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THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LIX No. 5 January 2009



Is SCHREIBER READY To COME OUT OF THE CLOSET?



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Semifinalists
-News-



Obesity Tax
-Opinions-

Boys Varsity Basketball
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Slumdog Millionaire
-A&E-

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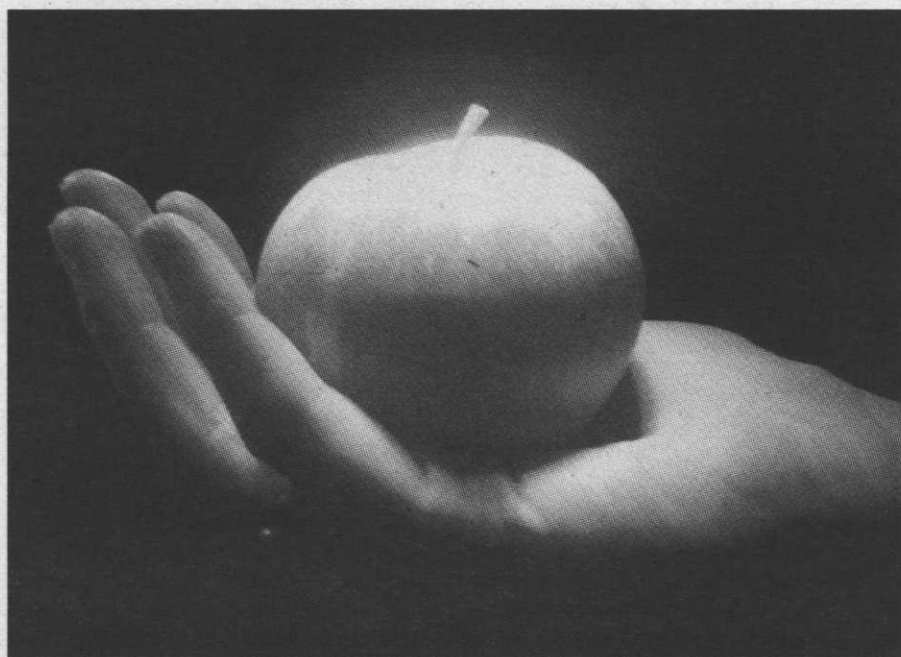
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For her Digital Photo assignment, senior Amina Khan shot a black and white photo capturing life in a still image. She manipulated the lighting to create an interesting contrast of light and shadow. The spherical features of the apple are accentuated by the shadows and background.

NEWS BRIEFS

English Honor Society donates books

As part of a mission to spread holiday cheer to others, the English Honor Society, advised by English chair Ms. Joan Lisecki, held a book drive that collected more than 400 books. Throughout December, the English Honor Society aimed to collect new or gently used fourth and fifth grade reading level books to be donated to an elementary school in Mississippi. These books, which were collected in a box outside the English Resource Room, went to the fourth grade students of Andy Malone, Class of 2004.

Malone, who graduated from Harvard University in 2008, works for Teach for America. Malone's fourth grade class at Sunflower Elementary School in Mississippi have limited literary resources. As a result, it is difficult for many students to read independently.

To solve this problem, Malone contacted Ms. Lisecki to see if she could help gather books, who then coordinated the donation efforts with the English Honor Society.

The drive requested classic elementary school novels, which will make it possible for the students to improve their literacy skills using a variety of books. With a large classroom library, the students will be able to choose to books that really interest them, making reading more enticing.

"The turnout was great, much bigger than we had expected," said senior Jaclyn Majewski, the club's co-president.

The books were packaged and sent on Jan. 12 and will soon be in use by the students.

~Katya Barrett

WDOT throws holiday bash

Just before winter vacation, WDOT, the school's radio station, hosted a non-denominational competition in which student disc jockeys participated in contests to see who had the most holiday spirit. Eight students, divided into two teams of four, took part in the one-hour show.

The teams were led by junior Peter Doscas and sophomore Andrew Arnstein. Judged and hosted by sophomore Dan Miller, students competed in different events, including a holiday trivia quiz, an evaluation of homemade cookies based on taste and appearance, a gift-wrapping tournament, which required each team to wrap one oddly-shaped item in one minute, and WDOT's own holiday-themed version of "Don't Forget the Lyrics."

The final competition was a caroling contest which required each team to compose or modify an existing holiday song about WDOT. Each team was then required to perform the piece a capella.

"It was a well fought battle between the teams, and it all came down to who had a better song. Doscas really lost points there and blew it for his team," said Miller.

The WDOT holiday competition, as well as archived podcasts of the station's shows, can be heard on portradio.org.

~Sam Rosenberg

Computer lab gets new "Mac"-over

Students taking various art and digital design classes often had to edit their videos and photographs on old, malfunctioning computers. However, in September, students who had signed up for these classes entered into a lab complete with new Apple iMac computers that had been installed over the summer.

The implementation of the new computers was overseen by the District Technology Director Mr. David Baylen, and were obtained with a purchasing agreement created by Apple Computers through funds from the district's Technology Department budget. Since the computers were for educational purposes, the district was able to buy them for the lowest cost and the highest level of warranty and support services.

The majority of the previous computers were over eight years old and many of the design and photography classes did not have the necessary software to supplement the class curricula.

"I am very excited to be able to bring the latest multimedia computer technology to Schreiber High School," said Mr. Baylen. "This new state of the art computer lab will provide our students with fundamental skills required in 21st century education. This lab will provide a foundation supporting the Art, Technology, and English programs in the school."

~Lauren Effune

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Three Intel semifinalists announced at Schreiber

BY Sahil Doshi

Assistant News Editor

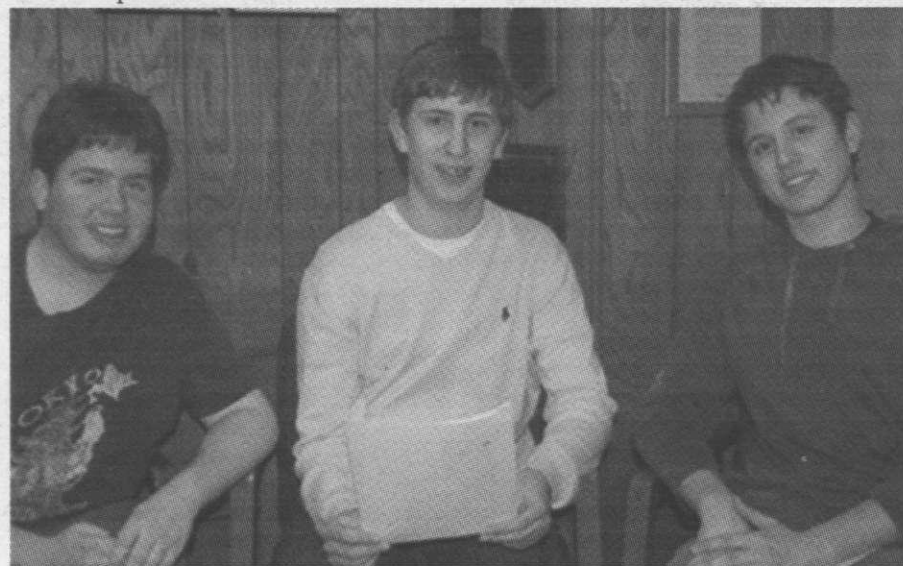
Although Schreiber produced the fewest number of Intel Science Talent Search (STS) semifinalists since 2002, the research programs were still proud to announce the three students who achieved this honor. These students were seniors David Becker and Stephen Nash from social science research, advised by Mr. Gary Silverstein, and senior Adam Vojdany from math research, advised by Ms. Tina Gallagher.

"I am proud of the social science research program for its overall success, and David Becker and Adam Vojdany for their accomplishments," said Nash.

Every year, approximately 1,600 students enter the Intel STS, from which 300 semifinalists are chosen. Students submit research projects covering a broad scope of subjects, ranging from the sciences and social sciences to mathematics and its applications. Each semifinalist receives \$1,000 individually and an additional \$1,000 for his or her school.

Becker and Nash, both a part of the social science research program, conducted projects that covered two completely different fields. Becker's project dealt with sexual dimorphism in osteology, or the degree to which male and female bones differ. By using skeletons

from the Middle and Late Woodland periods and measuring their femoral heads, he noticed decreased dimorphism, which was indicative of a famine between those two periods.



Seniors David Becker, Stephen Nash, and Adam Vojdany were three of the 300 Intel semifinalists chosen nationwide. Long Island schools, which have set high standards in previous years, yielded a total of 59 semifinalists.

Nash's project investigated how gender discrepancies of incumbency advantage, also known as "sophomore surges," can be used as a determinant of political gender bias. His research found that women received, on average, greater "sophomore

surges" in the 1970s. However, this difference has decreased over the years. This showed that the gender bias has lessened due to the positive exposure of women.

graduate coordinator of the mathematics department.

Mentors provided assistance from the very beginning, helping the students come up with interesting research topics that would be acceptable to submit to competition. Becker's case was unique because the research his mentor was conducting was truly one-of-a-kind.

"She [Dr. Buikstra] was the only person who had written anything about what I was looking to research," said Becker. "I used skeletons that my mentor had excavated over her career, and used research techniques that my mentor had actually invented."

After submitting their projects, the long wait began, finally ending on Jan. 14. The three semifinalists were thrilled to have been selected, but expressed sympathy for their fellow classmates who were not as fortunate.

"I didn't believe it at first. I had predicted that social science research would do well though, so I became amazingly happy," said Becker.

"I was thrilled to find out that I was a semifinalist," said Nash. "I was not really expecting to be one of the 300 and I felt that my research and work over the years finally paid off. At the same time, I know that there were many other students that were more than qualified. Some performed truly remarkable research that bettered the lives of many people."

"I was happy, but felt bad because [senior] Justin Arnett, another member of my research class, deserved it too and had an amazing project. I wanted him to win too," said Vojdany.

The teacher advisors prepare the students to conduct projects. Throughout their sophomore and junior years as well as through the grueling Intel STS process, the advisors provide guidance and support.

"Ms. Gallagher helped with a lot of the paper work," said Vojdany. "She made sure everything ran smoothly. She was on top of a lot of the stuff I had to do."

These students will be considered for the 40 Intel finalists who will be announced later this month. These finalists will travel to Washington, D.C., in March to compete for an additional \$500,000 in prizes.

Three NCTE finalists chosen

BY Alize Margulis

Staff Writer

The English department recently held the Preliminary National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Writing Competition for juniors. On Jan. 8, the English department announced the three school finalists, juniors Carly Cindrich, Eddie Grove, and Jonathan Heiden.

Those selected are considered to be in the top 1% of high school juniors in terms of writing expertise. The selected nominees move on to the national competition in April, where they will submit another piece of writing for evaluation. The winner of the NCTE competition will be in the top 0.003% of students for their writing abilities.

The competition was held on Dec. 2 and the 21 juniors who participated were permitted two hours to write a story following set guidelines.

"Writing not only helps kids think deeply, but it helps them find out what they already know—not just English class but in everything from chemistry to geometry to art," said English department chair Ms. Joan Lisecki. "The more students write, the easier it gets and the more motivated they become. The possibility of achieving school-wide or nationwide recognition serves to inspire students in producing quality work."

Students were required to write a short story that incorporates a lesson of value and teaches a moral. Each tale had to include a liquid, a vehicle, a well-known person, and a set of something.

"It is remarkable to me that in a short period of time with a directed writing topic, our students can produce such sophisticated, fluid, and interesting writing!" said Ms. Lisecki.

Heiden wrote a parable about the evils of modern-day technology. In his essay, he argued that our generation relies entirely on technology and cannot live an

instant without it.

"People are obsessed with technology, and can't go anywhere without their cellphones or laptops," said Heiden. "They are so focused in their conversation that an everyday task such as crossing an intersection may become hazardous. We should be less dependent on technology and rely more on our everyday lives. People that engage themselves on their cellphone omit themselves from the real world around us."

Grove based his story on a more personal experience, writing about a village in Ghana modeled after communities he had visited in Africa this past summer. He depicted a small village where its inhabitants are poor, but they dream about having the wealth of more advanced cities. One of its inhabitants creates a plan to make the village an exporter of palm wine. Eventually, the village becomes so caught up in industrialization that it became too late to return to their prior, simple lifestyle. His moral was to be content with what a person has and that advancement is not always better.

"When I found out that I had been picked as a semifinalist, I was thrilled, as well as surprised. I did not expect my almost neoteric description of obscure places, customs, and foods in Ghana to win, and I was thrilled to discover that others find Ghana as intriguing as I do," said Grove.

Cindrich wrote about an adolescent who had a flashback of his drunk driving accident. She incorporated beer, a set of keys, and a car into her theme to meet to the guidelines. She wrote about the dangers of making wrong decisions and how they affect an individual later in life. She thought it was the perfect opportunity to write about the topic since drunk driving accidents are so common, especially amongst teenagers.

"I thought this story fit perfectly with the topic. Its moral is simple: think twice and act once," said Cindrich.

Vojdany's project involved creating proofs to decompose shapes while preserving a distinct property. His project is entitled, "Class Preserving Dissections of Convex Polygons."

In the middle of their junior years, the students begin to apply to different research programs, finalizing their decision around May. Becker conducted his research in the Center for American Archaeology (CAA), based in Kampsville, Illinois. His mentor was CAA President Dr. Jane Buikstra, Arizona State University Chair of Anthropology. Becker's work will be published in the summer edition of the American Journal of Physical Anthropology and he will present it at the Association for American Physical Anthropologists in Chicago this spring.

Nash was mentored at Columbia University's Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), working directly with Professor Dr. Shigeo Hirano. Vojdany worked at Hofstra University under Dr. Dan Ismailescu, associate professor and

Four musicians invited to All-Eastern Conference



Port Advances January 2009

From left: Seniors Jess Block, Jeremy Geller, Elyse Lauzon, and Dahlia Hassan pose with music teachers Mr. Anthony Pinelli, Mr. Mark Brenner, and Mr. Philip Glover. Students who show exceptional musical skill in their NYSSMA auditions are chosen to participate in this music conference each year. The musicians auditioned on string bass, voice, French horn, and cello, respectively.

Vandalism around the school costs district over \$15,000

Caught by administration, "Fetus" vandal to face prolonged suspension

BY Stephen Nash
Editor-in-Chief

After months of the most extensive and far-reaching vandalism in the school's history, the perpetrator was finally caught earlier this month. The vandalism was consistently in the form of the word "fetus" written in a green marker. This

graffiti originated in boys' bathrooms, but eventually began to appear in stairwells, the cafeteria, and even some classrooms.

"This was the worst vandalism I have ever witnessed in this building," said Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald. "This was such tremendous vandalism to the school, because this began appearing in every boys' bathroom, and the custodians literally could not keep up with

the cleaning and removing of it. Since we use only environmentally safe chemicals, not all were completely effective, so this caused some permanent damage in these bathrooms. Importantly, it has also caused endless man hours of work."

The vandalism was first spotted in early November, and since then the administration took many steps to remove the graffiti and catch the individual. Most noticeably, the administration closed down the newer boy's bathrooms and removed the partitions between the urinals.

"We [the administration] closed the boy's bathrooms because we decided to no longer make or encourage the convenience of vandalism. Having the students enjoy their ordinary convenience at the expense of the school and the custodians was unfair," said Dr. Fitzgerald. "We decided that if this was going on in the boys' bathroom, then there would be fewer boys' bathrooms open. I was at the point that I was considering putting teachers on hall duty outside the bathrooms and having the boys signing in to the bathrooms for the first time in Schreiber's history."

The damage caused by this vandalism is also approximated to be one of the highest in recent memory. The administration has asked Ms. James Ristano, the district Director of Facilities and Operations, to come up with a final estimate of the financial costs of the damage caused by the graffiti. The administration is expecting that the estimate will be in the range of \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Although the administration was given the individual's name a couple of times before, not adequate evidence existed until early January. With the help of a student and a teacher, the administration gained further confirmation of their suspect and eventually received an admission.

"This speaks to the level of trust and relationships that the faculty and students enjoy in this building," said Dr. Fitzgerald. "It is a credit to our school, that a kid felt that they could trust a teacher and go to them, that a teacher could trust the administration, and at the same time we could solve a crime."

Interestingly enough, prior to this extensive vandalism, the individual had a

perfect record of never receiving a detention or even going to the tank. However, due to the seriousness, and potentially criminal nature of these actions, the punishment is expected to be very severe. A hearing is scheduled with school attorneys, administration, the superintendent of

"This was the worst vandalism I have ever witnessed in this building," said Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald. "This was such tremendous vandalism to the school...and the custodians literally could not keep up with the cleaning and removing of it."

schools, and the individual to discuss the level of punishment. Since the district is not expecting to exact the thousands of dollars of damage caused by the graffiti, the punishment will include hours of community service, in addition to a prolonged suspension.

"A lot of average kids, not even thinking it is graffiti, write a little something on a desk, and I guess that it is somewhat 'normal,' if I can use that word. But then, to go purchase a marker to specifically write a word on a desk and wall, that becomes a whole other level," said Dr. Fitzgerald. "Yet, you have never done anything wrong, every teacher speaks well of you, you have never even had a detention, you don't go to the tank because you have a perfect record. Suddenly, you now are going to do this for months at this level and vandalize the building like that. My mind is absolutely racing with questions."

The individual did not reveal the meaning behind the word "fetus," but rather simply said it was a part of a "random" act. Additionally, as further confirmation, the overwhelming majority of the "fetus" vandalism has ceased since the individual has been caught.



Kevin Granger

Various parts of the school were vandalized with the word "Fetus," including this windowsill on the first floor of the science wing. Other areas included the new wing staircase as well as the boys' bathrooms.

Printmaker visits AP art classes

BY Connie Kim
Staff Writer

AP Art students recently had the opportunity to work with printmaker Dan Welden, who is known all over the world for his artistic creations and workshops. The funding was provided by a grant from the Port Washington Education Foundation. Art teachers Ms. Kris Murphy and Ms. Miranda Best petitioned for the funding earlier in the year so that the AP Art students could experience this workshop.

Since printmaking is part of the AP Studio Art curriculum, this event was specifically organized for the students to not only participate on a collegiate level art workshop, but also to educate them on professional printmaking.

On Jan. 8, 9, and 12, Welden came to the art classes and worked with students the entire day, helping them create their own images and subsequently print them onto paper using an unconventional method. Welden is the originator of solarplate printmaking, and he demonstrated how to make solarplates in the classroom setting. A solarplate is a light-sensitized, steel-backed polymer used by artists as an alternative to hazardous printing techniques. The efficiency and safety of this process makes it more appealing to many printmakers.

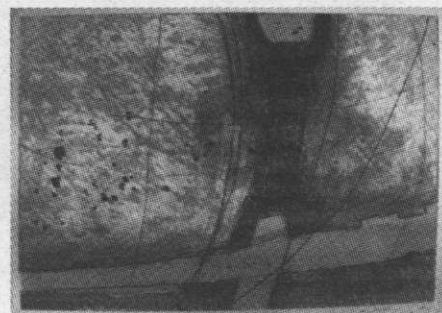
Aside from teaching the students how to use the solarplates, he demonstrated how to create both intaglio and relief plates. Intaglio printmaking, a more traditional method, was used by Albrecht Dürer, who is best known for his prints made with this technique. Relief printing is the most common technique — it is this form that comes to mind when one thinks of printmaking. The ancient Egyptians were the pioneers of this method, which they used to print patterns onto cloth.

Welden not only explained how printmaking works, but also brought in the equipment he uses to make prints. The workshop was meant to demonstrate the artistic values of the techniques of printmaking and inspire students to create their own artwork. After the demonstrations, he worked with students individually and commented on their works.

"It was a very interesting experience," said junior Jenny Park. "I was astonished at being able to take this class with a master printmaker for free. We learned a lot about printmaking, but we also learned more about art in general. It was really a great experience to see the objects and to learn how to make prints using so many different methods."

The teachers were also involved in the workshop and learned from Welden alongside the students.

"The overall outcome was impressive," said Dr. Mark Graham, chairman of the art department. "Students followed the instructions of Mr. Welden well and the works they produced were outstanding. I was proud of the students and it was good to hear from Mr. Welden that he enjoyed working with the students. I hope Mr. Welden visits in spring again to conduct more classes with students."



www.danwelden.com

This solarplate intaglio print is an example of the work of Dan Welden.

Latin students celebrate Saturnalia

BY Matt Heiden
Staff Writer

Students who take Latin reenact the roots of their ancient language each year with the Saturnalia party and feast. On Dec. 18, approximately 80 students came dressed in togas and ate a diverse meal of pizza, lasagna, and White Castle along with copious amounts of cookies, brownies, and various other desserts. The dinner was accompanied with rituals once celebrated by the ancient Romans.

Members of the Latin Club, who were instrumental in planning the event for several months, had decided that the theme of the celebration would be based on the Roman epic *The Aeneid* by Virgil. In order to raise grade spirit in the traditional "battle of the classes," each grade created a banner based on a place where Aeneas, the protagonist of the poem, wandered to.

Interspersed throughout Saturnalia were games such as "pin the tail on the centaur," a fashion show, and performances

from two local student bands. Each grade also nominated a respective "Mr. and Mrs. Rome." Other activities included chariot races, involving one person holding another's feet as they walked on their hands, and the banner competition. With each event, participants tried to earn as many points possible for their grade. Ultimately, the senior class earned the most points and was declared the victors of the evening.

Ms. Elizabeth Griffin, a Latin teacher and the main coordinator of the event was pleased with what the students took from the experience.

"For my first time planning this, everything went smoothly and I consider this event as a good learning experience," said Ms. Griffin. "If I were to do this again next year, I think I would want to improve on having a more set schedule of events."

Although the majority of people no longer celebrate this now-considered-pagan holiday, or for that matter even know of it, the school's Latin students pay homage to the Romans in their modern interpretation of an ancient holiday.

Treehuggers Environmental Club hosts Vegetarian Dinner

Students learn about the environmental implications of the meat industry

by Lauren Effune

News Editor

Excess carbon dioxide emission, water pollution, and other environmental problems—which are all commonly associated with the production of meat—are not typically discussed at the dinner table.

The Treehuggers Environmental Club tackled these issues and more at its annual Vegetarian Dinner. The event,

“I didn’t know what to expect when I bought tickets, but the presentations were really interesting, and the food was really good,” said sophomore Andy Lieberman.

held on Dec. 17 in the cafeteria, continued the club’s yearly tradition of promoting vegetarian foods and greener practices. The dinner attracted approximately 65 student and faculty members including Dr. Brad Fitzgerald and Ms. Marisa DeMarco who were interested in the club’s cause. In addition, other teachers who were not able to attend the event donated money to the club.

This year’s dinner was held primarily to inform students about the dangers and hazards associated with factory farming and the overuse of industrially produced meat. The club’s members, who had been brainstorming ideas for the event for several months, conducted research on the negative effects of these common food

Mural in main hallway to be redesigned

by Ryohei Ozaki

News Editor

With the coming of the new year, the administration has decided to renew the aging mural in the main hallway of the school. As many students may have noticed, the mural was painted over so that the new design could be laid out. Junior Nick Gardella approached art teacher Dr. Mark Graham last year to seek permission to redesign the wall.

Gardella was encouraged by a friend to design the new mural. He worked with art teachers only to be granted permission. Otherwise, he developed the concept for the design independently.

The replacement of murals is not uncommon, according to Principal Mr. Jay Lewis.

“We periodically replace murals in the school and make certain to tell those who do them that they will eventually be changed,” said Mr. Lewis.

Gardella’s design, entitled “We have a dream,” was created in an effort to relay a message through art. The old mural, an abstract conglomeration of storks, turtles, fish, and an oversized dragonfly, had been a mystery to many students.

“I noticed the mural over the first few days of school when I was a freshman, but now, I hardly realize it’s there,” said junior Alex Zippo. “I think it’s a good time to renew the scenery in the hallway.”

sources. The results were used to inform the attendees about both the health and environmental benefits of a vegetarian lifestyle.

“We really wanted to show people that taking steps to reduce meat consumption isn’t difficult,” said junior Christina Zhou, one of the club’s co-presidents. “Not only are there many great vegetarian foods out there, much of what we eat today is vegetarian and we don’t even notice it.”

The evening consisted of a variety of presentations using different approaches to convey this same idea. The club was able to obtain a short, animated documentary entitled *The Meatrix*, which provides an in-depth look at factory farming and the negative effects it has on not only the animals, but the humans who consume them.

In addition, each of the club’s board members, juniors Kevin Granger, Zhou, Alex Zippo, and sophomore Sahil Doshi, gave speeches during the dinner about the cause. While Doshi and Zippo spoke about the dangers of factory farming, Granger and Zhou followed with speeches about different types of solutions to the problem.

The main focus of the event was to stress the fact that a minor meat reduction can have much greater, positive effects.

“I thought that the whole night was really relaxing and that it was a great break from spending my night at home studying,” said sophomore Andy Lieberman. “I didn’t know what to expect when I bought tickets, but the presentations were really interesting, and the food was really good.”

The majority of the food served at the dinner was home-cooked, and of course, vegetarian. However, due to an unexpected increase in guests as the night progressed, the club had to make an emergency order of six extra pizza pies.

The new design incorporates “a symbolic and simple message” that high school students can relate to. Gardella declined from revealing any more about his design, which will be completed during the week of midterms. He will be working with a team of nine other students: senior Sandy Carroll, juniors Allie Mirzoeff, Chelsea Morano, Kate Odell, Tyler Travis, and Taylor Wilsey, and sophomores Ava Cotlowitz, Sara Lyons, and freshman Jesse Weil.

“The administration decided to make a new mural because the old one didn’t relay a clear message, and it was there for too long,” said Gardella. “My design sums up high school in a nut shell. Everyone is so different, but we come to school for the same reason; we all have goals to reach. School is our step to accomplishing those dreams.”

All four assistant principals approved the new design, with Mr. Lewis having the final say. Preparations for painting the mural began the weekend of Jan. 17. Gardella re-scaled his design to fit the dimensions of the wall, but nothing visible has been planned out, as of yet. When students return from a week of testing, the wall will be newly painted by Gardella and his team. However, the new mural is only temporary, Mr. Lewis explains.

“No murals are permanent,” said Mr. Lewis. “I would expect that this new mural will be up for 3-5 years.”

While the students who attended ate, watched the presentations and socialized during their meal, several student-run bands performed throughout the night.

According to Zhou, this year’s event attracted a greater number of attendees than in years past, due in part to the club’s emphasis on increasing publicity. Members started informing the student body weeks before the actual event by creating a large banner, making announcements, having representatives advertise in the lobby during lunch periods, and contacting students via Facebook.

“We looked at how the event ran and how many students attended last year, and we decided to build on that,” said Zhou. “We worked really hard to try and get an increase in the number of students to attend and, based on the surprising run-out of food, this year’s number of attendees exceeded our expectations.”

Currently, the club is working with the local environmental organization Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington to revitalize Main Street and

Rev it Up for Relay raises early funds

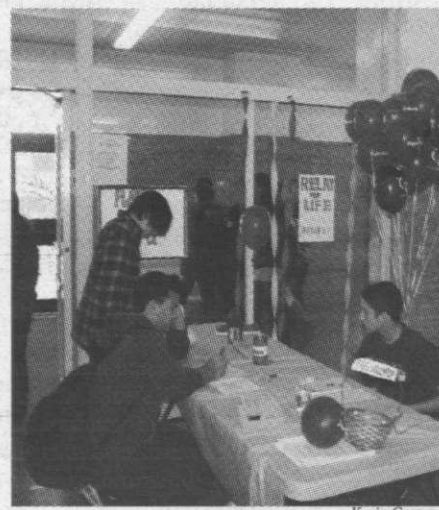
by Christina Zhou

Staff Writer

The main lobby was awash in a sea of purple for the “Rev it Up for Relay” rally. On Jan. 9, students walking to and from their lunch periods ascended into a row of booths that spanned across the lobby, manned by Relay For Life team captains hoping to gain early student excitement for the annual June event. Seniors George Botros, Alex Hand, Rachel Kramer, Ali Stricker, Brian Wedeking, and sophomores Evie Adsetts and Molly Ronis, all team captains, helped to plan the event with the assistance of one of the faculty coordinators, health teacher Ms. Pat Kosiba.

One of the main goals of the rally was to serve as a fundraiser for Relay for Life, a flagship event of the American Cancer Society that celebrates and commemorates individuals that have battled or are currently struggling with the disease. The event also raises money for the fight against cancer.

The lobby was filled with various booths, which gave students the ability to participate in quick activities. One table sold Relay for Life and American Cancer



Junior Jordan Sutton mans the table for Schreiber’s first fundraising event for this year’s Relay for Life.

make it more eco-friendly. In the future, the club also plans to collect old cell phones to be recycled, and is working on creating a themed “Earth Week” week at the school, which would culminate in a guest speaker who would talk to students about environmental issues.



Christina Zhou

Ganondorf, consisting of juniors Matt Epstein, Dylan Swain, and Kurt Kipcakli, was one of the student groups to perform.

Society merchandise, such as bracelets, wristbands, necklaces, headbands, and key-chains. A slip of paper was given to every student who purchased from that table and was posted on a wall with the name of the student and the amount donated. Another table featured three jars filled with Hershey Kisses, with students given the opportunity to win the candy for only 25 cents if their estimate was correct.

“What we want to do is raise a total of one million dollars for all the years we’ve done Relay,” said senior Erin Sperling.

“Schreiber’s organization has raised \$800,000 so far, so we’re really close,” said junior Meaghan Lammers.

However, the event was more than just about raising money. Students also had the opportunity to fill out forms to receive updates regarding the June event by volunteering as a team member or as a team captain. T-shirts and other memorabilia from previous Relays, as well as plaques and awards for student achievement throughout the years, were all on display to highlight the school’s strong dedication to the event.

The student response was “very positive,” according to Stricker. In terms of fundraising, the coaches overshot their goal and raised \$540.

“One of the reasons why we were so successful and raised so much money was because many were already familiar with Relay for Life, and those who were not were acquainted with it afterwards,” said Lammers. “There was a sense of excitement and anticipation in the lobby, and the tables were quite crowded during the lunch period.”

Traditionally taking place on a Friday night in June and ending on the following day, Relay for Life involves participants taking turns walking the track to empower individuals and families affected by cancer. The event generally features a candle lighting ceremony, live music, games, and merchandise. This year’s event will take place on June 19.

“In the end, I think all the effort the team coaches and Mrs. Kosiba put in paid off and we know this year’s Relay will be the best one yet!” said Stricker.

Point Counterpoint

Should students have a four-day midterm week?

By Daniel Bialer

Staff Writer

Each January, students expect the last week of the semester to be dedicated to the various midterms they have in many of their classes. While students may bemoan the new onslaught of review packets and study sessions, midterm week is actually an important and beneficial aspect of Schreiber.

Midterm week allows teachers to give tests that stretch beyond the limits of a single, hour-long class period. It allocates time for a teacher to administer a test for two or three hours straight, if necessary. Instead of struggling to finish a test by the end of the period or taking multiple parts of a test on different days, students can complete an exam in one sitting with time left over for checking answers. When a teacher gives several tests in a row, students can feel overly stressed. The night before a test brings thoughts of only the upcoming exam, and to have this feeling for two days in a row for the same subject is excessive, and should be avoided.

Midterm week allows students to deal with all of their academic issues from semester one and enter the second semester with a clean slate. Before meeting the latter half of the school year head on, students have the chance to test their knowledge of the facts and concepts taught in semester one and to catch up on the topics that they are not so good at. Midterm week helps students feel like they have completed one goal and are ready to move on to the next.

Furthermore, eliminating classes during midterm week allows students to study more and receive better grades. When there are 48 hours of time between two tests without a seven-hour day of school and normal homework assignments interfering with your ability to study, you can use the time that would otherwise be spent on a normal school day's work to prepare for exams.

The time between tests can help make the midterm less stressful because it is difficult to run out of time to study when there are 24 or 48 hours of minimal obligation time between test days, when the normal distractions of homework and extracurricular activities are not present. Sometimes two tests can be administered in one day, but even this unfortunate scheduling is still less stressful for students than two tests given on a normal school day.

Furthermore, midterms provide students with an edge when it comes time for finals. Because teachers thoroughly review for midterms, students are better prepared for their final exams at the end of the year; they recall information with greater ease.

"Midterms are good to help you review all the information from the year and make it easier when it's time to review for finals," said sophomore Bridgette

McDermott.

It is also nice that for midterm week many tests are not taken right at 8 a.m., but in the afternoon. This gives students who like to go to sleep late and wake up late a chance to get a good night's rest before their exams. A lack of sleep has a big impact on test results and having tests after 8 a.m. during midterm week helps students get an adequate amount of sleep and have less frantic mornings.

Many times exams are taken more seriously when given during midterm week. The tenser atmosphere of these tests helps prepare students for SATs, AP tests, and Regents that they will have to take.

Furthermore, the scheduling of midterm week allows students who are sick to get some rest. If someone is ill on the date of his or her test date, he or she can go to school, take the test for two hours, and then go home. If midterms were given during a regular school day, it would be inconvenient for students to sign in and out. Also, during a regular school day a student that is sick would usually miss the day and not come in for the test at all, meaning tests would be given back at a much later date.

Midterm week is a tradition at Schreiber that should continue. It allows tests to be held in more than one-hour increments and gives students extra time to study. Students can rest more the night before an exam and a two hour test is a lot more manageable than a seven hour school day for someone who is under the weather—a sick student does not have to experience the inconvenience of making up a test or coming in for one period. Most importantly, students are given the opportunity to boost their grades and are ultimately better prepared for finals at the end of the year.



Valentina Guerra

By Jonathan Heiden

Assistant Opinions Editor

Dear Student,

If you are reading this, it's Monday Jan. 26, and you are about to enter Schreiber's fourth and least official extended vacation: midterm week.

Midterm week used to be intense, like the Olympics: a four-day-long bruising gauntlet of powerhouse examination after examination; students would quail at the merest mention of this last and most desperately challenging week in the semester.

Nowadays, this is not so true. A multiplicity of midterms (and finals, for half-semester classes) are still given during their eponymous week, but, more teachers are now opting to forgo their positions on the official midterm roster; they simply administer in-class tests instead. Many students now consider midterm week to be something of a joke, a vestigial device that permits them to drop into school on Tuesday or Thursday to take the odd math exam before going home scot-free for the rest of the week.

"I would rather take a two-class midterm than have to come into school during midterm week and do it then," said junior Katie Weil. Indeed, as Katie points out, midterms don't need to have a specially-reserved spot on the

school calendar in order to be given. Even long midterms that can take up what would be half the school day can be parceled throughout several classes.

There are, however, several possible objections that might arise should midterm week be consigned to the scrap heap. A very few state-mandated Regents are scheduled to take place during

the four-day span, but these could be moved to another time slot—perhaps to a weekend?—without much difficulty, and ditto for the veritable battery of assessments that prospective Honors and Research students must undergo in order to get into their various classes. The key would be to not crush them all together in one very limited time slot but to space them out naturally over the weeks.

For those students who are unlucky enough to live without walking distance from the school, midterm week also poses a challenge in matters of transportation. While the district does provide busing at semi-regular intervals (about three times a day) to and from Schreiber, this conveyance can be quite cumbersome to students, arranged as it is within a very loose framework of examinations. One might wake up early and take the bus to school for an hour-long exam, only to be left twiddling one's thumbs for the next two-and-a-half hours before the next bus comes to take one home. For those of us whose parents are working and who must be home on time to greet younger siblings, this aspect of midterm week can be especially burdensome.

And speaking of unnecessary burdens, the crowning characteristic that establishes midterm week to be detrimental to students is the stress. Now, I'm sure you will recall that just a few paragraphs ago I was deriding midterm week, so perhaps my sudden change of heart requires some elucidation. You see, there are some students at Schreiber who suffer from massive amounts of test-related anxiety. You know the type: they ask for the latest quiz grades like clockwork at the beginning of every class, and suffer minor panic attacks when informed on Monday that next week's test will have to be moved back a day.

There are also students, closer to my own heart, who through no fault of their own tend to spend the school year lazing indolently from test to test, no worries or cares at all, until suddenly there's only one more test and I need to get like a hundred on it in order to pass. I gotta study for hours for this thing. I gotta study until my eyes hurt and the sun starts to rise. It's an odd coincidence, coming from such different types of people, but the reaction that midterm week elicits from both the former type of student and the latter is the same: panic. In the case of the overachiever, it's just natural, the result of so many tests being piled into one place; with regard to the student who understudies, it's because their final averages in about ten different classes hinge on their doing fantastically well on 10 different midterms.

If midterm week were to be abolished, teachers would no longer be forced to give all their midterms within the same four-day span, like a multi-car pileup on the freeway. Students would be able to take their exams at a more reasonable pace, and that would lead to better grades for all.

Schreiber Speaks

"I don't like midterm week, because I think that it's sort of useless. We can take midterms in class."

-Alex Zippo, junior

"Midterm week provides students with an unstressful atmosphere for taking major tests."

-Samantha Palmer, sophomore

Obesity tax: an attempt to limit soda consumption

BY Sarah Greene
Staff Writer

Last year, Coca-Cola advocated its brand new slogan world-wide "Live on the Coke side of life." If by this, the company meant that people should form unhealthy habits by consuming this soft drink and add to the already overwhelming obese population within the United States, then it was immensely successful with its new slogan.

Governor David A. Paterson, recognizing the unhealthy effects of large amounts of soda consumption, recently proposed an obesity tax of approximately 15% on non-diet soft drinks. This tax is intended to help to discourage citizens from buying fattening soft drinks and help to lower the extremely high obesity rates. This tax will also help to generate an estimated \$404 million per year for the state, which would help close the budget deficit. Though some argue the tax is unfair because it singles out a particular product, I believe that it is beneficial for both the economy and the welfare of the population.

In order to prove how Coca-Cola contributes to our country's obesity rates, let's look at the negative aspects of what most people think of as a daily, refreshing drink. In every 12 ounce can of Coca-Cola, there are 155 calories. In addition, Coca-Cola contains caffeine, sugars, and a substantial amount of sodium. According to beverage industry estimates, the country consumes about 10 million gallons of Coca-Cola and other soft drinks per year. The average American consumes nearly 60 gallons of soda per year, which amounts to approximately 96,000 calories. Now, can

you not say that Coca-Cola and other soft drinks add to the country's obesity?

Obesity is currently a major issue in the United States. Obesity can be defined as being more than 20% over one's ideal weight. Approximately 127 million adults in the U.S. are overweight, with 60 million obese and 9 million severely



obese. This means that approximately 64% of adults are overweight or obese, and 26% are severely obese. With soft-drink consumption percentage so high and its components so fattening, a relation between soda consumption and the current problem of obesity can easily be deciphered.

Childhood obesity is also a growing issue. According to the Centers for Disease Control and prevention, 16% of children (over 9 million) 6-19 years old are overweight or obese—a percentage that has tripled since 1980. Soda

consumption is a major cause for child obesity, as young men from 12-29 are the biggest consumers of this product and drink an estimated minimum of 160 gallons of soda per year. The obesity tax, which excludes both milk and juice, would certainly discourage citizens from purchasing these fattening beverages.



Gabby Bonavitacola

well. It will especially help to lower the rates of the young people of the nation, as they are the largest consumers of soda and need to cut down the most. The obesity tax would capitalize on people's unhealthy lifestyle choices and is very similar to the cigarette taxes that have taken shape in some states in recent years.

Since it will help to raise revenue for the state, his newly proposed tax is also a smart financial move. With Albany facing budget problems, tax increases are essential for maintaining programs

the price of this liquid candy will put children and teens on the path to a healthier diet," said Elie Ward of the American Academy of Pediatrics of New York State.

Cutting down on drinking this "liquid candy" will lead to a decrease in obesity rates as

and services. Due to the current weak economy, people have been spending less money on goods, leading to less sales tax revenue. A tax increase on certain items is therefore necessary to gain money for Albany.

Some citizens are against this newly proposed obesity tax. These people feel that it is wrong to single out and tax one specific food product and not others. They view it as a "sin tax," an attempt by the government to punish behavior it feels is undesirable; to them, the new tax is overly controlling.

Also, many feel that by taxing regular soda, the government is encouraging people to buy diet soda instead—which they feel contains chemicals that are just as harmful, if not worse, than the sugar for which they substitute.

However, there is no conclusive proof that diet soda may cause cancer or be linked with diabetes. By capitalizing on the unhealthy lifestyle choice that many New Yorkers of drinking soda, New York State is simply trying to discourage people from consuming this fattening drink. The state is hoping to reduce sales of this sugary product, not increase the sales of diet soda. Governor Paterson's intent in proposing the tax is to encourage healthier lifestyles, reduce obesity, and raise money.

This newly proposed obesity tax will be highly beneficial for society. It shall prevent obesity and advocate healthy choices. In addition, it will help to close New York State's projected budget deficit. With obesity and debt both dominating the list of issues that plagues the state today, this tax will be a great step in crossing problems off of that list and protecting the welfare of citizens.

Students are terrified when they lose their cell phones

BY Ryohei Ozaki
News Editor

Buzz... Buzz...

You are sitting in class when the lesson is rudely interrupted by a repeating muffled vibration. At first, you attribute it to lack of sleep, but moments later you realize where the sound is coming from. You turn to the student with the cellphone out on her desk, texting incessantly during class.

According to polls conducted by YouGov, a UK organization, she may be one of the 53% of all people affected by a phobia that arises from a generation all too dependent on mobile technology. Dubbed nomophobia (no-mobile phobia), it is a serious problem that can cause anxiety and nervous breakdowns. The subjects of the study were found to experience the same "jitters" as when going to the dentist or when getting married—simply because they could not be reached by phone.

Although jumping to this conclusion is hardly logical, it is apparent that a growing number of cell phone users, especially teenagers, have become addicted to the mobility of the device. Being connected to a countless number of people 24/7 is something that is hard to be stripped of. For many students, their cell phone acts as their only means of communication with the outside world—it provides the internet, e-mail, phone calls, and text messages. But, thinking rationally, are all of the superfluous functions really necessary? Must Facebook be checked constantly

throughout the day? No and no—but for those glued to their phones: yes and most definitely.

Severe nomophobes suffer from deep anxiety whenever their phones are turned off. Even the mere thought of being out of coverage sends shivers down their spines. More than one in two subjects in the study never switched their cell phones off for fear of becoming anxious. What if they were to miss an all-important e-mail from their boss? What about a text message or phone call from a friend? If the battery were to die, the world would unquestionably come to an end.

Nomophobia seems like a fanciful and futuristic disorder afflicting characters in Orwellian novels. It is, however, a modern and pressing issue among people who may suffer.



Eunice Kim

serious psychological side effects without their phones. Although it is doubtful that

high school students have become this dependent upon mobile technology, it is definitely a noticeable trend that students spend more and more time on their phones. Put it this way: imagine being without your phone for a week, or even two days. It is excruciatingly unbearable for most, right? The fact that most people would not be able to function properly without their phones is a clear indication of a miserable over-reliance on technology. Without this crutch, we are left to limp along.

Look around in any corner of the school and you are likely to see a student on his or her phone, browsing Facebook, texting friends, or garrulously chatting with their equally nomophobic friends. For these students, their phone provides more emotional

security than the automated external defibrillator in the hallway ever could. Between classes in the hallways, it is not uncommon to see a student blindly walking, eyes fixated on a glowing LCD screen, thumbs rapidly typing away at a tiny keyboard. Paying attention to one's path is now secondary to sending a friend the newest gossip. Did you notice the reversal of priorities? If you did, you're in luck; but if you didn't... never mind.

Text messaging is one of the major causes of our over-dependence on cell phones. The ease with which a full-on conversation can take place—most likely during class, usually expressing mutual boredom—exacerbates the conditions

of the growing number of nomophobic teenagers. Requiring little effort, the text is the ideal form of communication. If these messages being sent through the air were audible, one would hear ceaseless conversation, 24/7.

"If my parents took away my texting plan, I'll survive, but I'll be very upset. I barely use my phone to make phone calls, but I text my friends more than I probably should," said junior Regan Nebenhaus, who deletes her inbox at least once a day.

From personal experience, some students even keep their constantly-vibrating phones on their desks, as if to put it away would mean imminent death. I highly doubt the messages show anything insightful, and nothing necessitates the presence of your phone on your desk during class. We have become so dependent upon our phones that for many losing coverage or even the phone itself is analogous to losing a limb.

This addiction to technology starts at a younger and younger age. Elementary school children now own cell phones, with no one to call but their mothers or babysitters. Middle school students own Blackberrys, as if they are receiving e-mails of any importance. Nomophobia arises from a false sense of necessity—text messaging, internet browsing, and e-mailing are, in truth, unnecessary. The next time you sight someone fiercely typing on their phone, let them know about their psychological disorder, or feel empathetic as most of us (already afflicted) will.

Celebs' outfits seem as important as Obama himself

BY Christina Vlahos

A&E Editor

At the 2006 Kennedy Center Honors, an annual honor given to those in the performing arts for their lifetime of contributions to American culture, former First Lady Laura Bush sported a red, floor-length, \$8,500 Oscar de la Renta gown. Little did she know, the same night that she donned it, at the same ceremony, three other women would also sport the same exact gown. And, ever since this outrageous fashion faux pas, it would seem that all of Washington has declared: never again.

After President Barack Obama was elected in November, many people all over the world excitedly anticipated for weeks his inauguration and a new era for America. But it seemed that some of our country's elite had other issues on their minds, such as to ascertain whether or not they would be wearing the same outfits as other attendees at the inauguration.

The hype surrounding the outfits of the attendees at the annual Academy Awards seems miniscule compared to the media attention that surrounded the wardrobe choices of those at Obama's inauguration. As one tabloid stated, "The gig of 2009 will take place January 20 on a wintry field in Washington."

In order to avoid another "fashion calamity," several very serious measures had been taken by the A-list celebrities, socialites, and public figures and politicians attending the exhibition—I mean, the inauguration. Among these precautions was the use of a website called *dressregistry.com*, where attendees register their outfits so, heaven forbid, no one suffers the same humiliation and suffering that Laura Bush faced in 2006. When I read this online, you can imagine what I thought to myself. It was something along the lines of how President Obama's inauguration is

turning into the Manhasset prom.

I was immediately reminded of the numerous groups which pop up on Facebook during the months of April and May, when these sad, anxious girls post pictures of their prom dresses and accessories so to avoid complete and utter humiliation. The website's mission statement reads: "Our one goal is to lessen the chance that someone attending the same event as you will be wearing the EXACT same dress... We can make no guaranty [sic] that you won't have a twin at your event but at least we can try to eliminate such sad occurrences!!"



search for this so called "gig of the year," and "party of the century," where everyone who's anyone will be spending a cold Tuesday in January. It didn't take long for me to find it. Ah, the "Obama Home States Inaugural Ball." One of the locations already had several dresses registered, including a white, floor-length Diane von Furstenberg and a pink Nanette Lapore number. I wanted to see how one went about registering a dress, and promptly clicked on the bright "Register my Dress" button, where I proceeded to fill out information including my zip

code, e-mail, the designer of my dress, its color, the neckline, and the length (I ended up registering a strappy, teal and black Chanel Fall 2008 Collection floor-length "concoction"). If it weren't for Dressregistry, I'm sure that many people would not be able to focus on the profound, ground-breaking, history-making event of Obama's swearing into office without the "essential" service that it provides.

Considering the huge amount of support generated for Obama by Hollywood's finest, it is not surprising that these people, who fundraised and publicized, should be considered V.I.P.s at the inauguration. After all, on Sep. 16, Obama raised \$9 million for his campaign with a single party in Beverly Hills hosted by Barbra Streisand and attended by several celebrities.

At the inauguration, the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Bruce Springsteen, and Will.i.am all made appearances. MTV even hosted an inaugural ball. The Creative Coalition's gala was hosted by Elvis Costello, an event for which Anne Hathaway, Spike Lee, Tim Robbins, Maggie Gyllenhaal and other stars all undoubtedly searched for the perfect dress/outfit to be photographed and published in a tabloid at a later date. Who knows, perhaps there will even be a spread in *People* showing "Best Dressed" and "Worst Dressed" at the inauguration.

I realize that many people would consider it a traumatic experience to make an appearance at an event where they are wearing the same exact outfit as several other people; however, rather than have President Obama's inauguration be a special event and a turning point where we begin to experience change, people distorted it, placing too much attention on the clothes of the celebrities who were in attendance. Obama's team said that this would be the "people's inauguration," in the end it was reduced to little more than just another Hollywood awards show.

'Tis the season... to be stressing

BY Will Zhou

Staff Writer

It's that horrible, frightening, and scarring time of the year once again. That's right folks, midterms are here and they want your brains. The time between winter break and midterm week is one of the most stressful parts of the year. Students who think that the weeks before break are more difficult than after are wrong. Clearly, the after winter break stress is greater.

Last time I checked, shopping for presents, hanging up lights on a Christmas tree, or lighting the menorah are not stressful activities. Students enjoy the excitement of the holidays and prepare for a long and relaxing break. For those lucky students who have no homework, vacation is a true time for students to unwind.

After the vacation, however, everybody comes back tired, angry, and unenthusiastic. Nobody wants to go back to school after a two-week break. Almost immediately afterwards, students are forced to study for huge exams that account for, in some classes, half of their quarter grade. Preparing for several tests that make up a large chunk of one's quarter grade and sum up everything learned since September is, as I'm sure everybody would agree, very stressful.

"Obviously it's more stressful after winter break. Wait a second. Why would anybody even think that it's more stressful before the break anyway? People look forward to winter vacation," said junior Kevin Wong. This is the mentality of the student body, although many of our parents may disagree. Our parents have the dreaded responsibility of clawing through department stores to satisfy our "needs."

Although some people may have more tests before the break, midterms end up being more backbreaking because of the size of each test itself. A midterm covers everything from day one, equating it to five or six normal tests. In addition, anybody who remotely cares about his or her average would study much more for midterms as they are worth a fourth or fifth, or in some extreme cases even half, of a quarter grade.

Even if somebody is taking no midterms at all, there are also other things to prepare for, like the Regents examinations that are administered during midterm week. If somebody has to take a Regents, there's no way out of it.

Certain freshmen are also experiencing tremendous academic grief. Those trying out for research programs have to sit through tedious examinations for something they might not even get into. Throw in a smattering of qualifying examinations for next year's classes and the last week of January becomes even more daunting and difficult. This can sometimes discourage students from wanting to push themselves to take advantage of the school's academic offerings.

Taking into consideration all of these aspects of stress after winter break, it becomes clear that it's much more of a hassle after we return from having two weeks off. It's crazy for anybody out there to believe that preparing to take a break is more stressful than preparing to take exams. The time prior to the vacation is the quiet before the test-taking storm.

Significance of holidays tends to be overlooked by students

BY Blake Mergler

Assistant Opinions Editor

What did you do on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day? After sleeping late, playing Guitar Hero, and getting great deals at Macy's, did you even pause for a moment to think about the historical figure who changed America forever?

Sadly, most students are probably questioning why one would think about that on a day off. Students, along with their families, take advantage of national holidays, while not thinking at all about their significance.

On this day of remembrance, we should recognize the progress that the United States has made since King's death. During his time, no one imagined an African-American president in office. King was the leading figure in the Civil Rights Movement and the outcome of his work has never shown so profoundly as it did on Nov. 4, 2008. King made great strides towards equality during his time and his difficult work has made the country what it is today: a place of tolerance and equity.

Considering the tremendous impact King had on this country, isn't it ridiculous that many ignore his impact on the day named after him? I'm not saying that students should devote all their time on

their days off to remember the significance of an historical figure; days off for students should serve as a time to relax from the every day hustle and bustle of school. However, when these days are in memory of an important historical figure, such as King, some initiative should be taken to recognize the significance of these individuals.

"It's completely ridiculous that we do not respect Martin Luther King's accomplishments," said sophomore Aimee Stern. "We also don't appreciate people who have fought in the wars during Memorial Day and Veteran's Day."

We need to change this apathy in our school. My proposal for future days off such as President's Week and Memorial Day is that time should be devoted in English and/or Social Studies classes to discuss the significance of these important days. Different lessons should be taught according to grade level to commemorate the achievements of these individuals. I am not saying simplified elementary lessons should take place, but we should discuss and think about the people remembered or honored on these days.

It would be most appropriate for these lessons to be taught on the day of school before a break. These lessons do not need to last a whole period and replace

a teacher's entire lesson plan, but rather occupy a sufficient amount of time for students to better appreciate and understand the impact the holiday has on their curriculum and their lives. For example, in a Global History class, time during a class period before President's Week could include an overview of the impact of presidents on global history.

Fun activities could also enhance the interest of students. We have Spirit Week, Sports Night, and other activities that encourage student participation. Why not have a "Favorite President's Day" before President's Week or a "Dress in Camouflage Day" before Veteran's Day? Although these activities may seem a little naive, I challenge teachers and the administration to use their creative abilities to run activities inspired by these national holidays that are educationally beneficial to all students.

By combining a fun day with analytical discussions in classes, hopefully students will be more interested and as a result, national holidays will be more significant.

Through this proposal, I hope that recognition of national holidays takes place because the school, as an educational institution, has the responsibility of addressing these holidays with the students.

Editorials

Praising in-school Inauguration

Our parents generation is asked, "where were you when JFK was shot?" Our generation will be asking, "Where were you when the first African American, Barack Obama was elected?" We, as students, were fortunate enough to witness one of the most momentous occasions in history right from our school: the inauguration of Barack Obama. We all know that Obama is the first African America president, and the administration thought that it would be appropriate if the school was able to witness this historic moment. *The Schreiber Times* feels that it is very important that the school helps raise political awareness throughout the student body and praises the administration in allowing us to watch the 44th president becoming inaugurated.

The school-wide broadcast allowed students to witness the historic speech from various places inside the school. Even if some students remain apathetic, the inauguration viewing still gives them the opportunity to be exposed to the political community. In these times of turmoil, an educated and more importantly, an aware youth is a very important step towards fixing the so-called "generation problems." Obama's campaign platform pledged change, and therefore the change must come from increasing political awareness in the youth. Politically active students have the potential for contributing new ideas to old problems. If change is what we need, youth is a plentiful source of it, and the best place to start is by showing the inauguration.

Another benefit that students can get from watching Obama's inauguration speech is getting an example of eloquent speaker and hearing what a good public address sounds like. The speech was concise yet descriptive. Obama laid out his plans for his next four years in of-

fice in an attractive fashion, making the speech lengthy, but not long enough to put people to sleep (as opposed to William Harrison's 1 hour and 45 minute inaugural address).

The conservative community in Schreiber should not be upset that Obama's inauguration was played, seeing as this issue cross more lines than democrat versus republican. Yes, it is most likely true that the school would not have broadcast McCain's inauguration in the same way that Obama's inauguration was executed. But, the fact of the matter is that Obama's inauguration was much more momentous than McCain's could ever be. No matter how good a president John McCain would have been, his election would not have been as groundbreaking as Obama's. As Obama said in his inaugural address, "This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed — why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent Mall, and why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath."

Even with Obama's inspirational words, the question does remain: will the school show any other inaugurations again? *The Schreiber Times* believes that the administration will have to decide whether or not another election could be as historic as this one in order for it to be shown in the school. This line of thought should be corrected: all inaugural address should be broadcast in school, as all inaugurations are historic.

The Schreiber Times is proud to be the publication of a school whose administration took the initiative to educate its students in this way. Many of us may not realize, but we have witnessed the culmination of almost a century of civil rights struggle in Obama's election. We can learn from it by continuing to try to accept all people.

Homosexuals not accepted in high school atmosphere

Unlike jock, prep, jap, goth, nerd, punk, "homosexual" is not a stereotype. However, the Schreiber student body seems to judge the homosexual population in the same way it judges all the basic high school stereotypes. Although Schreiber prides itself on being accepting of all shapes, sizes, races, genders, and sexual orientations, taking a look around and talking to students proves that actions speak louder than words. *The Schreiber Times* would like to address this issue of nonacceptance in our community. *The Times* feels as much as we say we are accepting of all students, the sad truth is we are not.

Although many incidents do not come to mind when we think of homosexual persecution and harassment, as this issue's centerfold points out, many students are not accepting of homosexual students and/or are not interested. The students who are ignorant about this need to become aware that this judgmental attitude exists, and behavior should be altered.

The students who are opposed to the homosexuality of their peers need to realize that they have no control over their sexual orientation. Although they may never fully accept a student, they should be aware that discrimination will never be tolerated by the Schreiber administration. We recognize certain students will never be fully accepting; however, infringement on another student's life is never okay.

The students who are accepting, or claim to be accepting of the gay community in Schreiber should advocate the equality and fair treatment of their peers. They have the responsibility of helping to enlighten their fellow close-minded classmates and aiding the ones who face the harassment due to their sexual orientation.

For some odd reason, high school students are unwilling to accept homosexual students in their everyday life, but in their favorite TV shows, they are more

than willing to do so. Anyone who watches *Desperate Housewives* is accepting of the fact that the character Bree Hodge's son, Andrew is having relationships with other males. These relationships serve as an addition to the show's plotline and is an accepted aspect of the show. Similarly, in the popular sitcom, *Will and Grace*, Will's homosexuality is one of the main aspects of the show that attracts so many viewers. It is quite obvious that homosexuality is respectable with the characters on the television screen. Why then is it not approved of in our Schreiber community? Students should be tolerant of what they seem to accept with their favorite characters in their TV shows.

One of the most basic and fundamental principles of this country is that one's worth ought to be determined by their abilities, not their birth. Discriminating against gay people is just as objectionable a practice as discriminating against blacks, or women.

In addition, we would like to point out a word that is commonly misused, and often offensive: gay. According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, the number one definition of the word is "happily excited." Therefore, when one student refers to a hard math test as "gay," it actually has a meaning that is the reverse of what the student originally meant. While the student actually does not mean to be offensive to anyone, many gay students are justified in finding the misuse of this word to be offensive; making this mistake also causes students to sound ignorant (not to mention grammatically incorrect).

The Schreiber Times is not pleased with the mindsets of many students who are unwilling to befriend or even just make a comfortable environment for that 10% percent of the population which is in fact homosexual.

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on Feb. 12. All new writers are welcome!

Drawing Conclusions



Times Policy Statement

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

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

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

We will print letters to the editors if judged to be of sufficient quality and importance on a space-available basis. We will not print letters that are obscene, libelous, or contain unfounded charges. The Times reserves the right to shorten letters if doing so does not alter their meaning,

and to choose a representative letter from a group of related ones. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors. We will not print any anonymous letters.

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

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

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

Students visit Israel during time of Middle Eastern conflict

BY Brian Aronow
Contributing Writer

"War breaks out in Gaza." This headline flashed across the news during our third night in Tel Aviv, Israel, which is about 60 miles outside of Gaza. Members of the Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore, including myself, along with the rabbis and cantor, had been planning this trip to Israel for over a year. Once there, the crisis was escalating, but we had no intention of flying back home.

Every night we watched the top English news channels in Israel. They reported the rising number of deaths, the threats from Hamas, and the retaliation of Israel's government, but this was not what was on our mind during the day. Rather, we enjoyed the food we ate, the music we listened to, and the wonderful culture we were lucky enough to experience.

We slept late on Shabbat morning and when we headed down to the beach, we saw hundreds of Israelis dancing simultaneously to modern Israeli music. Later that day, we walked the streets of Jaffa, which overlooked beautiful Tel Aviv—the much newer city compared to the ancient Jaffa. Earlier in the week, we visited the Palmach Museum, which was a great way to learn the history behind the fight for Israel's independence in the late 1940s. We also went to the very place where Israel was declared a state on May 14, 1948.

All the while, the bombings continued. Our next stop: the Dead Sea. We weren't going to an exciting city, but we drove across the country to the desert. More specifically, we were floating in water at the lowest place on Earth—1,200 feet below sea level. While we were still at the Dead Sea, we watched the sun set at a service for the final night of Chanukah at Masada, the rocky plateau where the Jews hid from the

Romans. After the service, we danced Israeli-style to some techno Hebrew songs. We continued to watch the news in Israel every night, which reported the deaths, threats, and retaliations.

We headed all the way up north to Zefat, a beautiful city up in the mountains known for its art and Jewish mysticism. When we visited an Israeli-Syrian border army base, it was set for battle—in case of any northern invasion due to the problems in the south. We asked them one important question, and the answer stuck in my mind and described the pride they have for Israel. "Soldier, where would you rather be, up here in a mildly peaceful northern base or firing rockets in the terrorized south down in Gaza?" Their reply was simply "Gaza." They would have rather be putting their lives in grave danger in order to protect their country.

We stopped in the port city Haifa and then headed down to the capital, Jerusalem. The artifacts and the history of the Old City brought everyone closer. We sang prayers in the ancient entrance through

the outer walls, keeping cars waiting and beeping, but the unity of our congregation was much more important. At the Wailing Wall, we folded our prayers into the cracks of the historical western wall of the second temple. We prayed for ourselves, and also for peace for the people and the state of Israel. The bombings still continued.

They continued every night, every morning, at lunch time, and at dinner. We watched the news reports of the missiles, the deaths, and the ground operation—just as we would have at home in Port Wash-

ington, but the difference was we were not so far away. We were an hour, maybe two, three, or only four hours away from the terrorist attacks. I cannot say we were not scared, and I cannot say Israelis were not scared, but even with all of this commotion, life was still the same. It was still exciting; we, like the Israelis, worshipped the Sabbath on Saturdays, laughed, told jokes, celebrated Chanukah, Bar Mitzvahs, and the New Year. In the end, despite the war and the bombings, we still enjoyed the exciting country of Israel.



Courtesy of Brian Aronow

Students belonging to the Reconstructionist Synagogue traveled to Israel during the ongoing conflict in Gaza. However, the war did not stop them from visiting many of the sights, including the Dead Sea.

Crowded hallways cause traffic jams and are a daily struggle

BY Laila Iravani
Staff Writer

With over 1,500 peers to share the hallways with, many students find it a daily struggle to get through the crowded corridors and make it to class on time. With only five minutes to get from one class to

another, students are constantly worried about being late. Although some teachers are lenient about students arriving a few minutes late to class, others are strict about punctuality and will give tank or other disciplinary measures if a student is tardy.

"I've gotten tank a few times throughout the time I've been at Schreiber because

of the hallways," said sophomore Jennifer Cangemi. "After lunch, there's a mob of people and you just kind of get stuck. Sometimes I'm forced to shove through which then causes more problems."

The hallways are generally the most crowded around lunch time and right after school. Students are in a rush to get to lunch, and every student has to enter and leave the same cafeteria. There is no alternate entrance and so there is often a traffic jam in the main hallway and lobby leading into the cafeteria.

"Whenever my friends and I want to leave lunch to go to class, we have to leave at least five minutes earlier to avoid the traffic jam," said student Andrea Giron.

Leaving the cafeteria early is one of the ways students avoid the congestion that occurs at the end of 4-1 and 4-2. Another alternative is skipping the main hallway and taking the staircase off the lobby that leads to the health office. The main hallway is crowded at all times of the day and avoiding it can allow students to get to class and lunch on time.

"I feel intimidated whenever I walk through the hallways," said sophomore Carly Rosenberg. "There are usually upperclassmen that linger around the main staircase. It's actually really annoying trying to get to class."

The dynamics of the high school's hallways are much different than those of Weber, forcing many freshmen to adjust.

"The hallways in Weber were so much

easier to walk through," said freshman Jessica Box. "Everyone was basically trying to go to their class. But in Schreiber, people stand around in the hallways which makes it so much harder to get through them."

Many teachers are more worried about the safety of the students rather than their tardiness to class.

"My concern with hallways in general is that students should adhere to the safety rules," said Ms. Marisa DeMarco. "Kids should refrain from texting in the hallways. I've personally experienced students walking right into me because they weren't looking."

Although some teachers on hall duty try to break up the mass of kids, it is not always successful. However, their efforts have made noticeable improvements.

"Sometimes, when there's a ton of people in the halls, two different routes form," said Ms. Demarco. "For example, on the right side the kids are heading towards the English wing while on the left side, kids are heading in the opposite direction. It's actually a lot easier than trying to weave your way through."

The hallways will always be crowded, especially before and after lunch and right after school, but there are ways around this issue. By walking on one side of the hallway instead of the middle can make a difference. Taking other staircases and hallways can help students avoid traffic and get to class on time.



David Gueli

The main hallway tends to be the most congested hallway in the building. Since every student needs to pass through this particular hallway throughout the day, a traffic jam is usually created.

In Schreiber, the effort to come out of the closet and into an accepting and open environment has been the subject of much discussion. The students, while differing in their opinions, have a popular consensus that the school's attitude towards homosexuality wavers on the line between acceptance and aversion. The administration, however, sees the school as a very open place in which homosexual students are welcomed.

To combat any hostility, the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) and Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth (LIGALY) have led campaigns within the school to educate, spread awareness, and dispel myths about homosexuality. Aiding in the effort is the health department, through lessons and classroom speakers.

ADMINISTRATION

Under the "zero tolerance" policy of the administration, there is no tolerance for any kind of bullying, harassment, or discrimination. The rule especially applies to cases where the actions were taken against somebody because of a particular gender, race, religion, handicap, or sexual orientation. The administration works to enforce this policy and provide homosexual students and faculty with an environment where they can express their true sexuality.

"We have no tolerance for discrimination here in general," said Ms. Laurie Baron, a guidance counselor. "So, whether somebody is making comments about somebody's race, religion, or anything else it's the same thing: no tolerance. I've had kids come to me saying that this kid has

called me a fag—that is part of bullying and there is no tolerance for that."

The administration has had, however, no large-scale problems with students and homosexuality.

"We have had a few scattered incidents that tied into several disciplinary cases, but certainly nothing major," said Principal Mr. Jay Lewis.

A similar attitude seems to be the consensus throughout much of the administration; some members are even surprised at how open-minded and accepting the school community is when confronted with homosexuality.

"In other schools that I've been in, it has definitely happened," said Ms. Baron, describing bullying and harassment. "But, in those other schools I've been in, there hasn't been as much support and as much openness as it is here.

of kids with this generation are definitely experimenting and questioning. A lot of kids have come and said, 'Just because I've done this does this mean I'm gay?'"

GSA and LIGALY

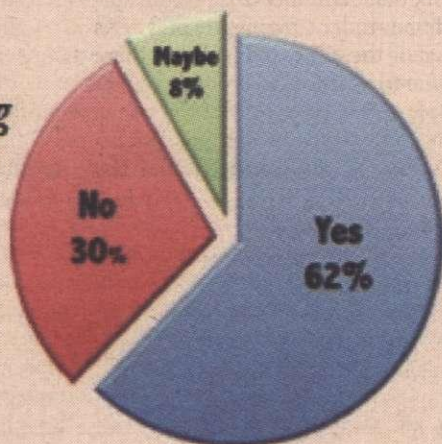
The GSA has been working for years to promote individuality and provide education about homosexuality and other related issues. The club's meetings consist of students talking about issues that they would like to see addressed, their own personal feelings about homosexuality, and how to reach out to the community. LIGALY is a fixture of the homosexual community on the island, providing a forum for youth to discuss and be open with themselves and others.

"The mission first and foremost is to give LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-

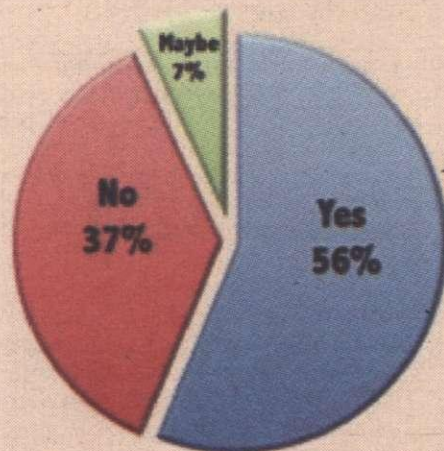
Are we comfortable?

OPINIONS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

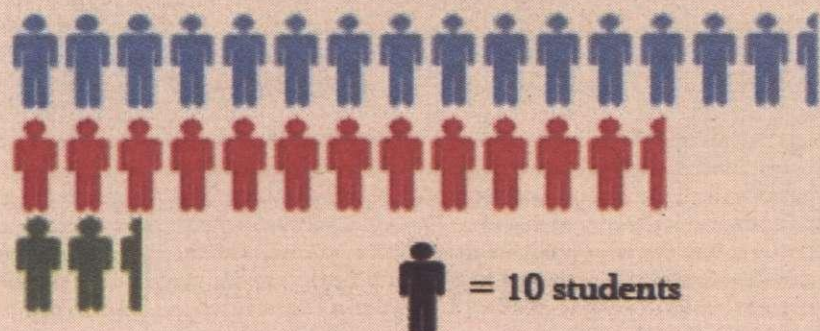
Is Schreiber accepting of homosexuality?



Are your friends accepting of homosexuality?



If your best friend "came out," would you feel uncomfortable?



Schreiber's attitude towards homosexuality shows mixed messages of acceptance

It does happen—of course it happens. It happens in every school because you are not going to have every person who is completely accepting of homosexuality or bisexuality. Some kids don't care they are very open to it whether they are straight or gay, but there are some kids who are very against homosexuality and that happens everywhere—some might discriminate."

This does not mean that Schreiber has not had any problems with discrimination towards homosexual students. Prejudice can still be seen in certain instances where students are harassed or singled out because of their sexual orientation. However, students do not always seek help when this happens. Many administrators say that when students do not report incidents, oftentimes because of embarrassment, it is hard to remedy the situation or to get a clear picture of the true climate of the school.

"What I do see here in school is a lot of reaction, usually by students towards other students who they suspect to be gay," said Ms. Michelle Weiden, the school social worker. "It doesn't matter if they are or are simply suspected to be so."

Guidance counselors, who have noticed a trend among students, are responsible for helping them with their personal issues regarding sexuality.

"I find that when they [middle school students] first come to high school and they see that there are things available to them—the GSA, many upperclassmen who are very open with their sexuality—they are able to express themselves," said Ms. Baron. "Some kids come and express their confusions."

In the past decade, there have been many movements to educate and spread awareness of homosexuality. The GSA has been working to educate its peers about what it means to be homosexual.

"I think that regarding bisexuality, a lot of kids might experiment and might be confused," said Ms. Baron. "Well if I kissed a girl or if I kissed a boy does that mean I'm gay?" It doesn't necessarily mean that they are gay but they are questioning it because they had that one experience. But, a lot

gender] students a safe place to talk about issues that are important to them, to give heterosexual students a chance to express their support for the rights of LGBT people, and third would be to educate the community at large about some LGBT issues," said Ms. Julia Brandt, the faculty advisor to the GSA.

Over the years, the GSA has organized annual events that are directed at getting people comfortable both with themselves and with the idea of homosexuality.

"We have a lot of things planned," said junior Molly Fried, the treasurer of the club. "We have things like the transgender day of remembrance and, coming up in February, the annual Drag Ball. That is a lot of fun—it's really a chance for people to get dressed up, make friends and have a place to be open about themselves and about their feelings."

An important annual GSA event is National Coming Out Day, held every October. It is designed to give students assurance that their school is a safe place to come out in and that they will be accepted no matter their sexual orientation. The club also sponsors the annual Day of Silence, when students do not speak for one day as a symbol of the "silence of the LGBT community."

Another primary goal of the GSA is to educate about the issues of the LGBT community. Last year, the club took a step to directly reach out to students of the school by visiting the ninth grade health classes. During the visits, both gay and straight members of the club spoke to the classes. They discussed everything from their own personal coming out stories to how they had been received by their friends.

"It was their own idea," Ms. Brandt said. "They felt that they wanted a forum to be able to talk about issues like homophobia. They thought that the health classes would be a good idea. I think it was very successful; we got a lot of positive feedback."

The GSA and health classes are expecting to join together again this school year during the ninth grade sexuality unit.

One of the biggest collaborators with the GSA is LIGALY, which comes to

speak to the 11th grade health classes each year. LIGALY has provided a place for kids to express their true sexuality without the fear of judgment or condemnation. It has also provided support and education to Schreiber's GSA chapter.

"In October, I went with the GSA to a LIGALY conference," said Fried. "While I was there I learned so much. I attended workshops and seminars on things like LGBT families. I was able to take a lot of what I learned and bring it back to Schreiber."

Despite the GSA's efforts of working on educating and actively getting the student body involved, the school has still had a modicum of discriminatory behavior.

"At Schreiber I think one year we did put up flyers around the school depicting famous people who were LGBT," said Ms. Brandt. "Some of those flyers got defaced. But this was about four years ago. On a daily basis the biggest obstacle that these kids find is the use of the word 'gay.'"

Having people properly use the term, "gay" and lessening its use as a derogatory term is another goal of the GSA. Having it be common experience to hear a student say, "That's so gay," the GSA is working on limiting its use.

"Using words like gay, faggot, and dike, is very demeaning," said junior Phoebe Sherman, the co-president of the GSA. "Words like this are used as synonyms for stupid; they are homophobic slurs."

The GSA and LIGALY have worked together to educate the school and branch out to create an environment where students will feel comfortable with all sexual orientations.

HEALTH

Through classroom discussions, games, and speakers, the health department has taken a part in the educational process, teaching students about relationships and sexuality.

The health teachers deliberately do not specifically teach about homosexual relationships.

"We are not required to," said Ms. Pat Kosiba, a health teacher. "When we do the relationships unit, we discuss relationships in general. We do not differentiate between gay, bisexual, or straight. All of them have the same traits and are the same when it comes to having a healthy or an unhealthy relationship."

Class is structured so that people of

any sexual orientation feel that all of the lessons apply to them.

"While discussing things in class during the relationship unit, we always use the word 'partner' when talking about somebody in a relationship," said Ms. Kosiba. "This ensures that somebody who may be gay or bisexual doesn't feel like the lesson only applies to straight people."

The health classes also use guest speakers to educate.

"Every year, LIGALY comes to speak to the 11th grade classes," said Ms. Kosiba. "They send somebody who is usually bisexual, transgender, or homosexual. The speaker discusses everything from their own personal coming out story to the reaction of their family to how they were received by their friends after they came out."

LIGALY sends a speaker twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. They are also responsible for the "safe space" stickers found on many doors of the school. The stickers are an indication that the room and the school are a place where they can comfortably discuss their sexuality and their feelings on any related matter. They are on the doors of many classrooms, as well as all guidance offices.

"Every time LIGALY comes to Schreiber, I ask them to bring me more stickers," said Ms. Kosiba. "I then give them out to everybody I can in the school. It seems that they are never able to bring enough. When I ask them, they say that they never have enough either."

The health teachers discuss sexuality not only in class but in private as well. Along with the guidance counselors, students often go to health teachers to discuss both their own sexuality, and also to ask general questions regarding sex and sexuality.

"I have had many students come to me with questions," said Ms. Kosiba.

The door to the health office, as well as to all of the health rooms, sports one of the distinctive "safe space" stickers.

STUDENTS

While the administration is no doubt in touch with the workings of Schreiber, there is a different point of view coming from the students who roam its halls.

Most students, like the administration, consider the school to be a generally accepting school.

"I can't really say that I've talk to my



Kevin Granger

These "safe space" stickers can be found on the doors to all of the guidance, administration, and health offices, as well as many classrooms. The stickers are given out by LIGALY when guest speakers visit Schreiber.

friends about it. But I think that they are accepting of homosexuality," said a student being polled.

Compared to the number of students who believed in the school's acceptance and openness, 26% percent of students polled thought that the school was not accepting of homosexuality. The students that said this most often said, however, that they were open to sexuality themselves, but that they felt the school was not.

"I think that Schreiber is pretty accepting," said one student during the poll. "As a member of the GSA, I think that there is still some to be done, but that we're getting there."

Of the entire poll, 19% of the students said that they were convinced that the school was partially accepting yet still had to do more or that they were not sure.

The general attitude towards homosexuals in the school can be felt in a walk through the cafeteria. While shouts of, "That's so gay," can be heard, little else is said about homosexuals. In general, the issue seems to fly under the radar.

"They do say, 'That's so gay,'" said sophomore Aimee Stern. "But, they don't mean it in a homosexual way. They mean it in a 'That's so stupid' way."

Still, many students do not see the usage of the word "gay" in that light. Some

are trying to limit their personal usage of the term.

"I think that it is really offensive," said junior Jonny Schechner, "I don't understand how gay can be used as a synonym for stupid. Does the word gay have two separate meanings?"

Although the comfort level in its totality is relatively high, when students were asked if they would be comfortable if their best friend said that they were homosexual or bisexual, 20% of the responses were that they would not be comfortable.

"I think I would be fine with it over time, but I would feel uncomfortable and our relationship would probably change," said one anonymous student.

Usually, students feel that they are able to tell whether another person is homosexual using their, as many call it, "gaydar."

"If a boy is really into what he wears, then he is probably gay," said a female student who wishes to remain anonymous. "Yeah," said another girl in agreement. "Or if a guy does certain things. Like, if he doesn't care about sports at all or if he has a really high voice or something it's more likely that he's gay."

By Laura Werle with additional reporting by Leah Nash

Homosexuality in popular culture: *Milk*

BY Ali Nierenberg

Assistant A&E Editor

Harvey Milk, who was the first openly homosexual man to be elected to a public office in California, lived in a society where he was not accepted because of his sexual orientation. He, along with many other homosexuals, constantly faced obstacles. Milk recognized that the situation was clearly out of hand.

Gus Van Sant's film, *Milk*, chronicles this fight for tolerance and acceptance. The movie captures the protests and debates which were all a part of the monumental fight for equality, yet at the same time, it attacks the brutal society in which homosexuals were forced to live.

The social critique is evident right from the beginning of the film. Harvey Milk (Sean Penn) and his boyfriend, Scott Smith (James Franco), are purchasing a store on San Francisco's Castro Street to house their camera shop. After successfully closing the deal, the two men warmly embrace one another in front of the land-

lord, who is extremely repulsed by their affection. He deliberately avoids shaking their hands and walks away, threatening them. This simple act of intolerance highlights how homosexuals were treated by their neighbors and colleagues.

The film continues to criticize this societal flaw through the actions of the local police officers, who are supposed to maintain the safety and security of the neighborhood and its inhabitants. But they too were prejudiced towards homosexuals.

This prejudice led to an environment of tension and fear, making it even worse for individuals who wanted to come out of the closet. Men who were not open about their homosexuality felt threatened by society and often concealed their true feelings, in order to avoid the immense hatred. This situation was so extreme that it even made individuals think about killing themselves. One boy in the film had nowhere to go and knew that he could not come out of the closet, so he seriously considered suicide.

Although Milk tried to conquer some of this dysfunction, he was met with se-

Harvey Milk (Sean Penn) was the first openly homosexual elected official. He campaigned for rights and tolerance for homosexuals in California until his assassination in 1978. The movie inspired discussions of homosexual rights today as compared to the 1960s and 1970s.



www.filmfocus.com

vere opposition by individuals who were opposed to the advancement of equality and tolerance. His fight drew upon the tremendous evils inherent within our society. If individuals are fleeing to other nations, merely to be accepted, something is clearly wrong.

Milk clearly depicts this flawed society, while trying to send an extremely important message. The scenes of brutality, death, and malice are the weapons used to

send the message of tolerance and acceptance. It emphasizes to the utmost extent, the point that individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, need to be accepted and treated equally. It stresses that our society needs to make sure that we are doing just that: creating a safe environment for individuals who want to come out of the closet and express themselves, therefore continuing Milk's poignant and truthful message.

Teen Cent\$ Club provides students with the opportunity to save

BY Leah Nash
Features Editor

With the current economic crisis, many students are worried about money and concerned with saving for the future. An increasing number of students is adopting prudent financial practices, such as saving more of their money. For many students who want to be fiscally responsible, the Port Washington Federal Credit Union is the place to start.

The Teen Cent\$ Club is part of the not-for-profit Port Washington Federal Credit Union, which is located on Main Street. Students age 13 to 19 can become members of the Teen Cent\$ Club by setting up an account for only five dollars. Those interested need to provide a student ID and their social security number. A minimum of three dollars is required for each deposit and students receive a 1.25% interest rate on their money.

"The Teen Cent\$ Club helps students learn financial responsibility and save money for the future," said Alice Melzer, the Director of Marketing of the Port Washington Federal Credit Union.

The Teen Cent\$ Club is trying to teach students how to save money, but also show the benefits that can come from saving rather than spending, which is what teenagers tend to do. With each deposit, an entry is entered for a chance to win a new laptop that will be awarded in the spring. The goal of awarding a laptop is to encourage teens to become responsible

with their money by monitoring their account with the Port Washington Federal Credit Union.

In addition to the opportunity to win a laptop, every student who is able to maintain and balance their account throughout the year will receive a backpack in the spring.

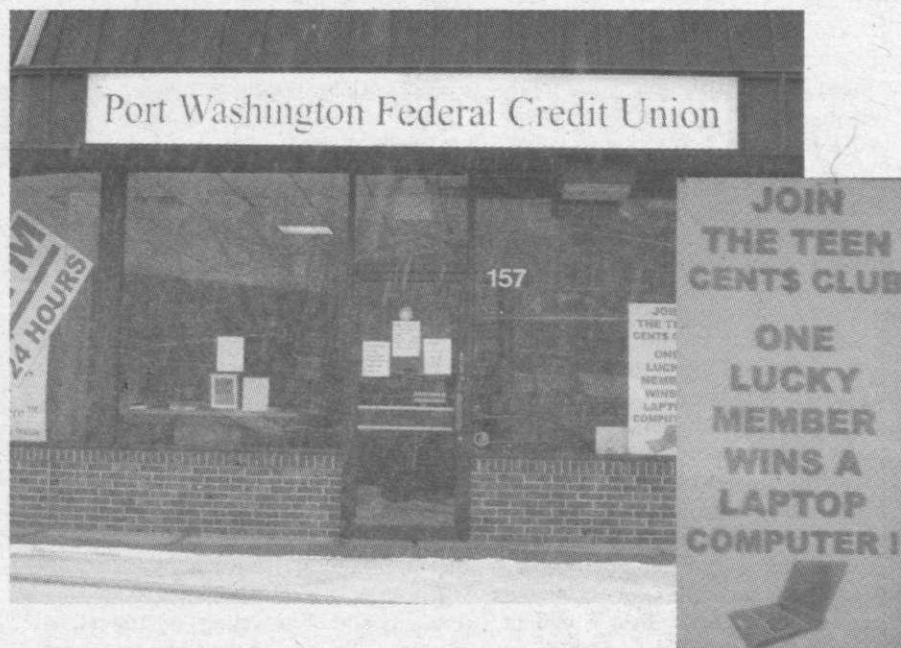
"Everyone wins," said Melzer.

The prizes are an incentive for students to start saving money, rather than for students to immediately spend all the money that they earn.

"I really think that the chance to win a laptop will motivate kids to want to set up the account and start saving their money," said freshman Isabella Goetze. "I mostly just spend, and then I always run out of money."

Seniors who are a part of the Teen Cent\$ Club also have the opportunity to win a \$500 scholarship in addition to the chance to win a laptop. An application is required in order to be eligible to receive the scholarship. Three scholarships are awarded every spring, and the Port Washington Federal Credit Union has awarded seniors with this scholarship for the past five years.

Setting up an account with the Teen Cent\$ Club is an option for students who would like to save money and learn how to handle their money. They can watch their money grow, learn the importance and benefit of saving for the future, and have the opportunity to win a multitude of prizes.



Leah Nash

The Teen Cent\$ Club, which is part of the Port Washington Federal Credit Union, is giving students the opportunity to win a laptop. One member of the Teen Cent\$ Club who has set up and maintained a student account is eligible to win the laptop at the end of the year.

Restaurant Review Angel's

BY Alex Smith
Contributing Writer

Serving as a popular hangout for students after school, Angel's is a great place to relax and enjoy classic American fast food. Located on Main Street, the eatery looks very appealing and welcoming from the outside. Walking in, I instantly felt a '50s inspired theme with the vivid colors and black-and-white checkerboard floor. The brightly painted ceilings and the signs on the walls help to further create a great feeling and fun environment for kids to hang out.

There are bright red stools at each table, matching the '50s theme. The seating also helps to provide a relaxing and comfortable feeling. However, there are not many tables and as a result, the eatery tends to be cramped. The lack of space is an extreme discomfort, and every time the door opened, I could feel the breeze from the cold outside. Aside from the small and cramped area, the overall feeling of the restaurant is pleasing and creative.

As I sat down at a table, I placed my or-

der, and the food came shortly after. The service was very quick, and to my surprise the food was cooked very well. There is a great selection of food, from chicken fingers and hot dogs to ice cream and many original desserts. For my main dish, I ordered chicken fingers and french fries that came with a drink of my choice, costing only \$7. I was pleasantly surprised that the chicken was not overcooked and that the fries were not too greasy.

For dessert, I tried the ice cream. I was able to choose from a variety of toppings that can be incorporated into any ice cream flavor. The presentation of the dessert was great, and so was the flavor. There are many other unique desserts on the menu. Desserts like fried Oreos and funnel cakes are a favorite of many customers. The dessert was the best part of the meal, and many other patrons agree.

Overall, as I left Angel's, I was more than satisfied with the meal. Not only was the main dish enjoyable, but the dessert was as well. Even though the eatery itself was a bit cramped, the décor inside helped to make up for it.

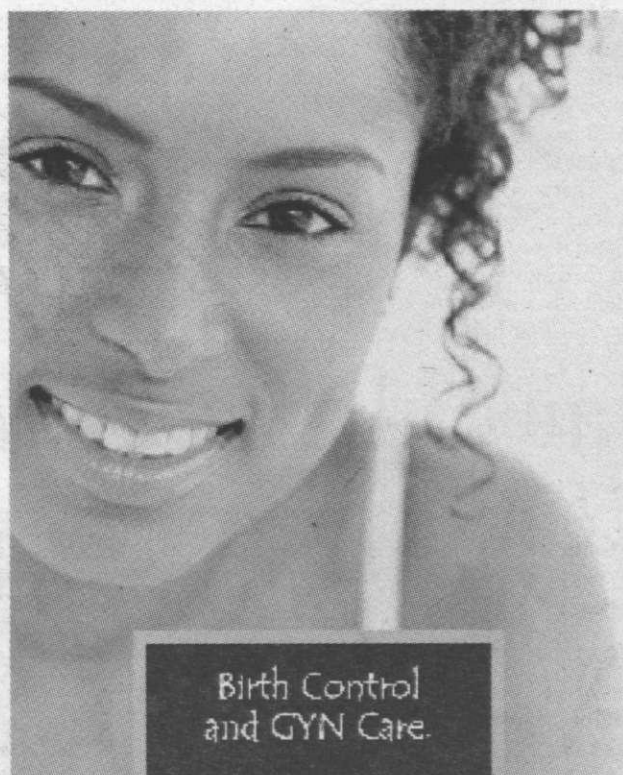
I would recommend taking out from

Angel's or getting delivery. That way, you do not have to feel cramped, but can still enjoy the great food. The American styled cuisine left me pleased, and so did the fun and enjoyable atmosphere that surrounded me. I would recommend Angel's to anyone who is looking to enjoy classic American fast food with very quick service.



Matt Bregman

The black-and-white checkerboard floor and the bright red stools add to the '50s inspired interior of Angel's located on Main Street.



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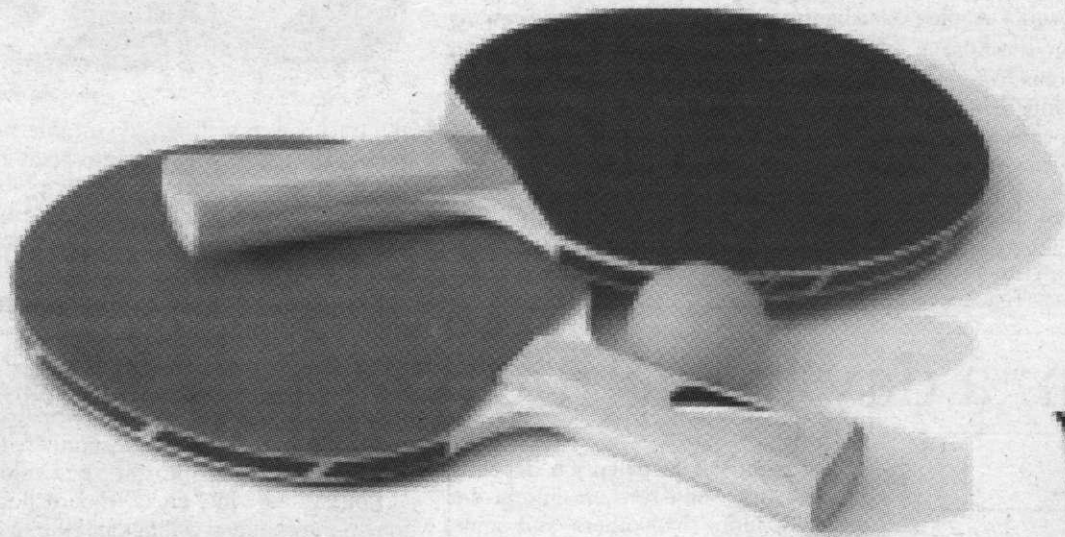
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**AFTER SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

File Fashion 2009's new technology

BY Brittany Berliner

Staff Writer

You know what would go great with that cute outfit? A cool piece of technology! Do you remember in 1989 when the first edition of the Game Boy was released? Everyone thought it was the most inventive and creative piece of technology ever to be created. Well, that was so last century. Technology is very much like a fashion trend since it comes and goes like the seasons. A cool gadget one year could be completely outdated the next.

This new year is truly the year of the future. It has been less than a month, but 2009 has already devised the most eye-catching, jaw-dropping, gadgets ever to be made. Here is a sneak peak to this year's greatest sensations.

BlackBerry Storm 9530

For those of you on the Verizon network who have been yearning for Apple's iPhone, you are in luck. The BlackBerry Storm is the answer to your prayers. The phone has a touchscreen keyboard, instant and email messaging, click feedback, video clipping, and a camera. With a 3.2 megapixel camera with autofocus, your picture-perfect moments are captured clearly and effectively on this stylish phone. This is the first touchscreen BlackBerry to be created and hopefully not the last. The Storm costs \$199.99 with a two-year contract.

Detention: a day in the life

BY Sophia Jaffe

Staff Writer

Although detention is often allotted for student misbehavior, many students are unaware and curious of what really happens behind those closed doors at 3:15 p.m. everyday. Lasting 90 minutes, detention is the punishment for student-committed offenses.

There are a number of offenses that can land a student in detention: from underclassmen going off campus, repeated violations of the school parking rules, and, of course, any inappropriate behavior as determined by a teacher, assistant principal, principal, or superintendent. That range of student misconduct is quite broad. However, the punishment is deemed to require removal from the classroom but not warrant suspension from school.

Teachers are able to make the ultimate decision whether a student's misconduct warrants "tank time" or after school detention. The "tank" is unique to the school and it is presumably for lesser student offenses. When a student gets "tank," the student must give up one free period during school in order to sit in the tank room, which is located on the lower floor. Detention is imposed only after school, so it takes up more of a student's free time, and lasts a half-hour longer. Detention is for more serious offenses and misconduct.

"Afternoon detention begins at 3:15 p.m. and ends at 4:45 p.m. Students must remain for the entire 90-minute detention. Students are encouraged to do homework or read in silence," states the Schreiber student handbook.

In reality, these rules are not necessarily enforced exactly as written in the

The Flash Drive Band

Don't you just hate when your computer crashes and the 20 page paper that you worked on for weeks has disappeared?

"Once I pulled an all nighter writing a research paper and the next morning when I came to print it, it was gone. I had to completely re-do it. It was horrible," said junior Samantha Kaplan.

No need to fear any longer! The flash drive band has found a way to prevent this nightmare from ever happening again. Although there have been several previous attempts at this band, this year, it has evolved into an effective and yet wearable piece of technology. This unisex bracelet is a first and features 512 megabytes of memory, which stores a reasonable amount of files. The band will be released this month and will cost \$29.95.

The Solar Energy FM Radio

Going green is big this season. The Solar Energy FM Radio is one of the coolest ways to stay environmentally conscious. It is cute, petite, and comes in a variety of colors, including green, red, and orange. It comes with a solar panel and a hand crank. Yet, ironically enough it is the least bit outdated. Unfortunately, it cannot hook up to your iPod. However, with its loud and clear speaker, you can hear music on the radio perfectly. It is great for road trips, picnics, or even hangouts. If your New Year's resolution was either to

handbook.

"The strictness of detention depends on the teacher. Some teachers enforce the rules a lot more than others, and some teachers are more accepting and lenient," said senior Wilburt Vega.

Certain behavior is allowed during detention depending on which teacher is monitoring it. If a teacher is lenient and the students behave well and are not reprimanded, that teacher will often let them out 10 minutes early.

Students must follow the rules of detention or else there are further consequences for that misbehavior during detention time. If a student continues inappropriate behavior in the detention room, the teacher can remove that student from detention, and require additional punishment. Such inappropriate behavior can include listening to an iPod, using a cell phone, or talking. As additional punishment, the offender is required to spend two more times attending detention. Generally, students tend to follow the rules of detention to avoid attending detention again.

"Most people just read the newspaper, do homework, or sleep during detention," said freshman Nick Michelson. "There's not really anything else to do. You're not generally allowed to talk to one another in the room."

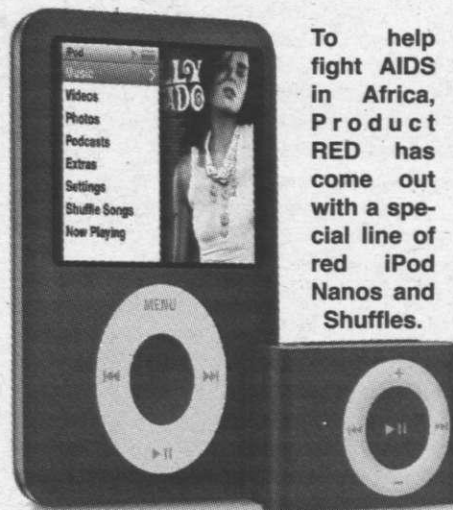
"Detention will be imposed as a penalty only after the student's parent has been notified to confirm that there is no parental objection to the penalty and the student has appropriate transportation home following detention," states the student handbook.

This procedure is designed to ensure a student's well-being, and to make sure the parent agrees with detention as the adequate penalty for the misbehavior.

save money or the environment, you can accomplish both with this "green" radio, which costs only \$24.99.

Smart Leaf by Originatic

The Smart-Leaf by Originatic is a space-saving, touchscreen personal computer that features a fold-out keyboard



To help fight AIDS in Africa, Product RED has come out with a special line of red iPod Nanos and Shuffles.

www.comseven.com

with trackpad, as well as WiFi for internet access. The ergonomic design is great for storage and is extremely convenient. Remarkably enough, the computer can also be voice activated. Another impressive feature is the 3 megapixel web cam. What a package! The Smart Leaf will be released in March with no word on pricing.

Product RED

Product RED special edition iPods give a part of their proceeds to the Global Fund to fight AIDS in Africa. Not only do these iPods have awesome features, but also contribute to a worthy cause. These are truly worth every penny. There are Product RED iPod Nanos and Shuffles. In fact, profits from Product RED iTunes Gift Cards go directly to the fund as well. The shuffle comes in either 1 or 2 GB, and the Nano comes in either 8 or 16 GB.

View Sonic Video Games in 3D

There is absolutely nothing cooler than the power of 3D. View Sonic has developed a computer monitor to make a player feel the sensation that they are inside the video game. How cool?

The monitor comes with vision glasses that enable you to view the game in a stellar 3D way. A light emitter was developed to create this effect. For those space lovers, it is a dream come true because sonic has released a Star Wars 3D game. *Tomb Raider: Underworld* is another playable title. The company is also releasing a lightweight portable projector that will be easy to use and not to mention incredibly fun.

With all this new technology, it is hard to imagine ever living without it. This new year has seen some truly amazing gadgets, and the possibilities of what is going to come next are endless!

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arts & Entertainment

Moving out of the slums and into theaters *Slumdog Millionaire* captures viewers with its rich plot

BY Jess Greenwald

Contributing Writer

On *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* a man with no education is about to win 20 million rupees (one million dollars). Not even the smartest and most educated doctors and lawyers get far into the thousands, and here Jamal Malik (Dev Patel) is, one question away from winning the grand prize. Right before reaching the 20 million rupee-prize, Jamal is arrested for conspiracy of cheating. A whole night of pain and torture reveals nothing to the police. Instead, while in custody, Jamal explains how he was able to come to each answer. Each chapter of his life is a hint that leads him closer to the final question.

Jamal grew up in a slum in Mumbai. Due to the poverty in his community, he earns the nickname "slumdog." After gangs invade his slum, his whole world turns upside down, and Jamal meets his one true love, Latika (Freida Pinto). Although unfortunate circumstances separate the two as children, he continues to dream of her. In his mind, she is his destiny and he will stop at nothing until they are together.

Slumdog Millionaire shows an entirely different world and a culture that we have never seen. The filming

locations were beautiful, but this movie shows the beauty of India and the slums that plague it. Jamal's childhood is spent as a beggar, a fake tour guide at the Taj Mahal, a hitchhiker, and much more. It is a powerful, dramatic movie that will leave you with both a smile and tears. And while this film also delves into the intricate, complex Indian culture, it is ultimately the true love story of Jamal and Latika.

As a child, Jamal was an orphan who was ordered to beg for money and food. The unfortunate truth is that much of what you see in the film actually mimics what takes place in real life. These horrible, brutal, and disturbing scenes do not take away from the movie, but rather enhance it; they make the movie more realistic and authentic.

But this is not to say that the uplifting, humorous scenes did not also contribute to the appeal of the film. While Jamal and his older brother Salim (Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail) give tours at the Taj Mahal, you will be rolling in your seat with laughter. Through all of this suffering, the two boys manage to find some peace in their lives, even if it is only temporary.

Slumdog Millionaire is almost over two hours long, but there is not a second of boredom. The film shows you the life of one man and how he tries to find his



Jamal Malik (Dev Patel) reflects on his dramatic and violent upbringing as he answers a question on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*

true love. Every question on *Millionaire* illustrates another part of Jamal's life, and how he was able to arrive at every answer. Although it might sound childish on paper, it works out incredibly well on the big screen. You will be mesmerized by what you are watching during every second of the film.

Despite having a low budget, the film had very few flaws. Some of the greatest films go under the radar because they are not blockbuster Hollywood films that receive a lot of publicity. This simple story, starring no famous celebrities and filmed with a low budget, is wonderful.

Slumdog Millionaire introduced many new actors, most of whom will be able to continue their success as a result of their involvement in this film. Since the film goes back into Jamal's past, there were many child actors, all of whom were excellent. Ayush Mahesh Khedekar played the youngest Jamal, the one who grew up in the slum. He gave an incredible performance as a sincere and innocent child. Contrary to Jamal, Salim, his older brother, was greatly influenced by the horrible environment that surrounded him. Even though you despise his character, you have to marvel at how well he plays it.

Every actor deserves credit for their wondrous roles in the film but Patel gave the greatest performance of all. He played the oldest Jamal, the one who

was the contestant on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* For such a young actor, he gave an extraordinary performance. The emotions that he displayed were very real and profound. At moments it is painful to watch as Jamal pursues his love, Latika. He is so madly in love with her that you actually feel his anguish as he looks for her. I tip my hat to Patel, who gave one of the greatest performances of the year.

Another great aspect of the movie was the cinematography. The camera angles were constantly switching, providing different perspectives of the same situation. Unlike other films, *Slumdog Millionaire* was not anti-climactic, and the tempo of the film is actually quite dynamic. There were moments when the camera would only stay in one position and let the whole scene play out, while there were other scenes where the camera would be moving very quickly, changing the mood and tone of the scene. It was incredible how there were certain scenes of the movie that were so dramatic that it was hard to watch. But, there were other scenes that were very endearing and heartfelt.

It is a shame that there are few films that are as well-made as *Slumdog Millionaire*, which received Golden Globe for best dramatic picture. It is definitely a one-of-a-kind film that will captivate viewers with its moving and poignant stories.



After a long, heart-wrenching search, Jamal (Dev Patel) finds his love, Latika (Freida Pinto).

Benjamin Button is a movie that will live on for ages

BY Ryan Larkin

Staff Writer

Of all the films to hit the box office towards the end of 2008, few boasted the level of intrigue that accompanied David Fincher's *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. Loosely based on a short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the movie follows the life of a seemingly ordinary man who ages in reverse. Benjamin Button (Brad Pitt) was born with an aged appearance but becomes younger with the passage of time.

Abandoned by his family at birth, Button is forced to confront war, death, and adversity from an early age. As the film progresses, however, his childlike mind slowly begins to grasp the ways of the world into which he has been thrust. As his life reaches its "halfway point," Benjamin is both physically and emotionally indistinguishable from a normal man. This is also the approximate point when he falls in love. Yet, no matter how strong his love for Daisy (Cate Blanchett) might be, Button can do nothing to change the fact that she will continue to age as he grows ever more youthful.

With such a complex and unbelievable storyline, it is easy to see how a single wrong move by the director could make the whole movie seem ridiculous. Yet, surprisingly, the vast majority of the film's viewers found Fincher's work to be masterful. Their favorable reception was largely

due to the unique method through which the "curious case" in question was narrated. Though the majority of the movie adopts the standard first-person perspective of Button himself, each of the events he experiences has already happened—every scene in which he appears is essentially a flashback. In the present day, his life's story is being read by a woman to her dying mother in the hospital; these women give the story a sense of suspense and realism that a less detailed script might have lacked.

"I think the thing I like best about the context of the story is that you're constantly left wondering what actually happened to him," said sophomore Evan Roscoe.

Fincher maintains a tie between the past and the present that viewers do not forget.

The general consensus, however, was that the film's most impressive quality lay in the skill of its makeup, costume, and prop departments. The story of Button takes place across a period of about 80 years, starting with his birth in 1919 and gradually crossing over into the modern age. Many viewers were amazed by the incredibly convincing way that Pitt was made to appear old. The duties of the makeup and costume departments were not restricted to Pitt's character, as nearly all the characters in the movie had to grow older while Button grew younger.

"It was really cool how well the effects



benjaminbutton.com

A baby, trapped in the body of an old man, Benjamin Button (Brad Pitt), tries to take his first steps, with encouragement from his foster mother and church congregants.

reflected the passage of time, especially for Benjamin Button," said junior Adam Schaefer. "The incredible job of Fincher's makeup and costume departments is what takes the movie to the next level, making a crazy story seem surprisingly believable."

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button was a brilliantly made piece that will

make you laugh and cry at almost the same time. Though admittedly unorthodox, the story harbors a genuine realness to it that will move its viewers. The screenplay is beautifully written, and the film has the support of a great cast sporting amazing makeup and costumes. For these reasons and more, you should make

Leave no doubt, *Doubt* is a movie worth seeing

BY Stephen Nash

Editor-in-Chief

In the age of technology, it is rare for a movie to not take advantage of the state of the art special effects available. Indeed, many blockbusters utilize tremendous action scenes, transforming make-up and costume designs, or breath taking sets. *Doubt* does not have any of these "Hollywood" trademarks, yet *Doubt* has what many of these movies try to cover up with these remarkable effects: an outstanding cast that gives powerful performances confined to a set consisting of a couple of different rooms.

Set in a Bronx Catholic school in the middle of the 20th century, *Doubt* features several main characters: the Principal and head nun, Sister Aloysius Beauvier (Meryl Streep), her colleague Sister James (Amy Adams), the pastor, Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman), a student, Donald Miller, and his mother, Mrs. Miller (Viola Davis). The film begins with a sermon by Father Flynn regarding the ever-important theme of *Doubt*. As pastor of the church, Father Flynn serves as a "protector" for Donald Miller, the first African-American student of the school. After Father Flynn's sermon, Sister Beauvier warns the other nuns to be on the look out for anything suspicious in Father Flynn's behavior. Sure enough, the innocent, unassuming, and naïve Sister James reports to Sister Beauvier that Donald Miller had a private meeting with Father Flynn, who had alcohol on his breath, and looked distressed afterwards. This evidence among other smaller pieces begins the captivating cat-and-mouse game played between Sister Beauvier and Father Flynn.

The simplicity of the plot and setting remains consistent with the characters. While the characters do not flaunt colorful attitudes, the impeccable acting brings alive their convictions, motives, and true

individuality. Streep and Hoffman give masterful performances, never once deviating from the natural temperaments of their roles.

Streep gives a near perfect rendition of a cynical, sharp, and stern nun who is always looking out for the best interests of her students while never missing an opportunity to teach them. Not for one moment throughout the film, does Streep stray from the innermost emotions of her character and while Sister Beauvier is supposed to be a cold, unforgiving nun, Streep's flawless performance importantly enables the viewer to see the compassion hidden within her heart.

Hoffman also gives a very good performance as Father Flynn. He, too, was able to capture the spirit of the role and was able to go toe-to-toe with Streep in the major scenes. Indeed, Hoffman had an extremely difficult task of trying to match Streep in her performance of the opposing character, yet his acting consistently captured the seemingly sympathetic, yet arrogant priest.

While Adams performance was not on the same level as Streep's, her solid acting mirrored the job done by Hoffman. At times it seems she perfectly conveyed the innocence of Sister James. Yet, at others it seemed Adams could not escape her famous role in *Enchanted*. Although Davis only participated in one scene, her acting was superb as the emotionally complex mother of Donald Miller. She was able to personify the difficult circumstance of a mother torn between what was convenient and what was ultimately right.

Overall, the movie was excellent. Driven by magnificent acting and potent scenes, *Doubt* will leave you glued to your seat. It is a movie that sticks to the essence of great films: outstanding acting with an excellent script. It is not a flashy movie with terrific special effects, but rather one that will leave no doubt of its quality.

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Fantasy sports makes managing a team a reality

BY Brett Fishbin & Zachary Halperin

Staff Writer & Contributing Writer

If you are not old enough to manage your own sports team, do not fret. Fantasy sports, offered by many websites, will allow you to take part in the action regardless of your age and abilities.

Fantasy sports allow users to call the shots with their own sports team. Users can choose whatever sport they like from an extensive selection, which includes baseball, basketball, golf, football, and auto racing. The only limitation is that the sport of your choice must have an ongoing season while you are participating.

Regardless of the sport, the rules are the same for this virtual experience. Players can either set up a league and invite their friends and family, or they can join a public league, which is typically created by people whom they do not know.

Once a player has taken this step, he or she can then set up a draft, during which participants will select players for their custom teams.

The draft, which can be conducted either on the computer or in person, is definitely one of the most exhilarating parts of this program. Participants have to work against the clock to craft the perfect team, while also dealing with sudden surprises.

An opposing team, for example, may

select your star player, in which case you may have to re-configure your team.

Once the draft has passed, the action tends to subside. At this point, each member really works independently to manage his or her team and make sure that players are adding up the most points possible. To make sure that this happens, users will typically add new players, drop old ones, or propose a trade with an opposing team.

"This is a really exciting part of the game, because users are constantly thinking of new ways to keep their team on top," said freshman Arjan Saraon.

Another entertaining feature of this program allows users to be creative and choose funny or interesting team names and mottos. As long as they are appropriate, users have a lot of freedom with this choice.

Managers can also pick a team logo. While the choices may vary, depending on the season, there are tons of choices available. For example, basketball participants can pick a jersey color and football players can pick a helmet.

So, if you are fascinated by the prospect of a virtual sports team make sure to check out the programs offered by ESPN, Yahoo, CBS Sports, MSN Sports, and Sports Illustrated. These programs are free and will put right in the middle of an exciting sports season.

Bromance and Momma's Boys epitomize nonsensical reality TV

BY Danny Dougherty-Samowitz

Contributing Writer

The latest atrocities to hit television these days are *Bromance* and *Momma's Boys*. MTV's latest hysteria, *Bromance*, is about Brody Jenner's quest to find a true "bromance." According to Jenner, a bromance is "a bond between you and your go to guy." In order to find this friend, Jenner selected nine guys from all over the United States and tested them to see if they were "bromance" worthy.

While watching, I was surprised by the show's pointlessness. It was not only corny, but also extremely idiotic.

"The show is just dull and a waste of time to watch," said freshman Dan Preston. "It is just like a male version of Paris Hilton's show, which of course is also very silly and boring."

The next disaster to strike television is *Momma's Boys*. This television show, cre-

ated by NBC, is a dating series that focuses on three possessive yet loving mothers who must help their complacent sons choose the perfect woman. In order to do so, the show places mothers and their sons in intense emotional situations. NBC is hoping that this will uncover conflicts between the close pairs and reveal who plays a more important role in a young man's life—his mother or his significant other?

The bigotry of one of the mothers against African American people was also extremely surprising. She openly showed her hatred towards one of the girls. This blatant racism only made the show more unwatchable.

These two shows have truly characterized the recent aura surrounding reality television. It is no longer filled with funny yet realistic scenarios. Instead, it is clouded by unrealistic nonsense, with which people should not waste their time.

EA Sports' NCAA Basketball 2009 a slam dunk

BY Jacob Shubert

Contributing Writer

Do you live for March Madness? Do you live for college basketball? If so, EA Sports' NCAA Basketball 2009 is definitely for you. This video-game puts you right in the action, allowing you to create a bracket and take your team to the top.

This game gives users the opportunity to become the greatest team in history. With its new feature, "Ultimate Champion," players can create a bracket with some of the greatest teams in the history of the sport: the 1992 Duke Blue Devils, 1982 UNC Tar Heels, 1972 UCLA Bruins,

and many other legendary teams.

One thing that separates this game from all the others is its authenticity. The arenas, mascots, and jerseys are now more accurate than ever before, making the style of play, game ratings, and scouting reports much more enjoyable and even better, more realistic.

The commentary on this game is also extremely accurate. Dick Vitale, Brad Nessler, and Erin Andrews offer unique and invigorating commentary during the course of the game.

So, whether you're playing with a team from the past or from the present, you are guaranteed to have a ball.

New Year's Resolution: Listen to more Podcasts



Grey's Anatomy has managed to capture the attention of many television watchers. Fans are intrigued by its drama which involves tricky relationships and mysterious medical scenarios. Although the show airs on Thursday evenings, fans stay connected for the other six days of the week. They can stay in touch with Meredith (Ellen Pompeo) and Derek (Patrick Dempsey) through the official *Grey's Anatomy* Podcast.

This podcast provides listeners with summaries of recent episodes, exclusive spoilers, and interviews. Every episode features a *Grey's Anatomy* cast member offering insight into his/her character's decisions and life on the show. Shonda Rhimes, the producer, also makes appearances on the podcast, providing fans with their necessary *Grey's Anatomy* fix.

~Ali Nierenberg



Joe Cartoon is one of the most pointless podcasts out there. Whether it's the exploding flies, a frog in a spread eagle torture chamber, or even a hamster giving animals some words of wisdom, the show never seems to get any more intelligent. This, however, does not detract from the tremendous humor of the *Joe Cartoon* podcast.

Joe Cartoon is a bunch of random episodes that follow absolutely no plot line. Once in a while, there are two or three-part episodes, which display a sense of continuity. And, currently, the episodes are following the trend of, "Joe Cartoon quote of the day," which still is completely random because there are no quotes. It's simply a short skit that contains poor animation and dry humor.

However, with all of the randomness and the stupidity that the surrounds the show, it still remains one of the funniest podcasts out there. You can find *Joe Cartoon* on iTunes and subscribe to it for free. Therefore, you will be able to indulge yourself and waste your valuable brain cells in the fine cartoon known as *Joe Cartoon* gratis.

~Morgan Quigley



In the past, you may have enjoyed reading *The Onion*, a popular satirical newspaper, or watching *The Onion Movie*. During these previous experiences, you probably laughed so hard that you were on the verge of tears. Now, this parody news organization produces two free podcasts, one in radio form and another in the form of a show.

For those who don't know, *The Onion* is dedicated to delivering you the finest quality fake news out there. The video and radio shows are presented in such a fashion that they look and sound like real broadcasts, but you will quickly learn that there is now truth in the stories they usually satire.

The Onion, however, delivers a more mature sense of humor in some of their episodes. In order for you to realize the joke in many of them, you might want to brush up on your current affairs.

~Morgan Quigley



Oprah Winfrey seems to be everywhere these days. She can be found on television, of course, on the covers of magazines, and more. Now, however, she can also be found on iTunes with her Oprah.com podcast.

The Oprah.com podcast focuses on a variety of issues, but they all have one thing in common: Oprah. She shares her views and offers advice on issues such as obesity, health care, the economy, and more. Many of her podcasts also feature special guests, typically experts on the issue that is being discussed. So, if you ever need advice on the newest diet or way to save, make sure to check out Oprah's helpful podcasts.

~Ali Nierenberg

All-American Rejects: When the World Comes Down



BY Bethia Kwak
Contributing Writer

After the band's great success in the past, with singles such as "Move Along" and "Swing, Swing," fans had high expectations for The All-American Rejects' album, *When the World Comes Down*. This latest studio production is a fusion of the band's typical alternative tones and newer pop sounds. The album is also unique because of its philanthropic connection; the band members decided to donate 10% of the album's profits to the charity Feed the Children, giving fans a chance to satisfy their music cravings while also giving back.

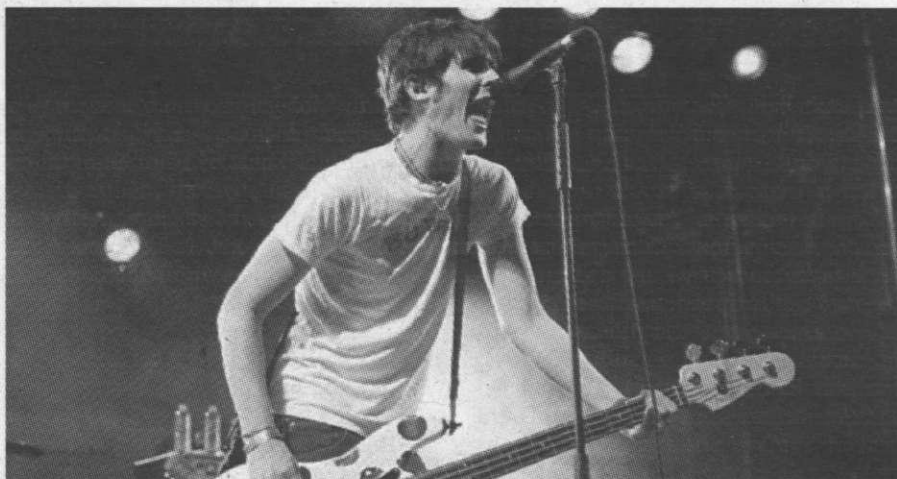
The first single off the album, "Gives You Hell," is definitely the most popular new song. It is already 18th on the Billboard Top 100 Music Charts and can be heard on various radio stations. Its rock

sound is not only catchy, but energizing; those looking for an afternoon pick-me-up should definitely give it a listen.

If in fact you are in the mood for a quieter song, you should check out "Mona Lisa (When the World Comes Down)." Though this song has slipped under the radar, its melody is excellent and it really goes back to the band's alternative rock roots. The guitar can clearly be heard, which adds an acoustic feel to the song. The song's message is also important. It really relates to the album's charitable side, as it asks how we, as members of the human race, can fix the problems of the world.

Another great song off this album, "Believe," will be thoroughly enjoyed by anyone who liked the hit, "Move Along." "Believe" has that same motivating feel because of its pop sound. Unlike "Mona Lisa (When the World Comes Down)," this song has much more of a beat and can really be danced to. It shows the vast variety of sounds available on this album.

Aside from focusing on their own music, The All-American Rejects also collaborated with another group of talented musicians, The Pierces. The Pierces are two sisters, Catherine and Allison, whose musical stylings add another dimension to the album, particularly in the song "Another Heart Calls." In this piece, The Pierces' distinct vocals can be heard, yet they they harmonize with the solid voices of The All-American Rejects. This collaboration was perfectly planned by the band, as the song, which focuses on love and relationships, wouldn't have



Tyson Ritter, singer and bassist of the All-American Rejects, gives fans a taste of his band's new rock album, *When the World Comes Down*, at a live performance.

had its special quality without the softer, more relaxing sound that The Pierces wonderfully provided.

The last song that is definitely worth checking out is "I Wanna." This song, like "Believe," goes back to band's classic beginnings; it is reminiscent of the band's former hit song "Dirty Little Secret." Both songs blend pop and rock, while still remaining true to the alternative sound originally supported by the fan base.

Even though the album initially may seem different, it remains true to the band's earlier sound. While some fans may not love the new songs, which seem to have a more acoustic feel, it is nice to hear something different from this group of talented singers. So whether you have been a fan since the beginning or are looking for a new album to rock out to, *When the World Comes Down* is definitely worth checking out.

Classic Album: Duran Duran: Rio



BY Morgan Quigley
Assistant A&E Editor

Duran Duran, an 80's rock band that took the United States by storm, comes from the heart of England. Going multi-platinum with a couple of albums, the band has one that stands out above the rest. Their most notable album came close to the birth of Duran Duran themselves, when, in 1982, they released their second studio record, *Rio*.

This album changed the world of music drastically by introducing the synthesizer, an instrument capable of creating various sounds.

The album kicks off with the single "Rio," which truly demonstrates what the band was trying to accomplish with their music. The sounds of the synthesizer are very evident in the song; however, they did not distort the song, the instrument simply made the music even better. Their use of vocal harmony, which is demonstrated throughout the rest of the album, is also very distinctive.

The second song on the album truly demonstrates why Duran Duran has been so successful. None of the members of the band have ever been recognized as one of the best at their respective instruments, but together they are able to make music

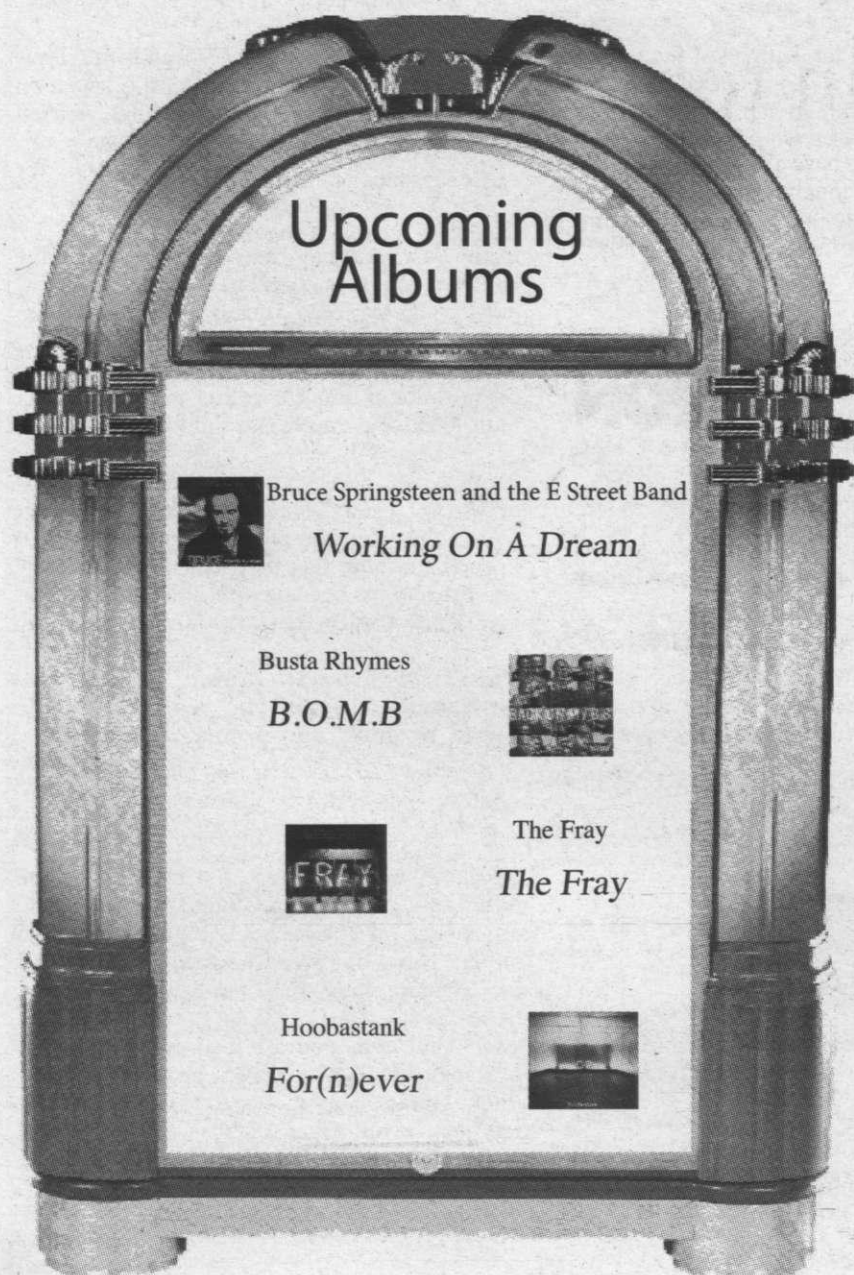
that stands out from the rest. Duran Duran was something different that the world had not been formally introduced to before, and people were stunned when they heard "My Own Way." The song was different and the band played harmoniously as they rocked their way into popular culture.

Duran Duran's diversity really shows in the lyrics of their songs. The band was able to focus on many topics and wrote songs about them, which is another reason that explains their success. Their music ranges from songs about love to independence to even the meaning of our existence. All of these themes were demonstrated professionally on *Rio*, which makes more and more people want to listen to the album.

Duran Duran's lyrics are very deep in their song, "New Religion." The song focuses on the fact that you need a reason in life to live, otherwise you have nothing. The somewhat dreary lyrics are emphasized by the mysterious high-pitched pipe sounds with which the song begins. This just proves Duran Duran's diversity because they are able to sing about something out of the ordinary.

The album seems to get better as it progresses. The album finishes up with two terrific songs, "Save a Prayer" and "The Chauffeur." The former may seem a bit nonsensical at first, but if you listen and really dissect the song, you might find the real meaning is about taking chances in life. The song primarily focuses on the fact that if you do not take risks, you will not have a fulfilling life. It also does not hurt that the song has an amazing beat, and it is very easy to listen to.

Rio might not be for everyone, since many people are not a huge fan of the synthesizer. But, regardless, I would still recommend looking into this album. Duran Duran has survived for a little more than three decades and is still a band today; clearly, they have done something right.





Athletes



of the

Month



Katie Weil

BY Dorothy Kim
Contributing Writer

There are only a select few who play varsity sports all year round. Junior Katie Weil is one of those athletes, playing for the Lady Viking soccer, basketball, and softball teams.

Weil is the starting goalie during the fall, forward on the hardwood in the winter, and third baseman for the softball team in the spring.

"Playing three sports is key to maintaining my academics. It forces me to stay organized and helps me with my schoolwork," said Weil.

Weil continues to challenge herself on and off the courts and fields, putting a large emphasis on her academics.

"I have my mind set on Colgate University because of its strong education program. In the future I would like to be a fourth grade teacher," said Weil.

Weil has lettered twice in soccer, starting as the varsity goalie for the past two seasons. Being part of the girls varsity soccer team for her sophomore and junior year, she will continue being a member of the team during her senior year.

"Being recognized as an All-Class goalie was the biggest honor of my athletic career so far," said Weil.

But she does not let such accolades change her work ethic and mentality. She continues to stay focused between and during seasons.

"My desire is to get better and improving myself athletically is my motivation,"

said Weil.

As January comes to a close, she has her attention set on the basketball team, which is currently 3-3 in league play. Led by Coach Dennis Trottier, who is in his first year at the helm, Weil believes good things are bound for these young Vikings in the future. As captain, Weil helps the team succeed.

"With four freshmen, I think we are playing really well," said Weil. "Once we get more experienced, I am sure we will start to play better."



Kevin Granger

One of Schreiber's three-sport athletes, junior Katie Weil leads the lady Vikings as captain this season.

Do you have a suggestion for Athlete of the Month? Please contact Schreiber.times@gmail.com with your nominations.

Ivan Bandovic

BY Max Kraus
Staff Writer

Even though Schreiber does not have a pool of its own, it has not slowed down junior Ivan Bandovic in his quest for swimming success. As a result of Bandovic's devotion to the sport, he has excelled in competitive swimming on the local and county levels.

Although he broke his arm and, as a result, missed his sophomore year, Bandovic has been a reliable member of the boys varsity swimming team for the last two years. He is strong in butterfly and backstroke, yet he is fastest in freestyle. Bandovic holds all of the swimming records on the team except for the records in the 100-meter breaststroke and 100-meter freestyle. He also is seeded fifth in the 100-meter backstroke in the county, and 11th in the 200-meter individual medley. His success earned him a spot in the county finals last year.

Along with the school swim team, Bandovic also swims for the Long Island Aquatic Club (LIAC) and the Manorhaven Devils. With LIAC, Bandovic usually swims about seven to eight miles a day. His swimming career has given him the opportunity to swim all around the tri-state area.

Bandovic started swimming when he was in fifth grade and after encouragement from his best friend he began to swim competitively. Since then, he has been swimming in different competitions across the country and has even competed in the

Junior Olympics several times.

Bandovic's role model is Jason Lezak, a swimmer who swam in the 4x100-meter freestyle relay at the Beijing Olympics this past summer as the anchor leg of the race. Lezak started the race behind the world record holder, but out touched his opponent in the final five meters to win the gold for the team and help Michael Phelps achieve his eight gold medal run at the Olympics.

Bandovic hopes to take his swimming abilities all the way to the college level. He has been in touch with several colleges including Hartwick, Binghamton, Vassar, and Marist.

"My goal for the future is to succeed in high school swimming and hopefully get a scholarship for swimming in a college that is going to help me get the job that I want and eventually lead me to the life that I want," said Bandovic.



Ivan Bandovic

Bandovic holds all except two of the records on the swim team.

Gymnastics strives to place in top 3

BY Reid Mergler
Assistant Sports Editor

With a 2-1 record in Conference II, the girls varsity gymnastics team has put itself in prime position to accomplish its goals this winter season: repeat their appearance in the top three in their conference. Coach Katie Lessig, with the assistance of Coach Jeannine Cuttita, leads a team of 16 girls who aim to repeat the success of the last seven years. Last year, their record was 7-3, and with hard work, they believe the goal can be reached again this season.

"It'll be a challenge, as we have lost important senior gymnasts from last year," said Coach Lessig. "However, we have dedicated freshmen who are eager to learn the requirements of high school gymnastics. If the whole team works together, I think the dream of repeating our success will become a reality."

The team would also like to improve its individual scores and reach its full potential. Most who compete on the balance beam want to stick their full beam routines and the girls who compete on bars usually want to score in the 6's.

A team score that the girls want to achieve collectively is somewhere in the 140's; their current score average is 135.

As a returning member of the team, sophomore Dorothy Kim hopes to excel in her beam and floor routines this season.

"I will work hard to improve my last year scores this season," said Kim.

Both coaches help the team to achieve these scores by knowing exactly what they

need to do to push each girl on the team.

"Ms. Lessig has a lot of patience, and since she was a former gymnast, she understands exactly what we need to do to improve," said senior Kelsey Siegel. "Ms. Cuttita also helps us to work harder and try new skills."

Mental strength, a characteristic many consider one of the keys to the sport, is encouraged by Cuttita and Lessig who make sure that the girls never give up on themselves and always have a positive attitude.

"Gymnastics is 90% mental and only 10% physical, and therefore, the coaches constantly emphasize a positive attitude to overcome obstacles in the sport," said senior Nikki Botsaris.

Along with the coaches, Botsaris and Siegel help the team accomplish its goals as co-captains this season. Both Botsaris and Siegel have been on the Lady Vikings since freshman year and are looked up to by the younger gymnasts. Although gymnastics is mainly an individual sport, they both hope to be positive role models to the team's success.

"Being captain is something that I value and enjoy everyday," said Botsaris. "I am able to give positive reinforcement to my teammates and help them with anything that they might be having trouble with. Kelsey and I are able to help the underclassmen succeed by giving constructive criticism and making sure a positive attitude is always present."

In addition, Siegel is grateful for the close team she leads. Along with Botsaris, she is able to help the girls excel in the sport.

"We also have a really great team," said Siegel. "Although it is an individual sport, the team actually spends so much time together and everyone becomes really close. Whether they need help making up a routine or perfecting a skill, I am always there to help them, being captain this season."

Coach Lessig is also very impressed with how the two captains manage the team. Having many freshmen on the team, Botsaris and Siegel help them adjust to high school level gymnastics.

"Kelsey and Nikki are truly fantastic as they help the five freshmen on our team feel welcome," said Coach Lessig. "They bring hard work to the team and I am very proud of them. There are also other gymnasts, including Alix Grossman and Amanda Ostrove, who stand out in practices and competitions."

At the team's daily practices, the girls start off with 15 minutes of cardiovascular work and then go right into a 10-minute stretch. They then practice their routines on each individual event for about an hour followed by strength and conditioning for about 10 minutes.

The girls also improve their routines according to suggestions made by judges at past competitions.

"In practices, I go over the mistakes the girls made in previous competitions," said Coach Lessig. "I use what the judges recommend and my personal knowledge to help the girls improve individually. These vital corrections will strengthen our team as a whole and therefore, by the end of the season in February, we can achieve our goals."

The Fan's Five

January has been a thrilling time as the Vikings kick off the new year.

1. Boys Varsity Basketball

The Vikings are in a position to win another conference championship with wins over Massapequa and Carey. They have revived the Port Hecklers, as fans packed the gym for the Carey game on Jan. 12.

2. Boys Varsity Swimming

Junior Ivan Bandovic and the rest of the aquatic Vikings continue to dive through the competition. The Vikings have broken four records in January.

3. Boys Winter Track

Junior Marco Bertolotti is putting up a great case for the school's top athlete after his unbelievable come-from-behind performance at the 15th annual Hispanic Games, qualifying him for the prestigious Millrose Games.

4. Boys Varsity Wrestling

Seniors Brendan Johns and John Steadman, and junior Michael O'Brien lead the way for this team, which beat Hicksville, Hewlett, and Valley Stream Central in January. The boys are preparing for the prestigious Busby Classic.

5. Girls Varsity Basketball

This team is starting to come together after they beat a tough Hempstead team. The girls also defeated Valley Stream Central, as freshman Hayley Kerr scored a season-high 15 points.

Coach Ocker runs girls track to success

Despite fewer meets due to budget cuts, the team continues to Conference finals

by Rohit Khullar

Staff Writer

Although often overshadowed by the boys winter track and field team led by nationally-ranked runner Marco Bertolotti, the girls winter track and field team has experienced recent success.

Last year, the girls track team finished in fifth place in the Section 8 Conference II finals. The team, led by senior captains Rose Ellen Diffley and Olivia Maldonado, look to continue their

"It is really disappointing that we are unable to attend as many meets as we have in the past. The meets serve as a great motivator, giving us something to look forward to and work towards," said Catalano.

successful runs. The girls are also striving to do better this year with the help of new runners.

"Compared to last year, we have a greater team unity, and thus, our team as a whole is much stronger," said two year Coach Kristopher Ocker.

This year, on average, the team has won two medals at each meet. These meets include the Nassau Coaches' meet at the Armory New Balance Track and Field Center in New York City, the Friendship Games at Nassau Community College, the Conference Crossover at Suffolk Community College, and the Walter Graham outdoor meets.

Team runners that consistently win medals include juniors Elise Ressa, Kori Lay and Meghan Byrnes, sophomore

Bridgette McDermott, and freshman Katie Garry.

Even though they have won several medals, they have competed in fewer meets due to this year's budget cuts. Many team members find that the number of meets is crucial to their success for a number of reasons.

"It is really disappointing that we are unable to attend as many meets as we have in the past. The meets serve as a great motivator for the team, giving something to look forward to and work towards," said junior and three year team member Katelynn Catalano. "They also help bring the team together because we all support each other during races. The meets, although they do not count in terms of record until the end of the season, do help in other ways: they demonstrate exactly how much we have improved during the season and give us experience for future, more important meets."

Although the decreased participation in meets has served as an impediment, this season has still been marked by overall success for the team. Its success can be attributed to its expansion, in terms of the number and types of events in which the team competes. It can also be attributed to the improvement that it has made in the events in which it already competed. In the past, the team focused on the track events; the only field event that Port Washington girls participated in was shot put.

"This severely limited our ability to excel at meets," said Coach Ocker.

This year, the team has competed in more field events. There are three shot putters, three triple jumpers, and four hurdlers.

With the addition of new members, the team has improved in several events. New members include 200 to 600-meter sprinters Garry and sophomore Cara Tortoriello and 800 to 1000-meter middle distance runner McDermott.

According to Coach Ocker, the team has done especially well in middle distance events this year. In addition, the team has done well in relay events, such as the 4 x 400-meters event. The team's 4 x 800-meter relay team of McDermott, Byrnes, and juniors Tana Giraldo and Maddy Fisher, finished second in this season's first Section 8 girls Friendship Games on Dec. 22.

"Practicing hard and working towards personal and team records will help us achieve our goals," said junior and three year team member Eliza Feldman.

The team's daily practices are all focused and extensive, including drills, like the "ladder." In this drill, the girls run shorter distances, then longer and then shorter again to build up speed and endurance.

"Our training is very effective and is designed to make our times better for our individual events," said Catalano.

The team will be able to measure just how much they have progressed when they compete in the Conference II championships this year on Jan. 27.

Underclassmen to Watch:

David Godlis: Godlis, a sophomore and returning player on the boys JV I basketball team, netted 24 points in a loss against Carey.

Gianna Gallo: After a season without a JV girls basketball team, Gallo has been essential to Coach Lauren Bashir's first Lady Vikings squad.

Katie Garry: A new member on the girls varsity winter track team, Garry has won medals in her 600m dash with a personal best of 1:48.6.

Calling the Shots

by Graham Potters

Sports Editor

Either it has become cool to go to sporting events or school spirit has increased, but one thing is for sure: students have started to fill the stands and bleachers. A case in point has been the boys varsity soccer team, which has witnessed growing crowd sizes for the past few years.

Playing at home used to hold no advantage at all. Even an old Student Council t-shirt boasted the lack of school spirit, a void in the school that has seemed unchangeable throughout the years. Lack of enthusiasm at the pep rallies has always been apparent, even when spirited and energetic hosts were running the show. No one cared because there was little faith in the school's sports program.

But, starting last year, students realized that our sports teams had potential. Even two years ago, fans began feeling a renewed sense of hope when the varsity football team made it to the playoffs for the first time in 22 years. This monumental sports event created a stir among the student body. Students began attending home games, and people stopped feeling embarrassed for rooting for the Vikings.

Yet, there is an imbalance between what sports have received more fans and which haven't. For example, soccer and basketball both have seen noticeable increases in crowd sizes. The recent success of these two teams have drawn more fans to their home games. On the other hand, teams such as cross country have been having back-to-back seasons with runners going to the County and State meets—not to mention junior Marco Bertolotti, who is now traveling to the Millrose Games, one of the most prestigious track meets in the country. Yet, cross country does not have comparable excitement, student attention, or attendance for their sporting events.

Even the community seems to favor more classic high school sports, despite the tremendous success of other teams. The "Go Turf" project, funded through the community, gave the Vikings football team a brand new turf field. While there are undeniable benefits to the community of this state of the art athletic facility, the track has been in desperate need of repair for years. Indeed, the track team has had arguably the most successful team in the school with the worst resources. The construction of a new track does not have the same private momentum and support as did the new football field, but instead has been subjected to the ever changing political and budget climate.

Not to sound like I'm making the track team out to be the greatest team in the nation, but it is the simple fact that no matter how much success some teams have, they cannot seem to draw support from either the community or the student body.

Still, the fact that interest in school sports all across the board is increasing is a good sign. A school once completely indifferent may be on the verge of resurrecting its team spirit. No longer will people have to cower in fear of wasting their time watching Port lose. Students are going to the games and supporting their home team. The players enjoy the larger crowds and play better, drawing even larger crowds. This cycle of increasing popularity might just be able to bring Port sports back to the top.

Junior Marco Bertolotti moves on to Millrose

by Drew Friedman

Staff Writer

Junior Marco Bertolotti successfully realized the boys varsity track team's goal of sending an athlete to the Millrose Games. On Jan. 10, Bertolotti qualified for the prestigious track event by placing first in the Invitational Mile during the Hispanic Games.

With this victory at the New York City Armory Track and Field Center, he will be able to attend the 102nd Millrose Games. This world-renowned meet will be held at Madison Square Garden on Jan. 30.

Bertolotti was overjoyed to be on the starting line. Just being there was already an accomplishment for him.

"It would be great to be there," said Bertolotti of the Millrose Games. "It is my dream."

At the games, Bertolotti will be running with an elite group of runners from throughout the country. Because he doesn't have much experience, Bertolotti will be looking to at least stay with the pack during the race.

"I'm going to just try and have a great time," said Bertolotti. "I'm sure it is going to be a great experience. Because I haven't been to the Millrose Games before, I'm just looking to stay with the pack. That doesn't mean that I'm not going to give it all that I've got though."

Bertolotti was seeded 11th of 12 runners

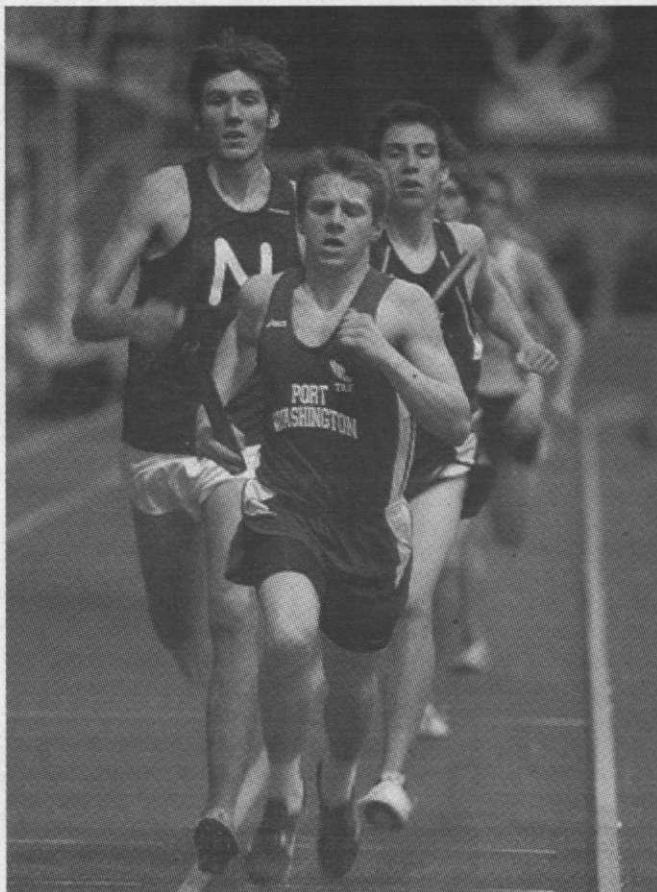
in the Hispanic Games race. All of his competitors, going into the race, had faster personal mile times than he did.

With 130 meters to go, Bertolotti was in fifth place. But he was able to pick up enough speed to pass all of the other runners. He pulled out in front in the last 20 meters and finished in first. His time for the mile was 4:15:05, a personal record.

Marco ran for the final time before his mandatory week off before the Millrose Games at the Yale Invitational meet.

There, he ran in the twelve hundred meter section of the distance medley relay in 3:10. His time contributed to the relay's 10:42 time overall.

He will now be resting until the Millrose Games.



Junior Marco Bertolotti running his 1,200-meter section of the distance medley relay at the Yale Invitational on Jan. 17.

Noah Bondy

Vikings swimming in unknown waters without home pool

After recent success, swimmers demand respect of school and community

BY Harrison Remler

Sports Editor

"You see that bus, it's truly our biggest enemy," said senior Eddie Chang, a swimmer on the boys varsity swim team.

The bus he is referring to is the one that takes him and his teammates to Great Neck North Middle School at 5 a.m. from Campus Drive. Since the school does not have a pool of its own, the team holds three practices per week at this neighbor venue.

"If you look at my grades from before and during swim season, you will see a dramatic difference," said junior Matt Epstein. "The 5 a.m. practices have me taking naps during many of my classes."

Head Coach Joe Lennon, a teacher at Manorhaven Elementary School, is in charge of both the girls and boys varsity swim teams. Seeing the difference between the girls afternoon outdoor practices and the boys morning indoor practices, he is grateful for the boys' hard work despite their lack of sleep.

"I definitely see the physical effects of the morning practices. With the girls, who practice indoors after Columbus Day, there is a real change in their body clock as well as their performances. However, I give the boys incredible credit as they continue to show up for morning practices because of their drive to get better. They are great at pushing through," said Lennon.

Port Washington is not home to an indoor swimming facility, and as the success of the swim teams continue to progress, swimmers, coaches, and others through-

out the community feel it is time for a change.

"A pool has been discussed on recent bonds but was eliminated because it did not fit into the budget," said Principal Mr. Jay Lewis. "I don't think there is room for another major building proposition given the state of the economy."

"A pool has been discussed on recent bonds, but was eliminated because it did not fit into the budget," said Mr. Lewis.

Coach Lennon also adds that swimming is not considered a top sport in the Port district or moreover, the North Shore. This fact is a main reason why there is no home swimming pool.

"When I came here, there was no boys team, and the girls program was around for less than a decade. The North Shore of Long Island is traditionally football, lacrosse, and soccer, as swimming is not a top sport," said Coach Lennon. "Most competitive swimmers are forced to go to Eisenhower Park for the top competition. So, when the town decided to spend money on the turf field, they believed they could serve more people and more sports. The idea of a pool didn't traditionally come to mind."

The swim team has learned to make the best out of their current situation and their grueling practice schedules. These practices vary between swimming and running with the limited pool time at Great Neck North.

"The Port Washington Yacht Club has been great to us, in the fall with the girls team as they really have been outstanding with our program," said Coach Lennon. "With our new situation at Great Neck North, we are getting approximately one hour and 20 minutes of practice time three times a week. However, they are in control of everything concerning the facility and the overall costs are subject to change, as they include busing both ways as well as lifeguards."

The team has experienced great results in recent years as juniors Ivan Bandovic and Gabby Bortucene have elevated both the boys and girls programs, respectively, competing on the national level. Although there has been success, the team thinks that if there was the availability of a town pool, their success would be unmatched.

In addition, the team strongly believes if a swimming facility was constructed, the programs, school, and community would all benefit.

"Even when Rose Bannano was the athletic director, there was talk of building a pool," said Coach Lennon. "There has been a big plan for an indoor facility ever since my time here. There has also been some land specified, specifically in Port Washington North."

Bandovic believes that if the community and schools collaborate and create a public indoor facility, the team will be able to compete with the best.

"If a public pool was to come to Port, all of our times would decrease and we would be able to practice more often. During the summers we could come in and work on our times and get faster," said Bandovic who holds many of the swim team's records with his personal best times.

Lennon acknowledges the other benefits of having a town pool, such as enhancing the other sports programs in Port Washington in addition to Schreiber's teams.

"I would like to see an indoor facility in the community," said Coach Lennon. "Not only would the swim teams be able to use it, but programs such as the PAL and the CYO would have access to the facility. It would absolutely benefit the athletes, as they would be able to get more sleep and train for upwards of seven more hours. More training in the afternoons would dramatically help the performance of our swimmers."

Despite the economic crisis in America, Coach Lennon believes the revenue and ability to give back to the government will be helpful in the long run.

"Lifeguards, team members, and others across the community, including myself have shown interest in helping this facility function, as we feel the revenue can be profitable," said Lennon. "With a facility, a relationship will build between the team and community, and I would be able to help build the program for the future."

Time will only tell whether or not the Vikings will finally have a permanent home of their own.

Captain's Corner: Zach Kriftcher

BY Ross Balaban

Staff Writer

Ross Balaban catches up with varsity basketball team captain, senior Zach Kriftcher. Kriftcher has led the Vikings to a 5-0 league record, placing the Vikings atop Conference II in Nassau County. Kriftcher is averaging 12 points and 11 rebounds as the team looks to win its second conference title in three years.

Ross Balaban: Congratulations on your team's early success. 5-0 in conference, how does it make you feel?

Zach Kriftcher: It feels good; we have a lot of momentum, and we need to keep it up.

RB: What's the true secret to success?

ZK: We are a very close knit team, which contributes to our great team chemistry.

RB: So, you feel included even though you are not one of the "Steins." (The boys varsity basketball team arguably has the best three Steins on Long Island: junior Adam Epstein, senior Ryan Goldstein, and junior Dan Bernstein.)

ZK: Kriftcher looks just as nice in the paper.

RB: So, you must be pretty tired, last year you averaged about two minutes a week while this year you are putting upwards of 80 minutes a week on the hardwood.

ZK: I've been preparing for these couple of months for a long time; I think I am ready.

RB: Training Station or Power Ten?

ZK: Training Station—more spacious and a better variety of machines.

RB: Some people consider your style of play out-of-control, how can you respond to this?

ZK: They are just soft.

RB: So, you can take Kimbo Slice?

ZK: I probably have more endurance.

RB: Who is your favorite college athlete?

ZK: Tyler Hansborough. He has an unprecedented work ethics, and is a winner.

RB: So, who has the better fadeaway?

ZK: Neither.

RB: Who is your favorite teammate on this year's Vikings team?

ZK: Our point guard, Ryan Goldstein. He gets me a lot of points.

RB: So you two are like Magic and Kareem?

ZK: I'd say he's more of a Smush Parker.

RB: So in your downtime, what do you like to do?

ZK: I lift weights and watch movies.

RB: So you think you're big?

ZK: See Kansas [Kyle Warner].

RB: How did it make you feel when your sister made varsity before you? [Paige Kriftcher, now a student at Lutheran High School, was a two year member of the Lady Vikings basketball team during her Weber Middle School years.]

ZK: Let's just say she had an easier road to the top.

RB: So, you can still beat her one to one?

ZK: Yeah, I dominate her in the post.

RB: If you could be on any NBA team which would it be?

ZK: The defending champions, the Boston Celtics.

RB: How do you think Doc Rivers will be able to get both you and Kevin Garnett the ball in the post equally?

ZK: I think we can run the high low together well.

RB: Like Gurewitz to Ryder?

ZK: More like Kriftcher to Bernstein.

RB: Thanks Zach, good luck with the rest of your season.

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VIKING SPORTS

Seahawks stunned by Vikings' fourth quarter run

Varsity boys basketball continues undefeated homestand and conference play

BY Ross Balaban
Staff Writer

"Home run," said announcer Mr. John Broza after a shot from behind the arc. This phrase, along with clamors from a passionate fan base, resonated in the gymnasium during each boys varsity basketball home game.

With three starters apt to shoot the three—seniors Ryan Goldstein and Brennan Spreitzer, and junior Adam Epstein—the team has accomplished a feat that last year's Nassau County Finals team could not: this year's squad is undefeated, a perfect 7-0 in conference play.

"We have gotten off to an impressive start this year," said team co-captain senior Zach Kriftcher. "But it's equally important that we are not complacent and take anything or any game for granted."

The other opponent for the then 4-0 Vikings was the third-place team in the conference, the Carey Seahawks.

"We knew Carey was a tough squad going into the game with all around talent from guard to center," said Coach Dooley. "Most of the teams we have played so far have had one or two point scores, but with Carey, they feature all around scoring from player to player."

The Vikings, however, had one distinct advantage: the deafening roar from the fans on every play.

"The crowd noise was awesome and it definitely made our jobs a little easier going up against a team like Carey," said Kriftcher.

Even with the vociferous crowd not missing a beat at the start of the game, Carey began the game with a quick 6-0 lead.

The crowd proved to be a real factor in this conference contest, as a conflict escalated throughout the game between the Carey fans and Port students. After the final buzzer, fans from both schools tussled around the near basket, as parents and spectators stepped in to clear the fight. As a result, the administration banned fifteen students from the next three conference games.

"Things got out of hand at the beginning of the game and fans should have been kicked out during halftime. After speaking with Joannon, we realized that we now have a tarnished name," said Viking fan leader Zach Greenwald, one of the banned students.

Despite trailing early in the first quarter, Goldstein and Epstein got the Vikings back to a 15-15 tie score with a barrage of three-pointers to end the first quarter.

The most damage was done in the second quarter as Port saw its tie in the first quarter evolve into a 16-3 run to end the half.

The Vikings went into halftime with a 31-18 lead. But as the second half began, Port saw its lead wiped away by a Carey 13-point run.

Still with the lead by nine, Port got the fourth quarter of a lifetime from Ryan Goldstein.

"It was like a dream. It seemed like all the shots I put up were dropping and all the practice I put in was showing," said Goldstein after he scored 10 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, hitting an ar-



Junior Adam Epstein soars up above the Carey 2-3 defensive zone for one of his 10 points. Epstein leads the Vikings in scoring this season with 20 points per game.

ray of threes and foul shots to elevate the Vikings to a 61-56 victory.

Then 5-0, the Vikings played their next two contests against Plainview JFK and the then 5-0 Massapequa Chiefs.

"The game against Massapequa was a real test and huge game to try to get the important home field advantage in the first round of the playoffs," said Spreitzer. "It is hard to beat a team three times and Massapequa was no exception."

If the Vikings are to win the conference, they will play a home game in the first round of the playoffs on Feb. 13. In addition, if all the seedings stay the same, the Vikings will play Massapequa, a rematch of the last game of the regular season.

In the matchup of the year to date, the Vikings took on the Massapequa Chiefs. The undersized Vikings battled the 6'8" center Rob VonBargen, the 2008 quarterback of the year in Nassau County, 6'5" forward Patrick Meehan, and 6'6" forward and leading scorer James Moran. But despite the height advantage and the 12 blocks Massapequa had in the game, Port continued to play aggressively and pound the ball inside.

"We needed to play physical," said Kriftcher. "Their game was to intimidate us, and even with the blocks that they had, we were able to tire out their big men."

The return of Dan Bernstein from an ankle injury was a beneficial addition to an already athletic starting line up, and his seven points were an enormous addition off the bench.

"Dan was huge off the bench. He was definitely a significant addition and made big shots when we needed him to," said Epstein.

The Vikings, who trailed at half time by three, procured a successful performance on both offense and defense that launched Port to a 20-6 third quarter lead and 43-33 advantage entering the fourth quarter.

"We really came together as a team in

the third quarter and played probably the best basketball to date this season," said senior Mike Ashmalla.

Massapequa came back into the game in the fourth quarter with dominating post play from the game's leading scorer James Moran. Moran tied the game at 48 with 1 minute 32 seconds to play.

Then, with 47 seconds left, Adam Epstein, who got to the line on a 1-1, knocked down both free throws to give Port a 50-48 lead to halt a Massapequa comeback.

On the ensuing possession, up two, Port would get a clutch steal from Nick Omeltchenko.

"The steal from Nick was no doubt the play of the game to give us the ball back

leading by two," said junior Ethan Sander.

Brennan Spreitzer would then hit the back end of the double bonus free throws to put Port up three. Port got a stop on defense and sent 88% free throw shooter Zach Kriftcher to the line. Kriftcher drained both free throws, putting the team up 6 and the game out of reach.

The Vikings won by the score of 54-48 and finished off the first half of the season, a perfect 7-0 in conference AA-11.

"It was a huge win travelling all the way to Massapequa, a team we are huge rivals with, and get a victory and the important two game cushion over both Massapequa and Carey," said Adam Epstein, Port's leading scorer in the game with 23 points.



Senior Ryan Goldstein leads the offense during the second half of the Vikings conference win against Carey. This home win put them atop the conference standings.