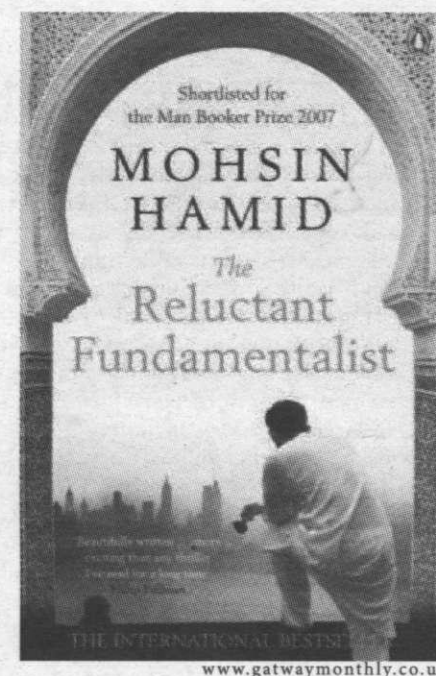
These also provide another way of understanding the narrator himself, and the way he views himself in relation to others and in the context of being a Muslim in New York post 9/11. The purpose of Hamid writing this story is not necessarily to make the readers agree with Changez—it is simply to reflect on the changes in the character's life resulting from the events of 9/11.

Many elements of Changez's story are somewhat tragic. He changes in multiple ways after moving to the States, becoming

somewhat more materialistic in the way he scorns and compares his family's home in Lahore to the grand apartments of the Upper East Side in New York City. Additionally, he is totally emotionally invested in his relationship with Erica, who seems unavailable and damaged and therefore unresponsive to his love.

Changez also struggles with his position in society. Though he is one of the best analysts at his firm, he suffers because of the distracting events going on in the world which affect him so profoundly.

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist* is a must-read for numerous reasons. This story is relevant in all of our lives. Though somewhat controversial, it provides an entirely different point of view that many students probably would not have considered before. I would recommend this novel to all high school students because the subject matter is relevant in everyone's lives, regardless of your grade level.



## Formulas extend beyond our math classrooms and into Hollywood

BY Jess Greenwald  
Contributing Writer

The next time you purchase a movie ticket you may want to think about what you are about to see. Considering the lack of originality in Hollywood screenwriting lately, chances are that you have already seen this movie before, just in a different setting with different actors. Even worse, when a decent film does come to the big screen, most people do not even appreciate the film for its quality and originality.

Several regular movie-going students agree that lately there are very few redeeming characteristics in most movies.

"All movies now are based off of the same generic plot, which is not all that exciting anymore. I would rather read a book than head to the theatres nowadays," said junior Alex Zippo.

*The Dark Knight*, the sequel to *Batman Begins*, was released in mid-July. At the box office, the movie collected over \$500 million. It seemed that everyone loved it.

"It was an action packed film with many great scenes. Heath Ledger also gave a great performance as the Joker," said freshman Caleb Jenkinson.

That was a reasonable answer to describe a popular movie's wow factor. But when asked about the plot, there was some reason for concern.

"While watching the movie, the plot was just an afterthought," said Jenkinson.

Originally, when there were no real graphic designs, movies relied solely on the plot. Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window* takes place in only one room and is considered a classic. And although the 112 minute film lacks special effects, it is regarded as one of the greatest pieces of art in the movie industry. Great acting aside, it was the storyline that carried the movie.

*The Dark Knight* had many action sequences accompanied by Ledger's great acting. However, viewers lost sight of the plot. Hardly any people realized that the whole story revolved around the Joker, despite the fact that Batman is the Dark Knight. He seemed to be no more than a minor character.

The latest *Indiana Jones* movie was

released just prior to the start of the summer. All of the previous films dealt with historical information. In the newest *Indiana Jones* installment, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, audiences forgot that the film they were watching was actually a sequel to the previous *Indiana Jones* movies because it was so different.

"The plot would have been great in any other movie," said freshman Dan Samowitz. "For *Indiana Jones*, it did not fit into the whole series at all! I have already seen plenty of sci-fi movies dealing with extra terrestrial life. Just watch the movie *E.T.*"

The *Indiana Jones* series deals with Dr. Henry Jones, a part time professor and treasure hunter whose entire life revolves around history. As an archaeologist he deals with past civilizations. In the most recent *Indiana Jones*, all Dr. Jones deals with are aliens and mind control. A UFO emerges from the ground and flies back into space, which might be fun to watch, but is not at all consistent with the *Indiana Jones* theme.

Watching recent movies has become difficult with the unoriginal plots. While that problem is tolerable to a certain degree, the issue of characters lacking originality is not. Now movies are using the same characters in different disguises. *The House Bunny*, a film released at the end of the summer, is laden with unoriginal characters. To begin with, the plot is meant to be so idiotic that people will find it comical. Problems, however, surface when you see the same characters that have been in countless other movies. The only differences are the actors themselves.

"The movie in general was so awful, that the only thing that one could do is laugh at what they are watching," said sophomore Ethan Richards. "It was the *Legally Blonde* of 2008. It had the same stereotypical blonde girl who is perceived as being unintelligent yet beautiful. Besides the actresses, there is almost no difference between the character in this movie and *Legally Blonde*."

Movies have seemingly lost all sense of value. Instead of buying a ticket at the movie theatres, browse the aisles of any DVD store and find yourself a movie dated back five years ago or more.

## Actors and musicians are becoming very involved in the 2008 election

BY Alex Hohauser  
Staff Writer

In a year in which politicians and celebrities are becoming increasingly interchangeable, the difference between Hollywood and Washington is only fading. The entertainment industry has injected itself into presidential elections for many years, especially during the 2000 and 2004 cycles.

As can be expected of California, most pop culture celebrities lean left, with prominent figures ranging from Scarlett Johansson to Morgan Freeman supporting Barack Obama.

Conservative Republicans generally receive less support from the stars because of a difference in ideologies. However, John McCain has been doing quite well in Hollywood. For example, he has earned the support of Clint Eastwood and Sylvester Stallone.

This cycle has provided us with tons of fanfare over Hollywood's involvement in

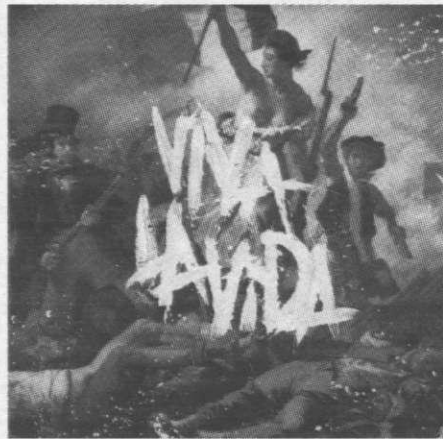
the election, both direct and inadvertent. Though it seemed as though the focus would be on the issues, John McCain chose to instead strategize by painting Obama as a "celebrity" akin to that of Britney Spears or Paris Hilton, who was unready to lead the nation. While Obama did not respond with a comment, Paris Hilton certainly had something to say about the matter. She released a video ridiculing both McCain and Obama, and announcing her bid for the presidency. Somehow, Hollywood became the focus of the election yet again.

The crusades of celebrities have also been seen outside of Hollywood. These starlets have appeared at the Denver and St. Paul conventions through the Creative Coalition, a group of actors and writers organized celebrity appearances in Denver and St. Paul. While they were not always welcome, Hollywood's presence in election cycles will not be going anywhere soon. Especially, since the stars provide the candidates with tons of coverage and finances.



# Music Box

## Coldplay rules the music world with Viva La Vida



BY Ali Nierenberg

A&E Assistant Editor

Calling all Coldplay fans: if you have not yet listened to the band's newest album, sprint to the nearest computer or music store immediately. The album, *Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends*, will certainly please your ears. Although the album was released late in June, it is still surrounded by major hype. It has remained on top of Top 10 lists, and many of its tracks can be found on Top Song lists.

If you are unfamiliar with Coldplay, do not fret. This British sensation is known for its alternative rock. Its albums typically feature an enjoyable mix of calm and energetic songs. Due to its versatile musical style, Coldplay is a band that can

be listened to regardless of what mood you are in. The individuals behind this band include Chris Martin, pianist and vocalist, Jonny Buckland, guitarist, Guy Berryman, bassist, and Will Champion, drummer. They have had great success together, winning a Grammy for one of their songs "Clocks" and earning a spot on *Rolling Stone* magazine's "500 Greatest Albums of All Time" list with their 2002 album *A Rush of Blood to the Head*.

Now, back to their current album—you may be wondering why this collaboration was so adulated, but with one listen you will understand why. The first track on the album, "Life in Technicolor," is a great introduction. This instrumental track starts off relatively calm. However, by the middle, the tempo rises and the excitement builds. Though this song features no vocals, it is captivating. On the other tracks, Chris Martin's voice resonates beautifully.

Many of you may be familiar with the most popular track, "Viva La Vida," but talent is truly displayed in many of the other songs. For example, "Lost!" has an extremely catchy beat and melody. Before you know it, you will be singing and swaying along. If you liked "Viva La Vida," you will probably enjoy "Lovers in Japan," "Violet Hill," and "Strawberry Swing." These songs are all upbeat and pretty euphoric. Their style is also similar to "Viva la Vida" in the sense that the beats of the instruments are clear and just

as important as the singing. The style of music is also a slight departure from their somewhat more traditional sounding albums of previous years. The instruments used are varied with string instruments having a greater presence throughout.

If you crave a quieter, more relaxing set of songs, this album will not leave you hungry. Although many of the tracks are forceful, there are still plenty of mellow songs. These include "Death and All His Friends," "Cemeteries of London," and "42." After looking at these titles you may realize that they all involve death, explaining the melancholy tone.

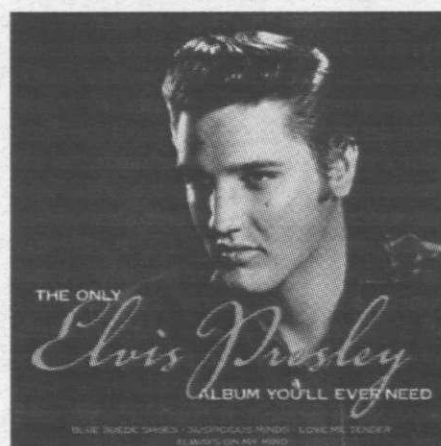
The consensus among teenagers is positive, with both past and present fans

approving Coldplay's newest tracks.

"The album definitely did not disappoint me," said junior Rebecca Greenblatt. "The more times I listened to it, the better it became. There truly was not a song that I didn't like."

*Viva La Vida* is a clear example of Coldplay taking a chance by experimenting musically and as a result essentially improving the quality of their sound. So take a chance on *Viva La Vida*, just as Coldplay did with making this new album, and you will not only enjoy the great music that it has to offer, but also be convinced of the pure talent that is Coldplay.

## Classic Album: Elvis Presley: Elvis Presley



BY Katherine Heinlein

Contributing Writer

"Whenever I hear him, his voice sounds poetic and deep," said freshman Jessica Boyd. "It's so refreshing to listen to. His songs were his way of communicating his thoughts to people."

Surprisingly enough, Presley's music is not self-written. But he is highly recognized for the energy he gave to others' compositions. Inspired by other artists, he added his own sound to their work, making it partially his own. It would be difficult to argue that Presley was less talented or original because he did not write his own songs. In fact, part of what made him so popular was the immense feeling he poured into each word he sang, which compensated for the fact that he was not a songwriter. His humble, humorous character defined him and the albums he released, which in turn gave him appeal among millions of people.

With modern artists releasing new albums every day, one may wonder why classic musicians are still avidly being listened to in the twenty-first century. Although many Americans enjoy listening to music styles that relate to their time and culture, the transporting qualities of older music, like those of Presley's, are taken advantage of.

"He was really big at one time, so all of his songs kept on going," said junior Jesse Stovall. "People kept listening to him."

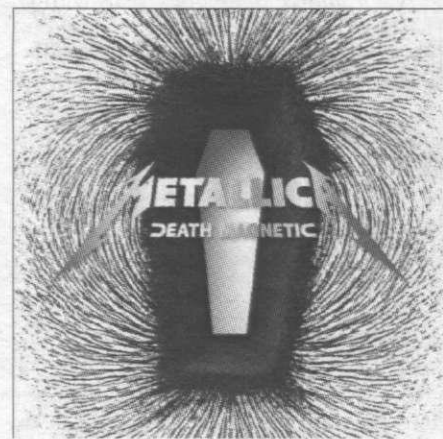
Presley's music is an accurate representation of a bright, progressive era. Many traditional ideas and values were challenged, especially through music; his music is no exception. Some of his songs are occasionally criticized as being "silly" and "shallow," because their familiarity is often mistook for mediocrity. However, they are really just accurate illustrations of human emotions, which are universally known things.

"He could even take sadness and make it into something really beautiful," said freshman Kierah Siegel.

Considering all of the more recent albums released by Elvis Presley, his debut album is often disregarded. But Elvis Presley showcases the rock star's talent with great versatility, symbolizing fresh talent of a man now regarded as the King.

"Elvis Presley music should definitely be considered classic. Almost everyone can relate to his great sounds. I truly loved the self-titled Elvis Presley album," said junior Regan Nebenhaus. "Elvis' voice was soulful and melodic. I think that this album has impacted modern music to an immense extent."

## Metallica: Death Magnetic



BY Bailey Chan

Contributing Writer

Metallica is a heavy metal band that has had a profound influence on many of its modern successors over the past few years. Their old releases such as *Ride the Lightning*, *Master of Puppets*, and their self-titled album *Metallica* all have a significant place in music history. On the other hand, their new album *Death Magnetic* will not achieve the same status.

The current members of Metallica are rhythm guitarist and vocalist James Hetfield, lead guitarist Kirk Hammett, bassist and backup vocalist Robert Trujillo, and drummer Lars Ulrich.

In the new album, their old style of music is back, but in general, it returns as a softer sound than some of their previous albums. The songs on this album do not compare to songs like "Enter Sandman" and "Master of Puppets." There are only ten tracks on the album, but most of them are longer than five minutes. Metallica is

a great band, but their music is not up to the standards that it used to be.

The song, "The End of the Line," on *Death Magnetic* is the most appealing and exciting to me. Most of the other songs are not as heavy, but this song makes up for the way the other songs on this album were written.

"The guitar solo in 'The Unforgiven III' and the intro to 'The Day That Never Comes' alone, make the album worth buying," said senior Mark Brewster.

On *Death Magnetic*, the lyrics are the same style as in the other albums. They sound very angry and are harsh at everyone and everything. James Hetfield explained that the name *Death Magnetic* came from the way they were thinking of how all people die and how death has magnetic tendencies, which people try to push away and avoid, but are attracted to nonetheless.

Over the years the band experienced difficult times with the loss of a member and copyright infringement problems with Napster that threatened their reputation. In 1986, they lost their first bassist, Cliff Burton, who died in a bus crash when the bus ran through some black ice. After their loss they got a new bassist, Jason Newsted. He stayed until 2001, when he decided to release his side project's first album. After he left, they got Robert Trujillo, who is still their bassist today. Despite these hardships, Metallica was able to release *Death Magnetic*.

Though I was disappointed about this new album, some songs are still decent. I hope this is not Metallica's big finish because it would be sad for such a great band to end on such a poor note.

When people hear the name "Elvis Presley," a single title usually comes to mind: The King of Rock and Roll. It is a name that speaks for itself, one that needs no justification. In the midst of the feel-good spirit associated with the 1950s, Presley blew Americans away with the release of his stunningly bold and vibrant self-titled debut album, *Elvis Presley*. While revolutionizing the rock music genre, Presley's music also affected individuals nationwide, just as it continues to do so today.

"He had so many memorable songs," said freshman Chris Falcioni.

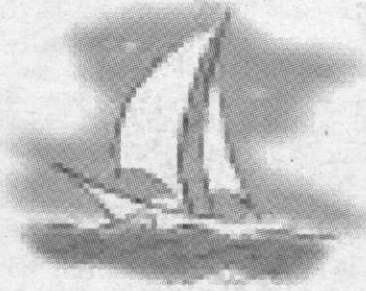
*Elvis Presley*, as an album, opens with the lively and rebellious "Blue Suede Shoes." The song boasts a catchy rhythm through edgy guitar chords combined with a steady drumbeat, similar to the tone of "Tutti Frutti." Presley can practically be pictured dancing across a stage with his guitar, vying for the protection of his precious leather shoes. By the second track, "I'm Counting On You," the listener is instantly captivated by the richness of Presley's voice and the evident passion that seems to fuel it. Slow and melodic, there is something traditionally heartfelt about the song and others of the same nature, such as the ballad "I Love You Because."

The music Presley produced appears to mix country and R&B to form a style that is noticeable in much of his debut album, especially in the fast-paced "I Got A Woman" and the more soulful "Trying To Get To You," which has a soft electronic sound to it. The ultimate turn of the tide comes near the end of the album, with "Blue Moon," a perfect reflection of Presley's profound vocal capability. Some of his songs have similar sounds, yet all are uniquely constructed.



# Pride in Port

Saturday, October 18th, 2008

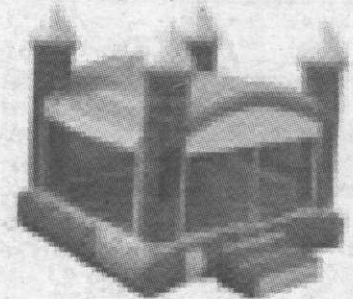


**Parade at 11:30 am up Main Street**  
With the 2008 Grand Marshalls:  
The Children of Port Washington!

(Parade Line-up at 10:30 am at the Carlo's Pizza Parking Lot)

## **Family Fun Day Events at Schreiber High School**

With pumpkin picking, face-painting, castle bounce, dunking booth, rock climbing, mechanical bull, food and refreshments!

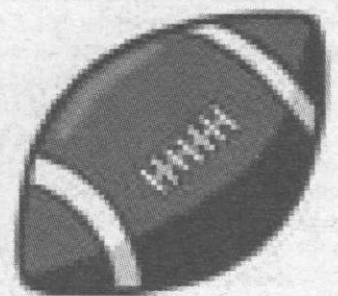


**Homecoming Kick-Off at 1:30 pm**  
Port Vikings vs. Oceanside Sailors



Half-time Ceremonies

Hall of Fame Breakfast



*You won't want to miss it!*



# Cross country looks to run over competition in fall season

BY **Graham Potters**

Sports Editor

The boys cross country team is returning from last season in anticipation of repeating its success.

Last season, the team successfully became Nassau County champions and even managed to place ninth in the state meet.

As a result of their achievements, the Vikings are rated 10th in the state in the cross country standings.

"Last year's success is something we would love to achieve again," said junior Marco Bertolotti.

Coach Jeremy Klaff shares the team's ambitions in returning to the state meet again.

"Our biggest goal would be to return to the State meet. Last year we came in ninth in New York State after winning the County championship, and would like nothing more than to return to the big meet," said Mr. Klaff.

The success may be a bit harder to achieve this year, due to the loss of seniors Ignacio Del Valle, Eric Ruvio, and Robbie Rubinstein.

These seniors represented three out of the top five runners last season. They were all major contributors to the team's ninth place finish in the state meet last year.

"When they came in as a freshman class in 2005, we knew we would have something special for the next four years," said Mr. Klaff.

As a result, the burden will fall on the new members to restore the former glory of the Vikings, but the coach is not

worried.

"Marco Bertolotti is the reigning County champion at the mile. Noah Bondy is a returning cross country All County runner as well. Jacob Levine and Jeff Delia each come off of a spring season in which they ran miles in the 4:40s. All four were at the State meet last year, and now have experience. As for the freshmen, we have three that really stand out. Paulo Bertolotti, Ryan Schwartz, and Taylor Titcomb. Last year's Weber XC team was undefeated," said Mr. Klaff.

He plans to work the entire team hard this season to prepare all the runners for their meets and especially the State qualifier.

"We are going to train as hard as we did last year, yet be cautious with the health of our top runners. We are going to concentrate more on hill workouts this year, because if any of our runners are fortunate enough to get to the state meet, it's going to be at Sunken Meadow State Park, which is one of the more rigorous courses in New York State," said Mr. Klaff.

Last year's success is keeping Coach Klaff to the same training schedule, as he hopes to produce similar results.

"Last year our hard training took us to our first County title since 1964. We aren't going to deviate too far from what got us there," said Klaff.

The future remains unclear for the boys cross country team because of the loss of the key senior runners, but the influx of talented freshman and return of talented veterans looks like it may be able to counterbalance the losses.

"The talented freshman should

definitely help us fill the gap that the seniors left," said junior Jake Levine.

On Mon. Sept. 22, Port defeated Massapequa, Levittown, East Rockaway, and Hempstead. Massapequa was a contender with Port for the top position in the county conference, and their defeat was a huge morale booster for the entire team.

"The victory against Massapequa built up the confidence of the entire team," said

junior Andrew Minicucci.

The boys are now looking forward to the Suffolk Coaches Invitational meet which will be held at the infamous Sunken Meadow Course.

"We are all working hard to get ready for the upcoming challenge at Sunken Meadow," said junior Jake Levine. "We hope to succeed there as well."



Andrew Minicucci

Senior Noah Bondy leads the pack as juniors Marco Bertolotti and Jake Levine follow. All three have stepped up immensely to fill the voids of last year's seniors Ignacio Del Valle and Eric Ruvio.

## Fresh start for girls soccer Lady Vikings stay positive

BY **Reid Mergler**

Assistant Sports Editor

With a new coaching staff this year, the girls varsity soccer team is off to a new start. Last year, the team was unable to attain a record that exceeded .500. However, this year, with coaches Ms. Mary Romano and Mr. James Enright, the team has accepted the motto, "Trained to Win" as a reflection of their drive to play better.

The two coaches may be new to this particular team, but they are not new to the district or to coaching. Mr. Enright is a seventh grade science teacher at Weber Middle School, who used to coach girls soccer and boys lacrosse at middle schools. He is now the speed and agility trainer for the Lady Vikings. Ms. Romano is a physical education teacher at Weber and played four years of varsity soccer in high school. For the past two years, she has coached the junior varsity girls soccer team. In addition, Enright and Romano were both college athletes.

Along with the new coaches, the team moved down a conference. Playing with teams similar in ability will allow the team to succeed this season.

Starting their season three weeks ago, they have played in two games with a record of 0-2. On Sept. 11, the lady Vikings played against Roslyn. Port set the tempo for the majority of the game with senior Hana Paisner controlling the midfield and juniors Alex Fernandez, Kelly Certuche, and sophomore Lily Thrope leading the defense. However, Roslyn's goalie was a challenge for the team, and they were unable to finish two penalty kicks, resulting in a score of 2-0.

On Sept. 13, the team was defeated by

Elmont with a score of 2-1. The goal was scored by Thrope off a penalty kick. Even though they lost these two games, they continue to work hard with the support of their coaches in practices.

Practices are six days a week with two hours of training every day. The coaches leave ample time for conditioning which includes speed dribbling and dynamic stretches.

Sophomore Bridgette McDermott likes the variety of the practices and thinks the coaches are doing a good job training the Lady Vikings to victory.

"The practices are strenuous, but allow us to improve our strength and speed as a team," said McDermott. "Our dream of making it to playoffs may actually become a reality with our strong team and great coaches."

The team is also led by three captains, seniors Paisner, Melanie Reese, and Nikki Horveilleur. Horveilleur plans to motivate the team and states her goals for her last season on the Vikings.

"Our team has girls who play on all different club teams and we are loaded with talent," said Horveilleur. "I think a major goal for the season is to be able to learn to all play together as a whole. For me and the other seniors, it is our last shot to have a successful school soccer team and that is what is keeping us motivated."

The team goal this season is mainly to win more games than they did last year.

"Our overall goal is to create a program starting this year in which girls can grow as young athletes and be positive role models for the young girls in the community," said Coach Romano. "A positive attitude and environment is a critical goal to the success of our season."

BY **Max Mancher and Jeffrey Sims**

Staff Writers

Despite a tough start to the season, the girls varsity volleyball team continue to play hard and stay optimistic.

Coach Ms. Maria Giamanco believes although the record does not portray a good start to the season, the team is playing well and is keeping the matches competitive.

The team, led by co-captains Amanda Cohen, Jessica Lazar, and Emily Weinstock as well as Kristen Courage and Nina Lee, is now playing in the highest division in the league and has to step up in order to keep up their competitiveness.

"The team has been improving on its ability to capitalize on the other teams' mistakes," said sophomore Jamie Koopersmith. "We have some experienced seniors and we have the potential to go pretty far this season."

Because this is the best division, every team in it will make the playoffs. And although the team may not win as many games, when the playoffs come they will be more prepared.

This is because every game that they are playing now has the same level of play as that of a playoff game.

Coach Giamanco says that the trick to success this year is to keep up the intensity, which will be the determining factor for overall success.

Last year the team went 9-7. And although they had a better record last year, the coach says that this year the team is playing a better quality of game.

Amanda Cohen and Kristen Courage have been leading the team in kills, averaging about 7 per game, and Nina Lee has been

leading the team in assists with about 6 per game," said Coach Giamanco.

In the game on Sept. 12, the team had a tough loss to East Meadow. The first game was controlled mainly by East Meadow, who won 25-14.

In the second game it seemed as though Port was more determined and came out strong.

Although the score was only 25-22 in favor of Port, the Lady Vikings played much better and regained the momentum of the game.

The two teams battled back and forth, for both points and momentum. And although East Meadow went on to win the third and fourth games, Port hung until the very end. East Meadow ended up winning the fourth game by a close score of 25-22.

"One thing that we need to improve on were that we were stuck in serve-receive," said co-captain Cohen after the match.

The sentiment for improvement was felt throughout the team.

"Something that we need to work on is communication," said co-captain Courage. "When it is quiet on the court we never play to our maximum abilities, but when we do talk we play like a real team."

But on a more positive note, Cohen also mentioned how the new floors were a lot better, and that it really made a difference on the grip and traction under the players' feet.

Hopefully, these new floors will be able to give the lady Vikings a real home court advantage come playoff time.



# No such thing as vacation for athletes

by Harrison Remler

Sports Editor

With the immense pressures surrounding student athletes throughout the school year, there is little time to relax and enjoy high school. Many argue that the summer is prime time for students to rest and appreciate time off from school with stress free schedules. Yet, many of Schreiber's finest athletes had extremely busy summers.

Firstly, Schreiber's varsity swimming phenom Gabby Borutecene trained four hours a day with her Long Island Aquatics Club (LIAC) swim team, located out of Eisenhower Park.

"Over the summer I lowered my times in my strokes and trained for the upcoming school season," said Borutecene.

She competes in the national division with the infamous Long Island Aquatics Club. Over the past summer she dropped 2 seconds off her one hundred breast stroke and seven seconds off her inter medley. She also competed in the two hundred breast stroke.

Borutecene was fortunate enough to compete in the finals during her meet at Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey. Out of eighty swimmers, she advanced to the finals in all of her four strokes.

One of her most remarkable accomplishments was qualifying for sectionals, one of the more competitive meets on Long Island. Unfortunately, she was three seconds short of competing in the Junior Nationals.

Out of the pool and onto the courts, Kristin Norton continued her dominance on the tennis courts across America this past summer. She trained every day with coach Adriene Chrici while competing at

the 18 and under level. Norton was ranked fourteenth in the nation.

Norton won three consecutive tournaments, beginning in New Jersey, placing first in the singles division at the sectionals. Shortly after, Norton traveled to El Paso, Texas where she won singles and doubles with her partner Caroline Dixon from Westchester.

After a run at the national tournament sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield she traveled to Memphis, Tennessee which proved to be a turning point in her summer.

"I sprained my ankle halfway through my match in the first round and was forced to take a medical timeout leading one set to none," said Norton. persevered through the pain and tied the second set 4-4 and came away with a victory.

"This was definitely a huge moment in my summer," said Norton.

Norton was sidelined for a week and a half while she went through physical therapy. After a successful rehab, she was selected to represent the Eastern sectional in the FedCup, a Davis Cup-style tournament. Along with six other girls, Norton traveled to Norfolk, California to compete against the top players in all of the nation's sectionals. She and her eastern squad placed sixth in this USTA sponsored event.

Norton concluded her summer campaign with the Super National hard court tournament in Berkley, California. Despite her ankle injury she moved deep into the consolation bracket where she played against Mallory Vurdette, the eighth player in America.

Norton, who says the ankle is now almost one hundred percent, is currently ranked number one in the east.

Finally, Schreiber had a representative in the Detroit Jewish Community Center (JCC) Maccabi Games; a long lasting tradition which is held yearly in various cities.

"Playing in the games was a great experience. I met kids from Israel, Venezuela as well as all over the United States," said current junior and basketball player Dan Bernstein.

Bernstein, along with varsity basketball teammates Zach Kriftcher and Adam Epstein, led the Samuel Field Y delegation to fifth place in the basketball tournament.

"The final game against Suffolk came down to the wire. We knew we were the better team yet we struggled with some questionable calls and it was a tough loss," said Bernstein.

"The boys worked together and hard and played with a lot of intensity," said junior Emma Horowitz.

Junior Ross Balaban won the bronze medal in the Maccabi golf tournament. There were over 40 golfers in the tournament. Ross shot an 84 in the second round, and in the final round he played a scramble tournament with Matt Felsonfeld.

Felsonfeld is arguably one of the best players in the nation. He beat Corey Pauer's Maccabi record, who recently won the U.S. Open. Combined they shot a 66 to take a bronze back to New York.

These summer experiences are only some of Schreiber's finest athletes. Many other Schreiber students had excellent summers athletically.

"Hopefully Schreiber's athletes can parallel their success from the summer into the upcoming school year," said Bernstein.

## Calling the Shots

by Graham Potters

Sports Editor

In every sport there seems to be a certain player who is better than the rest. One who is capable of making clutch plays without crumbling under pressure. One who can endure longer than others and can play at the peak of his or her ability for an extended period of time. These players are playing at the peak of their ability. Most of the time, these players fade away, fall from the lime light, and let another take their place as these players are considered "past their primes."

Yet, most recent star athletes have redefined this phrase and have exceeded their climaxes. Just when many perceived that they were past their glory days and were bound to fail, they revitalized audiences across the nation. Three perfect examples are Tiger Woods, Roger Federer, and Brett Favre, reaching top rankings in their sports.

Tiger Woods will be the best men's golfer in the world when he retires. His golfing seemed to reach its peak in the year 2000 when he won three consecutive majors and nine PGA events. His wins were not his only achievement. Woods broke many different PGA records ranging from lowest score below par (-19) to winning by the largest margin. Unfortunately, in 2008, Woods' career was cut short by a knee injury. But Woods did not leave without claiming the 2008 US Open. Woods was certainly a master of his sport, and despite his short decline, it is safe to say that Woods had been playing at his peak for at least the majority of his career.

Another player who seemed to be faltering but managed to make himself the best in his sport is Roger Federer. His career is shaped a lot like Woods'. He started at an early age and rose to the top of the tennis world in 2005 when he claimed his back-to-back titles in Wimbledon and in the US Open. His era of domination continued into 2007. But this year, he has had a series of embarrassing defeats and seemed to be falling apart. To everyone's surprise, Federer regrouped and recently claimed the US Open, once again proving his domination in the sport. Whatever doubts that had surrounded his ability to continue were swept away when he beat Andy Murray in the finals. He abolished any notions that the game had passed him.

A third player who has yet to pass his peak ability is Brett Favre. After being traded from the Falcons to the Packers back in 1992, Favre was able to start every game from the fourth game of the 1992 season through 2008. In that period, Favre led the Packers to four NFC championship games, two NFC championships, and one Super Bowl championship. Surprisingly, he is still playing today, despite being one of the oldest players in the NFL. His throwing techniques still seem to be working, as his passing contributed to the Jets' season opening win against the Dolphins. His peak of performance cannot be considered over just quite yet.

Overall, some players have the unique ability to extend their peaks longer than most players, and have remained key players in their respective sports. Woods, Federer, and Favre are all examples of players with extended periods of domination in their sports. We will have to wait and see how long these men can endure and persevere, and how high they can elevate their games.

## Varsity football begins season against Hempstead

by Steve Geisenheimer

Staff Writer

Two years ago, the boys varsity football team made the playoffs for the first time in 24 years. Now, the Vikings seek a third straight playoff birth. Although they lost a lot of key seniors, the Vikings have high hopes for the season.

"We really feel as though we can be a strong playoff contender with the players we have coming back," said senior Mark Brewster, linebacker.

For the first game, the Vikings had to face the second ranked team in Nassau County on the road, Hempstead, led by all-purpose running back, Terrell Williams. Hempstead is a contender leads the Tigers, a favor for the Long Island Championship.

The team got off to a strong start, leading in the first quarter. Led by senior quarterback Mike McCabe, the Vikings drove down the field on a 10 play scoring drive. They ended their drive with a three yard touchdown run by junior Jason Sirotkin. After a failed extra point by first year kicker Brennan Spreitzer, the Vikings led 6-0.

Hempstead came right back with a touchdown drive of their own with a two yard touchdown run, and Hempstead took a lead they would never relinquish.

The Tigers added to their lead in the second quarter on a 25 yard touchdown run by their star back Williams, his first of three scores on the game. This gave Hempstead a 13-6 lead at the half.

Williams started off the third quarter with a 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to give the Tigers a 20-7 lead, but

the Port offense returned with a touchdown of their own.

McCabe led the Vikings on a 20 play touchdown drive and finished it off with an 11 yard touchdown pass to fellow senior Eric Parchment.

"A 20-play drive is unheard of at the high school level," said coach Ken Case. "It was good to see that we were able to move the ball on one of the top teams in the county."

The touchdown made the score 20-13. After that, the Port defense was unable to hold out against any more scoring attempts.

Hempstead scored 20 straight points on the Vikings defense to take a commanding 40-13 lead. The Vikings were able to add one last score toward the end of the game on a 64-yard touchdown pass by McCabe to junior Dylan Kane, but it was not nearly enough to tie the game.

"The offense has a lot of good to take out of this game," said senior Mark Brewster. "But we need to work on stopping the run in the future."

The most significant play on defense came when senior captain, and leading tackler, Franco Signorini intercepted a pass, after Brewster was able to apply pressure on the quarterback. Port had a lot of trouble stopping the run, allowing 260 plus

yards rushing to the Hempstead offense.

Highly coveted running back Terrell Williams tallied 349 all-purpose yards, 148 rushing yards and capped off this 40-19 win with a 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

"We had a lot of trouble containing their speed, and unfortunately speed is not something you can teach," said Case.

Sirotkin led the team with 110 rushing yards on 18 carries along with his touchdown. Senior Mike McCabe completed 11 out of 19 passes for 171 yards and two touchdowns. The Vikings will look to rebound in their second game at Syoset before coming home to play Freeport under the lights.



Jason Sirotkin (34) fights through the Hempstead defense. Despite Port's loss, Sirotkin tallied 110 yards in 18 attempts in his varsity debut.

Andrew Weil



# Athletes of the Month

## Hana Paisner

BY Reid Mergler  
Assistant Sports Editor

Playing soccer since she was three years old, senior Hana Paisner has been extremely dedicated to the sport. Paisner trains all year round on the Port Washington soccer team, the Schreiber girls varsity team, and the Long Island Olympic Developmental Team during the summer. This year, Paisner has been promoted to captain and has been given the responsibility of leading her team.

A major accomplishment of Paisner's athletic career has been her participation on the Long Island Olympic Developmental team during the summers of 2001, 2002, and 2004.

Paisner has managed to be a part of the Schreiber girls soccer program for five years. She was on the junior varsity team in eighth grade and became a member of the varsity team as a sophomore. Her coach, Ms. Mary Romano, a physical education teacher at Weber Middle School, is very proud of her. Being a new coach to the varsity team this season, Romano sees that Paisner is an important part to the team in only the first three weeks.

"We have only played three games, but right now she is a crucial part to our team's midfield," said Romano. "She has a strong presence and leads by example for our younger players. For this reason, Hana has achieved the role of team captain for the season."

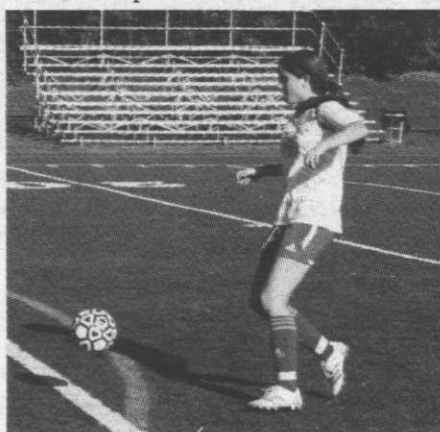
Paisner enjoys being captain, as she thinks of it as a rewarding way to end her

five year career on the lady Vikings.

"Even though it is only a few weeks into the season, I think it is a lot of fun to have the responsibility of being captain," said Paisner.

Paisner knows that she definitely wants to play soccer when she goes to college next year. Whether it be at Tufts University, University of Rochester, or Emory University, she hopes to continue playing varsity soccer and continue her career.

"Hana is a dynamic player who brings an enormous amount of passion to the sport," said Romano. "In addition, she is a highly skilled player who contributes daily to raising the bar of excellence for her teammates. She is also a positive, motivating senior who wants to end her career on top."



Senior Hana Paisner competes during a midweek practice on the "Turf."

Kevin Granger

## Brennan Spreitzer

BY Drew Freidman  
Contributing Writer

Brennan Spreitzer called for the ball just outside the three-point line. As soon as the pass came his way he squared up and focused on the basket. Bending his knees, he unleashed a shot and watched as it went through the hoop. The scoreboard added three points to the Vikings' total. Moments later, Spreitzer and his teammates celebrated a playoff win over a competitive Elmont squad.

On his Elmont game last year, "It was the best game of my Schreiber basketball career," said Spreitzer. "I rebounded, shot three pointers. I just couldn't miss."

It would be impressive if Spreitzer, who is now a senior, only played varsity basketball. But he is also a member of the varsity soccer, volleyball, basketball, and football teams, distinguishing himself as a four-sport athlete.

Spreitzer was awarded the sportsmanship award at the Manhasset Booster Club tournament, where he led his team as they outscored opponents 6-0 en route to the title.

As noted by *Newsday*, Spreitzer and former athlete of the month and All County soccer player senior Stephan Brossard have established themselves as one of the top scoring tandems in the county.

"Stephan and I have been playing together for years and we always know where each other will be on the field," said Spreitzer.

When he is not penetrating defenses on

the soccer field, Brennan is either kicking field goals for the Vikings football team, hustling on the basketball team, or setting up teammates on the volleyball court. He has hit a personal best field goal of fifty-two yards during practice.

Spreitzer compiled an extremely successful campaign last year in all three of his sports. He reached two Nassau County semi-finals, in varsity basketball and varsity volleyball, and reached the quarterfinals with the soccer team last year.

As well as sports, Spreitzer values his schoolwork and grades at Schreiber.

"Academics are very important to me. I tend to have a higher grade point average while playing a sport," said Spreitzer on balancing sports and academics.

On life after Schreiber, Spreitzer is currently drawing interest from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio and Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York concerning his soccer abilities.



Spreitzer is Schreiber's only four sport athlete.

Kevin Granger

## A familiar face and a new floor; Joannon fills director void

Joannon steps in, after sudden resignation of Ken Marlborough, to revitalize Port sports program

BY Harrison Remler  
Sports Editor

This past summer, the Schreiber athletics department went through some very extensive changes. On July 31, last year's Athletic Director Mr. Ken Marlborough resigned from his position due to struggles concerning his commute from Cutchogue. He has moved on, recently joining the Shoreham-Wading River Central School District.

When searching for a replacement, Schreiber turned to teacher and coach Stephanie Joannon.

"Due to Mr. Marlborough's late resignation, Ms. Joannon was the most suitable choice for the job," said Principal Jay Lewis.

Ms. Joannon has taught and coached for 27 years at Schreiber. Joannon's legacy as a girls varsity basketball coach has been recognized throughout Nassau County, as she won her 300th game two years ago.

Joannon has been influential through the lives of her athletes and students. She is very familiar with the college process as she has helped many Schreiber alumni play collegiate sports. In her 2007 basketball campaign, out of her eight seniors, six attended college with the intentions of playing college athletics.

In addition to changes in the personnel, Schreiber made a huge step in what many consider the right direction by rebuilding the new floor. According to Mr. Lewis the previous floor has been used in Schreiber since 1953.

"The new floor looks stellar," said junior Adam Epstein, a varsity basketball player since freshman year. "I can't wait to compete in the upcoming basketball season."

The work started on June 26 and ended

**"While the new gym has caught the attention of students throughout Schreiber, many around the community feel that the gym still has some problems."**

on Sep. 2, the day before classes began. Mr. Lewis also noted that foundation problems had been discovered in the gym, as well as warps and nails in the old floor. The funding for Schreiber's new floor came from the district's Permanent Improvement Committee.

"It was time for a change. The old floor was horrible, and even though changes were done in the past, they were just not prudent," said Ms. Joannon.

While the new gym has caught the attention of students throughout Schreiber, many around the community feel that the gym still has some problems.

"Even though it does not affect us directly, some problems facing the gym are the lighting, lack of sound system, and climate," said Epstein.

When faced with the question concerning Schreiber's ceiling, Ms. Joannon noted that the ceiling was not low compared to other schools.

"Our teams are absolutely deserving of this upgrade," said Ms. Joannon.

Ms. Joannon is excited about her new position and is ready to continue making improvements in the sports program. Some of her main goals are to bring back enthusiasm and pride. She hopes to earn one hundred percent support of the athletes by upgrading the uniforms.

"Students should feel pride in the blue and white of Schreiber," said Joannon.

Her impact can already be seen as the football program and many other varsity teams have completely new wardrobes. She has also tried to make sure blue and white are the main colors in Weber, where in the past some of the Weber apparel featured red.

In recent years, the Schreiber fan base has grown immensely, especially for football, soccer, and basketball, at Weber and throughout the community.

"Playing in one of the most competitive leagues in Nassau County, home court advantage is a big asset," said senior basketball player Zach Kriftcher.

In the past, the administration and students have clashed over cheering, escorting many students out of the gymnasium due to inappropriate actions.

"As a coach, I love a loud and crowded gym. Yet we need to have better decorum. When visitors walk into the gym, Schreiber should be a model for schools across Long

Island," said Ms. Joannon.

There appears to be minimal money left for a speaker system in the budget. The new athletic director believes it would be a great accomplishment if Schreiber's athletes and clubs collaborated with the community to supply a new speaker system for the school. On these issues and others, she plans to be very active throughout the school and community.

"I plan to be hands on and tune in to what is going on," said Ms. Joannon.

Judging by her success as a teacher and coach, it seems as if Joannon will be an asset to Schreiber and propel the program to new heights.

### Underclassmen to Watch

**Will Sandoval:** The lone sophomore on the varsity soccer team has established himself as a premier left midfielder. Sandoval has been earning more playing time as the season has progressed.

**Edwardo Hodgson:** Hodgson, a freshman quarterback led the junior varsity football squad to a 12-6 win over Clarke in their home opener.

**Kristen Courage:** After playing extensively with her club team, the Long Island Monarchs, Courage looks to lead the Vikings volleyball team to the playoffs this year.



# VIKING SPORTS

## Varsity boys soccer searches for redemption Vikings open conference play in quest of Nassau County title

by **Ross Balaban**  
Contributing Writer

With the varsity soccer team leading 2-0 with six minutes left in what seemed to be a dominating performance by the Vikings, Syosset High School staged a comeback that no spectator nor participant will ever forget. In a span of under two minutes, after showing no previous signs of life, Syosset scored two goals that left Port players and fans flabbergasted last season.

As both teams failed to score in the 25 minutes of overtime play, the game was sent to penalty kicks. Under the lights at Mitchell Field, Syosset scored three out of their first four attempts. Port would fail to convert on their first three initial attempts sending Syosset into the county finals, dashing the Vikings' hopes for a county championship.

Playing for redemption, the soccer team entered this year on a mission.

"Our goal for the upcoming season is nothing short of making and winning the county championships," said senior Brennan Spreitzer, team captain.

But accomplishing that goal will not come easy for the Vikings, which lost a talented group of seniors last year.

"We have to play hard this season. We lost 16 seniors and we have to replace those guys," said Coach Don Zuvich.

In the first game of the season against Great Neck South, Port was victorious in a 1-0 final with a stellar defensive performance by seniors George Racanelli and goalie Joe Gil, who had his first shutout of the season. Brennan Spreitzer scored the game's one and only goal on an assist by Stephan Brossard in the 65th minute to catapult Port to a win and a 1-0 season record.

Brossard has elevated the soccer program to new heights over his past



**Vikings senior Scott Bergman leads the offensive as junior Gabe Peña, and senior captains Brennan Spreitzer and Stephan Brossard struggle for position against conference rival Syosset during a Sept. 10 matchup. The Vikings and the Braves both struggled offensively, and the game ended in a 0-0 tie.**

two years. Currently, his college list includes Division one programs such as St. John's University, Marist University, and Villanova University. Stephan has played with the tri-state powerhouse club soccer team Gottschee throughout his high school years. Both Brossard and Spreitzer are currently tied for fourth in goal scoring according to LISoccer.org.

Port's next contest was against the underdog Manhasset Indians. The game started off slowly as both teams were scoreless through 35 minutes of play until the strong senior pair of Spreitzer and Brossard displayed their offensive skill. Spreitzer scored on an assist from Brossard to give the Vikings a 1-0 lead to end the first half.

The second half began with a slim one goal lead, but that changed in a hurry as the Vikings began to unload on Manhasset goalie C.J. Quackenbush. After the dust cleared, Port completed a five goal barrage that would lead the Vikings to a 6-0 victory.

This domineering victory over the Indians crowned the boys varsity soccer team champions of the long anticipated Manhasset tournament. The star for Port Washington in the tournament was Spreitzer, who scored four goals and had two assists in the two games of the Manhasset Invitational.

"This is my third season on the varsity squad and my hard work and preparation for this year paid off," said Spreitzer.

Seniors George Racanelli and Joe Gil, along with the rest of the Port defense also had themselves a successful tournament, allowing no goals which paved the way to a 2-0 regular season record.

Port was scheduled to play a rematch of last year's county semi-final to start off their conference schedule. However, due to West Nile virus spraying near the playing field vicinity, the game at Syosset was postponed.

Instead the Vikings were forced to play the county champions, the Massapequa Chiefs, in their conference opener. The Vikings suffered a rough 5-1 loss at the hands of the Chiefs. The defense had a

tough time controlling the other team's high-powered attack.

"We have to step it up, this is a tough conference and we have to want it more," said Coach Zuvich after the game to his players.

Massapequa's Mike Annarumma had a career game with a hat trick. Seniors James Nealis and Christopher Vinberg also contributed to the win, adding one goal a piece.

"Port has always been a great program, and they always put up a challenge," said Massapequa varsity soccer coach Nick Gallagher. "This win was due to our hard work and preparation. Right now we need to look on to our next conference game versus Hicksville, another solid program."

After the loss to Massapequa, the Vikings took on the long awaited Syosset Braves, the first meeting since the playoffs

the year before. The game was a hard fought 0-0 tie as the Vikings failed to take advantage of the steaming emotions following last year's emotional loss. Coach Zuvich stirred up the lineup as many reserves were awarded more playing time. The most notable change was junior Peter Maxted's start in goal; he finished the game with his first shutout of the season.

"We played a lot better, but some of the players need to show what it takes to get the field, time they deserve," said Coach Zuvich after the game.

The Vikings are now 0-1-1 in conference 1 AA play and 3-1-1 on the season. Port has nine conference games left in their season. Their sights are set on a long and successful run, in hopes of redeeming last year's near perfect season.



Ross Balaban

**Senior forward Ivan Ulloa advances the ball against Syosset's defense. Ulloa has made an impact on the varsity squad after he made the switch from football to soccer this season.**

### October Varsity Soccer Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
<b>Key:</b> <b>Black = Away</b> <b>Blue = Home</b>						
			Syosset		Massapequa	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Valley Stream					
	Central					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Oceanside		New Hyde Park			Hicksville	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Farmingdale					
26	27	28	29	30	31	1