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THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LX No. 4 December 2009

Does Schreiber
need a new
AVATAR?



**Girls Varsity
Basketball**
-Sports-



Up in the Air
-A&E-

Track Delay
-News-
Club Pluralism
-Opinions-

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The aim of this photo, taken by junior Evie Adsetts for her AP Photography class, was to show depth perception from an interesting angle. By having the background out of focus, she was able to emphasize the details in the foreground.

NEWS BRIEFS

AP Art and Photo Exhibit

The Advanced Placement Art and Photo Exhibition is displayed every year in the atrium for students, teachers, staff, and parents to view. Two separate exhibits were held the weeks of Dec. 7 and Dec. 14, coinciding with the school's winter concerts, which allowed for audience members to view the student work.

The exhibit included pieces created by the AP students over the summer break and during their first semester in class. The works focused on general portraits and figure drawing using models. Several AP Art students, including seniors Isaac White and Taylor Wilsey, volunteered to be portrait models for their classmates. Students were given a chance to express their creativity using their own perspective of the model. Every piece of work contained considerable detail and hours of hard work.

"It was great to see how far the students have come in their artistic development," said Ms. Miranda Best, the supervisor of the exhibition and an AP Art teacher.

The visitors were able to enjoy refreshments and music provided by the art department along with the artwork.

"I found the texture and usage of the paints in several of the pieces very interesting," said junior Alan Kim. "All of them looked exceptional and I could tell that a lot of work was put into them."

The viewers especially took notice of the large variety of paintings and drawings displayed on the walls.

Although the students were drawing essentially the same object or model, each student used his or her own creativity to display their distinct perspective.

"I thought that all of the pieces of artwork were very different from each other, both in media and in tone. Each artist approached similar subjects in a unique manner," said junior Jenna Schneider.

The following week, a collection of the works of AP Photo students was displayed, and it portrayed various topics studied throughout the semester such as self-portraits and the Glory of Nature.

"The event was an overall success," said Ms. Best.

~ Dainn Woo

Coffee House

As part of the annual Coffee House event, student volunteers offered entertainment for fellow classmates, faculty, and relatives. The Student Outreach club organized the 12 mostly musical acts and provided the various refreshments. During the two-hour long event, which was held on Dec. 10, the performers played for an audience of over 50 people.

The admission fee of \$5 for each audience member was donated to the charity Operation Smile, which raises money to help fund reconstruction surgery for children with severe palate problems. The money raised, amounting to \$205, will go to this charity and ultimately allow children to receive necessary surgery.

"Performing in the Coffee House has

always been awesome," said senior Soloman Hoffman, who played the clarinet and the piano in two separate acts. "The environment is both supportive and relaxed, where a wide range of acts can be presented. I am continually impressed with the talent and creativity that are displayed."

To open the show, senior Alizé Margulis danced to harp music performed by senior Eunice Kim. This performance proved to be the only act of the night that was not entirely musical.

During the event, many other students displayed their variety talents. There were four solo guitarists who played at the event, as well as a group with two guitars and one singer.

Freshman Rebecca Herz sang the famous song "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." Sophomore Meghan Ferris performed on both the piano and the guitar.

Senior Christina Zhou performed on the guzheng, a Chinese string instrument.

"It's always a lot of fun performing and being at Coffee House," said Zhou. "Everyone is always amazing and I love how informal and chill it is."

The Student Outreach club was able to contribute to a cause while providing entertainment for the community and the club plans to host the event again in the spring.

"Overall, it was a very successful night," said Mr. George Muhlbauer, the club advisor. "The amount of talent in Schreiber never ceases to amaze me."

~ Matt Heiden

The Schreiber Times

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Due to problematic weather, track completion is delayed

Although in its final step, the track's two month delay may be postponed until spring

by Sahil Doshi and Leah Nash

News Editors

After a six-month period of construction, the upgraded track and field facility is now nearing completion. While initial completion was scheduled for the beginning of November, weather was the main reason for the almost two month delay.

"The weather and rain in late October caused construction to be delayed. The rain brought lots of water and as a result some work could not get done until the water had receded," said Ms. Stephanie Joannon, Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics.

This project started in mid-July and its expected date of completion was November 18, according to Mr. Jim Ristano, Director of Facilities and Operations. However, the finalization of the track is now expected to be completed by the end of December or in the beginning of January.

"There were no major reasons for the delay," said Principal Mr. Jay Lewis. "The normal construction process just took a bit longer, but all construction projects have a range of time for completion. Therefore, I question to ever call it late or a delay. The month delay doesn't really make that much of a difference."

However, this delay has interfered with the winter track teams' practice routines.

"Our practices were altered without use of the track. Generally, we would be able to run on the track and run inside. However, for the season we have been running on the turf. I am excited for the finalization of the new track and hopefully we will be able to practice on the new track this season," said junior Bridgette McDermott.

Now that the final layer of red coating has been put onto the track, the project is in its final stage. The last step is to line the track with numberings and markings. However, in order to do so, the temperature

must remain above 35 degrees for an entire week. If not, the stripes will not adhere to the track's surface. Considering the magnitude of the project this last step may seem trivial, but it will be difficult to find a week in the winter where the temperature does not slip below 35 degrees. If such a problem persists, the construction will be finalized so that the track will still be usable for students and the community, just without the markings. Either way, the community will be able to benefit from a facility that is much more efficient than the previous model.

The old track was in disrepair with only 1/2 inch of the rubber on its surface still remaining. There were also many cracks, the surface was eroded, and there were problems with the drainage and sprinkler systems.

"The athletes of our school are excited for this new track," said Ms. Joannon. "The old track was almost running out of concrete. This new synthetic surface will make such a difference; it will improve the runners' times and generate further interest in an already good program at our school. It will also be a nice send-off for the seniors."

The design of the track has not changed from the original vision despite the discussions involved prior to its execution.

"Everything was in budget and everything went perfectly with the initial plans," said Ms. Joannon.

The new model is not solely a replacement of the old track, but it also involves changes in the track's surroundings, which will result in an upgraded and brand-new athletic facility. This track will be a legitimate 400-meter track as opposed to the previous 440-yard track.

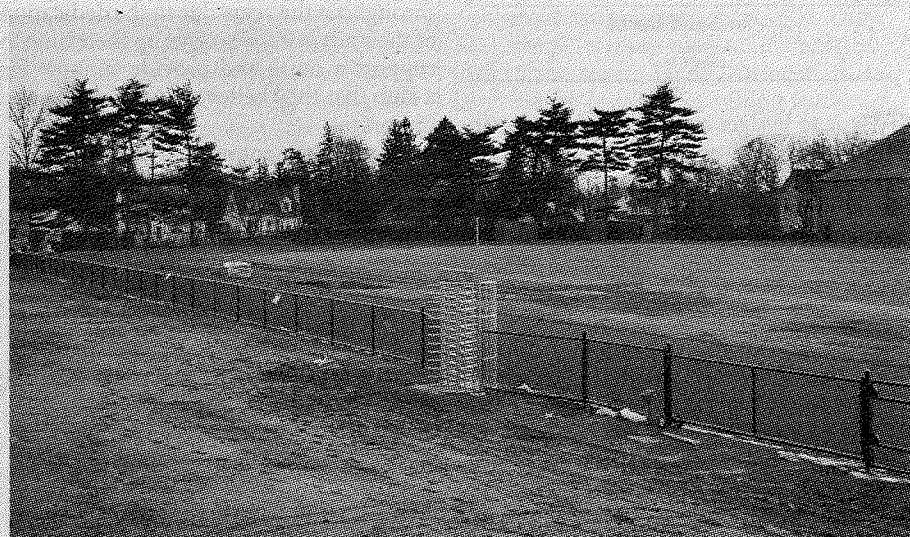
On the old model, there were only six lanes on both the straights and the curves. Now, there will be six lanes around the perimeter and eight lanes on the straights for sprints. The track will now be more efficient. Furthermore, the circle will be wider so that the straights and the curves cover the same distance. This is the ideal layout for a track, and Schreiber will be the only school in Nassau County to have a track with this type of design.

In addition to the reconfiguration of the actual track, the field is being changed to have the capability of holding more events. There will be new grass on the field, and the seeds for the spring have already been planted. A pole vault pit will be built on the field, and pole vaulting will be a competitive event for the first time in the school's history.

Two long jump and triple jump pits will be added to the new field as well, which will help meet efficiency. The sand for these pits on the field has already arrived and will shortly be put into the pits. At big meets, duals and invitationals, these field events will now be able to go faster, and the new track event might attract new people to participate. However, these additions are not scheduled to be placed onto the field until this spring when they will be utilized.

"This is going to be a state-of-the-art facility," said Ms. Joannon. "It will be efficient and beautiful."

Previously, people were free to ride their bicycles or walk their children in baby carriages on the old track. However, two turnstiles will be built at the entrances of the new track to discourage bicycles and



Chris Yap

Two turnstiles have been built at the entrances of the new track to discourage bicycles and baby carriages from entering. In addition to this new feature, there will also be handicap accessibility for the new track. A red coat has recently been put on to the track to complete the final layer.

baby carriages from entering and harming the surface of the track. These turnstiles can be seen at other high schools across Long Island. It is a way to keep control of the number of people entering and leaving the track during track meets.

There will also be handicap accessibility as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Finally, a new and improved sprinkler and drainage system have been implemented that now have fixed past problems that the track had to face.

"We are discouraging bicycles and baby carriages because they erode the surface of the track," said Ms. Joannon.

"I have received positive feedback about the new track and unfortunately the delay caused by the weather was difficult," said Mr. Ristano. "But overall, it will be a first-class facility when completed."

Weber was also involved with this project from the start and will be rewarded from the final outcome as well. There had been concerns from Weber coaches and teachers about the shape of the track.

For the initial design, Weber coaches had provided input, and will ultimately benefit as the field will be used by its football teams and the track by its runners.

With the remodeling of the oval at the front of the school during the summer, and the near completion of the track, Schreiber has now officially finished its "makeover."

"My goal is to have the best facilities for our school. I believe that there is a connection between having excellent facilities and providing students with a good education. We weren't positively perceived in the track community before this remodeling, and I'm sure that at the first track meet with the new track, the visiting schools will be very surprised," said Mr. Lewis. "I am pleased about the overall outcome of Schreiber's makeover. Students genuinely appreciate that these things are occurring, and they are going to benefit from both of these improvements."

The Final Stages



To stripe the track with lines and numbering, the temperature must remain above 35 degrees for a week

NOW:



FINAL:



Senior Experience Update

The Senior Experience program reported on in the previous issue has a few updates. The program will no longer be mandatory for seniors this year taking AP courses. Rather, the program will now be optional for interested seniors who want to participate.

Principal Mr. Jay Lewis, 12th Grade Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres, and social studies teacher Mr. Larry Schultz, will be visiting senior classes after December break to discuss the program in more detail and to further explain the process.

The Senior Experience program still maintains its intentions and overall concept. However, the implementation of the program will be modified to allow for a smoother transition for seniors.

"This year the Senior Experience program will be optional for seniors taking AP classes, but hopefully next year or the year after it will become a mandatory requirement," said Mr. Lewis.

With budget cuts, clubs experience financial difficulties

Funding issues lead to the discontinuation or unofficial operation of several clubs

BY Sahil Doshi

News Editor

Due to budget cuts and problems with club funding over the past few years, several clubs can no longer operate, and many others preside without any official recognition.

This year alone, clubs including FABRICS and 3rd Wave Feminists no longer hold meetings or host events, as they do not receive funding and do not have an advisor. Additionally, many others including Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), a business-leadership club, and Anime Club have never been accepted over the years due to funding restraints.

Despite a lack of funding, several clubs operate under a voluntary advisor. These include Amnesty International, Equestrian Club, ESL Alliance, Glamour Gals, Harry Potter Club, STAND as One, and Relay for Life.

"The clubs are functioning because of advisors who volunteer their time," said Principal Mr. Jay Lewis. "We are hoping to get them approved with funding for advisors in the near future, but due to budget problems this might not be possible for next year."

Unlike other clubs that have never been established and ones that have dropped out, these clubs have been maintained

throughout the years due to the dedication of their advisors, who give up their time to support a cause and provide support for a club that they believe is worthwhile and important.

"I really felt committed to the cause so I do not mind volunteering because it was

"The Schreiber administration and the Student Council have been advocating for increased funding for new clubs over the last three to four years," said Mr. Lewis. "We will not give up. A vital student activities program is essential for a strong high school."

all about reaching out to other people and raising political awareness," said STAND as One advisor Ms. Anne Pellett. "That was my personal choice, but I generally feel that teachers should be compensated for their hard work."

"3rd Wave Feminists was growing exponentially year by year. We did three

productions and had regular meetings," said advisor Dr. Helen Sachs. "I recognize that it takes a while for clubs to establish themselves, but we had been running for three years and had not received even partial funding. Although I put many hours into it without any compensation, I have no regrets because I was dedicated to its message. In the past, we had received grants from the PWEF, but we cannot expect that every year."

Club units and initiation are ultimately decided by a units committee, which is co-chaired by Mr. Christopher Shields, principal of South Salem Elementary School, and Ms. Kathy Doughty, an elementary school physical education teacher. Mr. Lewis, also a member of the committee, represents the high school. Every board-sanctioned student activity has stipends attached to them called "units." However, the school's administration recommends how many units a club should receive based on the number of hours that an advisor puts into the club per year. For example, one unit or \$2,636 equates to 40-100 hours. However, this has a wide range, and will be changed since teacher contracts are currently in negotiation.

"We fully recognize that many club advisors put in more hours than the unit allocation for their club," said Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres. "We have, in the past, asked for units to be increased for a club based on increased student participation and/or increased responsibilities."

Once a club is approved at a particular unit value, that club does not have to do anything on a year-to-year basis. If new clubs are proposed, the units committee has a process to approve such student organizations. However, the overriding problem arises from the fact that there has not been any additional funding for new clubs over the past several years. Rather than having a set of funds to allocate for

Clubs Facing Monetary Challenges:

Clubs that no longer operate:

- 3rd Wave Feminists
- FABRICS

Clubs with no funding:

- Amnesty International
- Equestrian Club
- ESL Alliance
- Glamour Gals
- Harry Potter Club
- Relay for Life
- STAND as One

prospective clubs, there currently is no money to give out.

"So far, no changes have been discussed to my knowledge, but clearly a new procedure for gaining funding for advisors of new clubs would help alleviate this problem," said Ms. Torres.

The only way a new club with a formal advisor can receive funds is if another one decreases in popularity and no longer runs. This is a normal process of switching funds, as certain organizations fall out of favor with the student body and new ones emerge. However, currently, this is the only way for a new club to be created.

As a result, many club proposals are not even sent to the committee, since it is known that they will not be accepted. The situation that club funding has fallen in clearly needs restructuring.

"The Schreiber administration and the Student Council have been advocating for increased funding for new clubs over the last three to four years," said Mr. Lewis. "We will not give up. A vital student activities program is essential for a strong high school."

Two students receive Zone Award

BY Daniella Di Caro

Staff Writer

Each year, the Nassau Zone Fitness Award is given out to one female and one male senior student from each high school in Nassau County. The award is presented to individuals that excel in physical education and exhibit outstanding character. Seniors Alizé Margulis and Andrew Minicucci were presented this award at the Zone Award dinner held on Dec. 14 at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. Physical education teachers Ms. Lauren Bishar and Ms. Nancy Klotz, Athletic Director Ms. Stephanie Joannon, and Principal Mr. Jay Lewis were all in attendance.

Students recognized by this award are not only model students, but they also hold leadership qualities within and outside the school environment, positively influencing their peers and community.

"I thought the award ceremony was wonderful and it brought to the stage all students from Nassau County to be recognized for all their hard work," said Margulis.

Last April, all physical education teachers chose two of their junior students, a male and a female, to be nominated for this award. Then based upon certain criteria, including remarkable physical performance, leadership, scholastic ability and community service, they decided on who they felt was most deserving of the award.

"Andrew and Alizé are exemplary students who have gone above and beyond the criteria of this award. Throughout their four years, they have shown relentless dedication, energy, and enthusiasm for physical education, and both students have made great contributions to Schreiber and

the community," said Ms. Klotz. "We are all very proud of them."

Minicucci has excelled in track and cross country and has brought to his team and physical education class a dedicated and enthusiastic spirit.

"When Coach Del Gais first told me about this award that I had won, I was shocked," said Minicucci. "I never would have guessed that I would have won this award. I would have thought a football, basketball, or lacrosse kid would have been more likely to receive an award this selective, and being that I'm a track kid, it was pretty cool to get it. I can't thank Mr. Del Gais enough for nominating me for the award. I feel very honored to have received the Nassau Zone Fitness Award."

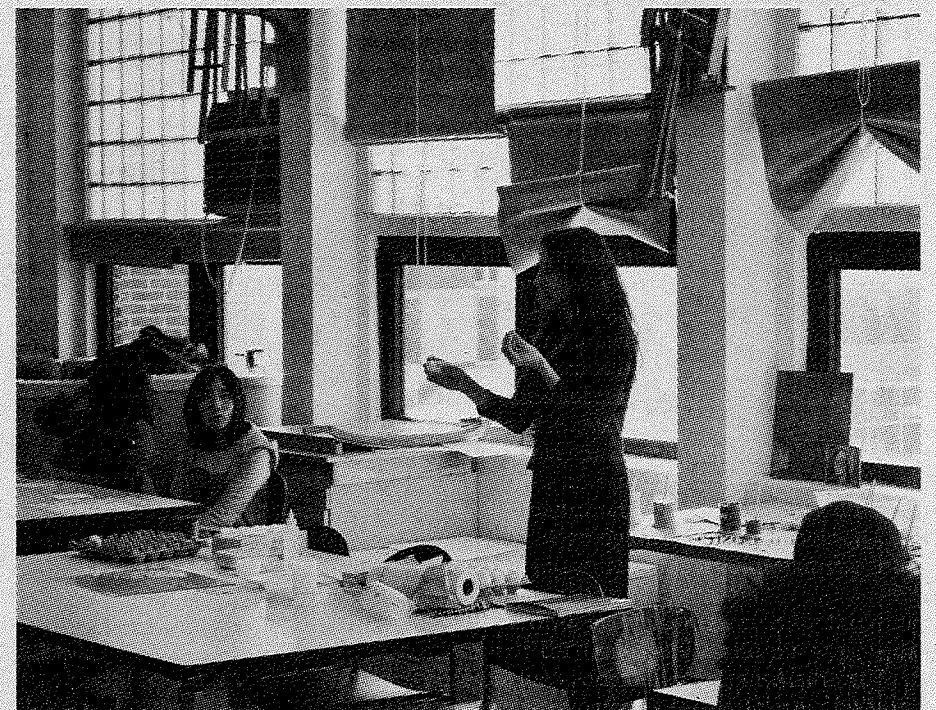
Margulis took Dance and Movement as a freshman and sophomore and then excelled to Advanced Dance and Choreography in her junior and senior years.

"Alizé approaches each class full of energy with an excited willingness to learn and enthusiasm when she is presented with a challenge. During class, Alizé is a role model and she assists her classmates to conquer new movements and dance steps. Her positive energy and commitment to learning inspires and motivates all members of her class," said Ms. Klotz, who has been Margulis's physical education teacher for all four years.

Outside of class, Margulis has performed for and danced with senior citizens during Pride in Port celebrations. She has also choreographed and performed during Shakespeare Day and the Student Outreach Coffee House.

"Andrew and I would never have been at the awards dinner if it weren't for our wonderful staff here at Schreiber," said Margulis.

Paintmaker instructs art classes



Kevin Granger

An artist visited a variety of art classes, including Drawing and Painting and Advanced Painting, on Dec. 18. She taught the art students how to separate eggs and mix them with colored powders in order to make egg tempera paint. Students had a three hour break from classes to experience first-hand the art of paintmaking. Additionally, she taught the students about the history of the usage of this type of paint.

Dr. Geoffrey Gordon receives honorary award

As a Peabody Educator Honoree, he is commended for his dedication

BY Leah Nash

News Editor

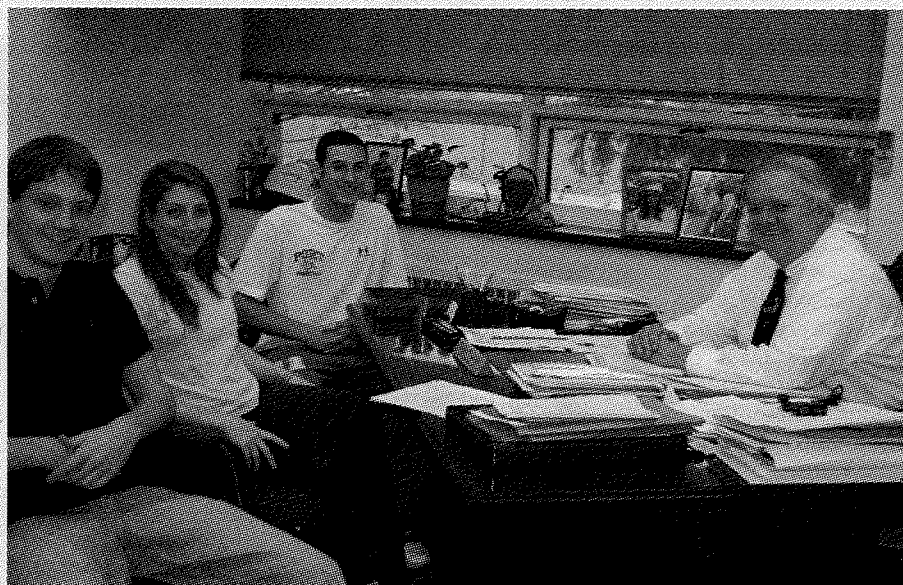
Superintendent Dr. Geoffrey N. Gordon was recently awarded as a "Peabody Roundtable Educator Honoree" from the Peabody College at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Gordon was named as one of the outstanding educators in the country. His lifelong achievements, including his contributions as superintendent of the district for eight years, were recognized by this award. He was the only district superintendent in the country to receive the award this year.

"Vanderbilt has the number one graduate school of education in the country, so it is a great honor," said Dr. Gordon. "They are highly regarded in all of the areas of ranking, and are ranked first nationally in Special Education and in Administration Supervision. I am humbled that they would select me."

Honorees are recognized at a formal dinner with the Dean presenting the award. Dean Camilia Benbow of Peabody College at Vanderbilt University gave the award to Dr. Gordon at the dinner.

The process of becoming a Peabody Roundtable Educator Honoree begins with a nomination. Then, a résumé of the candidate is reviewed by a selection committee which decides upon the honorees and informs the award winners of their honor. A Port Washington family with children in the school district nominated Dr. Gordon for this prestigious award.

"To me, being a caring educator means incorporating the 'Whole Child Development' concept first espoused by John Dewey, the Father of American Education," said Dr. Gordon. "It means being as selfless as one can be, and always looking to help. Likewise, it involves creating a supportive and non-threatening environment where excellent teachers



Courtesy of The Port Washington News

Superintendent Dr. Geoffrey Gordon, the recent recipient of an honorary degree, meets with seniors Peter Doscas, Jessica Podlofsky, and Adam Epstein.

can be creative and flourish. Finally, it means that the goal is that every student maximizes his or her ability by earning success."

The award is not limited only to educators. The primary requirement for the award is that the honoree must be someone who has made an impact and has uniquely influenced people's lives. Honorees range from educators to spiritual leaders, coaches and professors. There is not a fixed number of honorees selected each year. Rather, the selection committee decides upon a small number of those that they feel best meet their criteria.

This year, there were 13 educators from around the country honored out of the hundreds of people nominated. Dr. Gordon was the only honoree from the Northeast area and no one else from this area has recently received the award. The other award winners of 2009 included

educators from Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas.

"This year, I was deeply honored to be the only superintendent selected, and my understanding is that there were three K-12 educators, four college professors, and three Foundation Directors who were selected," said Dr. Gordon. "As I understand it, the number of K-12 educators is very small each year."

After receiving this award, Dr. Gordon looks to the future and will continue to work hard to be an influential superintendent.

"The award was based upon my lifelong achievements and focus on students," said Dr. Gordon. "I will do my best to continue to be innovative in curriculum, continue to positively affect rising student achievement in large part by building high efficiency teams of administrators and teachers, and encourage all staff to help students wherever possible."

Students attend All-State Music Festival

BY Hannah Fagen

Staff Writer

Each year, musicians are selected to participate in the New York State School Music Association's All-State Music Festival. This year, five students were selected for the conference. On Dec. 3, seniors Solomon Hoffman, Ryohei Ozaki, and Jenny Park, and juniors Samuel Kim and Sarah Paul went to Rochester for the weekend along with their district chaperone, Mr. John Meyer, and music teachers Mr. Anthony Pinelli and Mr. Mark Brenner.

Hoffman was the first chair clarinetist in the Wind Ensemble, Paul was the lead trumpet in the Jazz ensemble, and Kim played clarinet in the Symphonic Band. Ozaki and Park played the viola and the violin respectively in the String Orchestra.

"All-State is one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences for a musician," said Mr. Meyer, who had participated in the festival when he was in the eleventh and twelfth grades.

The festival included multiple concerts performed by students, and there was an array of workshops for music educators to participate in. The student musicians engaged in a rigorous line-up of activities, including countless hours of rehearsing, which the musicians ultimately found rewarding.

"The most challenging part of All-State for me was staying focused and playing at a high level at every moment. You rehearse for hours and play the music many times, yet each time you want to play at your highest level," said Hoffman.

The program is prestigious and it gives students an opportunity to participate and learn with musicians of the same caliber.

"The first notes that you play with your ensemble as a whole are always amazing to hear. You don't know exactly what to expect since you have never played with these same musicians or conductor before. The sound blew me away: everyone played with such rich tone and perfected technique. The blend and balance were remarkably close for the first time playing as a group," said Hoffman.

Hoffman also submitted a piece to the Young Composer's division of the event.

"The Young Composer's Concert was also a highlight for me. I submitted a piece to be considered for performance and a movement from a trio I wrote for the flute, bassoon, and piano was selected. It was called 'Tree' from a piece called 'Green.'"

About 15 compositions out of 112 were selected from submissions throughout New York State. Musicians from SUNY-Fredonia played the piece, which was coordinated by one of the judges.

"They did a great job with it and the performance went well. I also got to meet the composer-in-residence Joan Tower," said Hoffman.

The weekend at Rochester gave these students a rewarding experience in which they were able to perform higher-level music with other students who share the same musical passion as they do.

"I will take away many things, but most important of all, to never underestimate the power of music. The music we played in our concert truly moved me and I think the audience was moved too," said Hoffman.

Annual Saturnalia event incorporates Harry Potter theme

The Latin Club hosts an activity-filled celebratory night in the cafeteria

BY Sarah Greene and Aimee Stern

Staff Writers

At the annual event of Saturnalia, avid Latinists gathered in order to celebrate the ancient Roman holiday. The event incorporated the popular theme of Harry Potter, with the students engaging in numerous activities including quidditch, pin the tail on the centaur, and chariot racing.

Each class battled competitively to be the winners of this year's Hogwarts-themed Saturnalia, with each grade representing one of the four houses of the fictional school. Each class created its own vibrant poster to further portray the celebratory spirit of the night. Many students voluntarily chose to dress in their house colors—the seniors represented Gryffindor, the juniors represented Hufflepuff, the sophomores represented Slytherin, and the freshmen represented Ravenclaw.

Other students chose to dress in an attire that represented the Roman culture they have been studying by opting to wear togas and gladiator sandals. Live music and a variety of food assisted in further establishing a lively mood.

"As a member of the Latin club, I have been helping to plan this event since the very first days of school," said junior Bridgette McDermott. "I was really thrilled to see how successful the event turned out to be. Lots of other Latin Club members and I are already really looking forward to planning, and then attending, next year's celebration."

Although the event only lasted for about 90 minutes, the night is the most significant of the year for Latin students. Among the list of attendees were several administrators, including Mr. Jay Lewis, Mr. David Miller, and Ms. Julie Torres. Mr. John Placella, the Languages Other Than English department chairman, also participated in the event's activities. Both Latin teachers, Ms. Elizabeth Griffin and Dr. Louise Lindemann, were at the event as well, each wearing an elaborately decorated toga.

"Although I was originally skeptical of the students' ability to finish everything on time, it was quite obvious that they pulled it off incredibly well," said Ms. Griffin. "It was particularly fascinating how we were able to incorporate the theme of Harry Potter and mythical fantasy into the ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia. Though this was only my second Saturnalia experience

here at Schreiber, I think it turned out very well this year."

Although this festivity is a battle of the classes, Saturnalia also encouraged unity and friendly interaction between Latin students of every grade. Students were given the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas regarding Roman culture. The kids were also given the chance to hang out with their friends and engage in a wide range of fun activities while still learning. The Latin Club plans to hold the event again next year with a different theme.



Courtesy of The Port Light

Banners such as this one decorated the walls during the event. The Gryffindor House, represented by the seniors, created this poster.

Vegetarian Dinner promotes environment-friendly eating

Treehuggers hosts fourth annual event urging students to reduce meat consumption

BY Katya Barrett

Assistant News Editor

In order to promote the environmental advantages of the vegetarian lifestyle, the Treehuggers Environmental Club hosted their fourth annual Vegetarian Dinner in the cafeteria. While eating vegetarian food provided by club members, attendees learned about the benefits of reducing their meat consumption.

"The purpose of this event is not to convert everyone to vegetarianism. Rather, we want to show people examples of vegetarian food and urge them to reduce their meat consumption," said sophomore Renee Cohen, a member of the club. "You definitely don't have to be a vegetarian to care about the environment or attend the event."

The event, which was held on Dec. 3, had a festive atmosphere that was created with colorful decorations. Additionally, music was provided by senior Sung Kim, who sang and played the guitar. Attendees also participated in a light-hearted game of musical chairs with the winner receiving a reusable water bottle.

"I chose to come because although I am not a vegetarian, I like to support eco-friendly causes," said sophomore Nina Devas. "The music throughout the night definitely created a fun atmosphere for people to hang out and eat with their friends."

A wide variety of food, mostly

homemade and, of course, vegetarian, was served from a large range of cuisines and included stuffed peppers, salads, pastas, noodles, and fried rice. There were notecards in front of each dish which listed the ingredients. For dessert, there was a large spread of cheesecakes, cakes, cookies, and brownies. Staying consistent with the overall theme of the Treehuggers Club, most of the plates, cups, and utensils used were eco-friendly.

"I really liked the food, and was surprised by the wide variety of vegetarian options," said sophomore Celine Sze. "The music added to the fun atmosphere. I also really learned a lot about the advantages of a vegetarian diet."

Tickets were \$5 each and were sold throughout the week of the event and at the door. The event attracted over 40 students and staff members who decided to come because they were interested in the club's cause. At the event, there were reusable water bottles for sale for \$15 each. All of the money raised from the event goes to the Treehuggers Club and will be used to host future events.

"It wasn't completely packed, but we did have a pretty good turnout. Most importantly, everyone seemed to be having fun and enjoying the food and music," said Treehuggers co-president senior Christina Zhou.

In a brief speech given at the end of the event, seniors Kevin Wong, Zhou and Alex Zippo, and junior Sahil Doshi, discussed the purpose of the event and



Kevin Granger

Students enjoy the wide variety of home-made foods offered at the Treehuggers' annual Vegetarian dinner, which also included live music and games.

urged the attendees to reduce their meat consumption. They thanked the attendees for making a difference that night by choosing to eat just vegetarian food. Additionally, they emphasized the many faults of factory farming, which include the harsh treatment of animals and pollution in the environment. Due to these adverse effects, the club members promoted sustainable farming and the buying of local foods.

Two short animated documentaries, *The Meatrix* and *The Meatrix 2 and 1/2*, were shown during the speech in order to provide an in-depth look at factory farming. While being a humorous parody on the movie *The Matrix*, both films emphasized the serious problems of the meatpacking industry. These movies were effective in addressing issues such as the increasing reduction of family farms, feeding antibiotics to animals, and unsafe

environments for the workers.

"Even though the movie was animated and somewhat comedic, I really learned a lot about the hazards of factory farming," said sophomore Carolin Berendsen.

At the end of their speech, the members stressed the advantages of reducing meat intake, which include saving animals and helping the environment. As shown by the many dinner options, they showed how even vegetarians can find nutritious and delicious things to eat.

"People seemed to learn a lot about the faults of factory farming while also having a really good time, which was definitely our ultimate goal," said Zhou.

Later in the year, the Treehuggers club plans on holding an Earth Day event. Between now and then, Treehuggers will be involved with elementary school visits and in-school activities, such as composting.

Taylor 2 company teaches dance classes

BY Alizé Margulis

Staff Writer

The school's dance students recently had the opportunity to learn the dance "Esplanade" from performers of the Taylor 2 dance company, who had previously performed during the creative arts assembly. From Dec. 1 to Dec. 3, the Taylor 2 dancers held master classes for students during their Dance and Movement and Advanced Dance and Choreography classes.

The dancers, including Nic Ceynowa, John Eirich, Christina-Justin Kahan, Lynch Markam, Madelyn Ho, and Latra Wilson, all took turns teaching the students.

"They were so awesome to work with," said junior Sara Lyons. "They are incredible teachers and great performers. It was the fact that simple movements could make something so beautiful which surprised me and added to the experience."

Classes began with a shortened version of a Paul Taylor-style warm-up consisting of stretching, several yoga positions, and ten push-ups. Students then learned the beginning and ending sections of "Esplanade," choreographed by Taylor in 1975. Students learned a unique style of dance using direction, level change, while combining percussive and lyrical movements. The performances were accompanied by two Bach violin

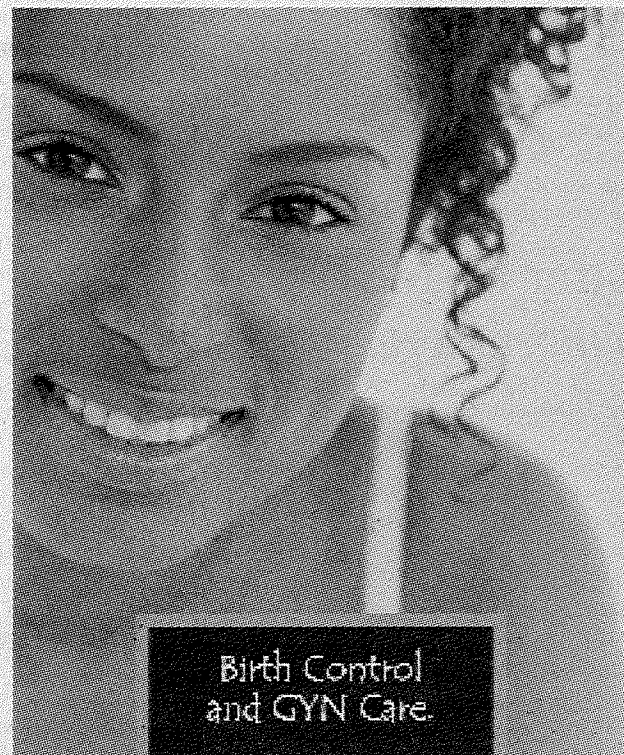
concertos, which turned these ordinary movements into dance. Once the sections of "Esplanade" were mastered, students performed in front of their classmates.

"I thought the dancers from Taylor 2 that came were very talented," said senior Porsche Bradberry. "They were very professional and they always motivated us to try what they were doing. It probably made some people in the class realize what they are really capable of as dancers."

Taylor began choreographing modern dances because he wanted to break away from the classic art form of ballet. His dances have a sense of individuality and a disregard for what is proper. "Esplanade" serves as Taylor's signature dance, a test of his ability to choreograph without relying on his own movement or his own presence on stage.

Ms. Nancy Klotz, the dance teacher, believed that her students had the benefit of experiencing a new technique of dance.

"We are very fortunate to have a performance and opportunity to master classes taught by the famous Taylor 2 Dance Company. It was wonderful for the students to experience the Taylor technique," said Ms. Klotz. "Because of the efforts of the HSA, Cultural Arts Committee and the Director of Cultural Arts, Ms. Rose Marvel, all students had a unique and cultural dance experience."



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Point Counterpoint

Should individual students be allowed to lead multiple clubs?

By Blake Mergler
Opinions Editor

In any form of society, whether it is in high school or the work force, there are always those members who like to take charge and be in positions of executive power. Even though students cannot apply to be executives of law firms or become entrepreneurs, one way by which students can be authoritative is by applying for board positions for different clubs.

However, there are those who contend that these people are simply trying to boost their college résumés. Furthermore, they feel as though these students who want to be the "top" should be restricted to being in only one position of authority, whether it be president of an honor society or head of the Student Council.

However, one must ask the question: are executives in the "real world" limited in the amount of positions they would like to pursue? The answer is that of course they aren't. Then how would it be fair to limit a student in his or her pursuits in high school?

Some may claim that by limiting a student from demonstrating "club pluralism," or being associated with involvement in a myriad of clubs, others in the school will have the chance to shine. Those contenders must admit that not every person in the student body would be willing to lead a club in such a way. When a club advisor asks for people to volunteer to be presidents or any other position, one rarely sees someone volunteer who is not already the leader of another club. The people who choose to be leaders come from a select group of people, certainly not the entire student body.

This decision to be a leader has to do, in many respects, with one's personality. Certainly many students do not have the desire to be the head of a club because they are not the type of person who prefers to be in control. It is clear that most students in our school would not want to be in positions of authority and it is just not part of their personalities.

Some claim that the leaders of multiple clubs are just the over-achievers with the need to build their college résumés. Although I do not completely rebut these statements, it is true that some are leaders because they actually care about a certain cause. Whatever the reason that one chooses to be a leader, to have such a position in a club takes a lot of commitment, dedication and energy; it is not something people do on a whim.

A president of a club has to commit numerous hours to help the club be successful throughout the school year. Therefore, if a student is truly willing to spend the amount of hours in school that is necessary in order to lead six or seven clubs, they should be allowed to do so.

This further stresses that only a select few would be willing to be leaders of clubs, because of the time commitment.

Other students have other commitments outside of clubs, such as sports and family obligations. Although it is important for students to be parts of clubs that they are interested in, some students would not be able to dedicate the time necessary in order to be a substantial leader.

"If someone has enough time to do many clubs, then this person should be free to pursue whatever they want," said junior Aditi Shroff. "In this way, there should be no limit on the amount of leaderships a student wants to have."

The fear that many would have if, let's suppose, a student was limited to being a leader of just one club, would be that there would be a lack of competent club officers. Also, by limiting students to one club, who is to say which interest of theirs should be their top priority? It is likely that someone who is interested in journalism and wants a leadership position in newspaper would also want to be a leader in another club related to writing such as a literary magazine club.

By making a student choose, students would not be able to pursue all of their interests. Isn't high school supposed to be a place where students are able to explore and discover their interests? How can one do so if he or she is limited in the amount of clubs which he or she wants to be seriously involved in?

It is clear that the proposition to limit students in their pursuits of club leaderships is flawed in a way that would be detrimental to the student body. Life is not the same for everyone; some will be leaders while others will be followers.

By Sean Graf and Jon Heiden
Contributing Writer and Opinions Editor

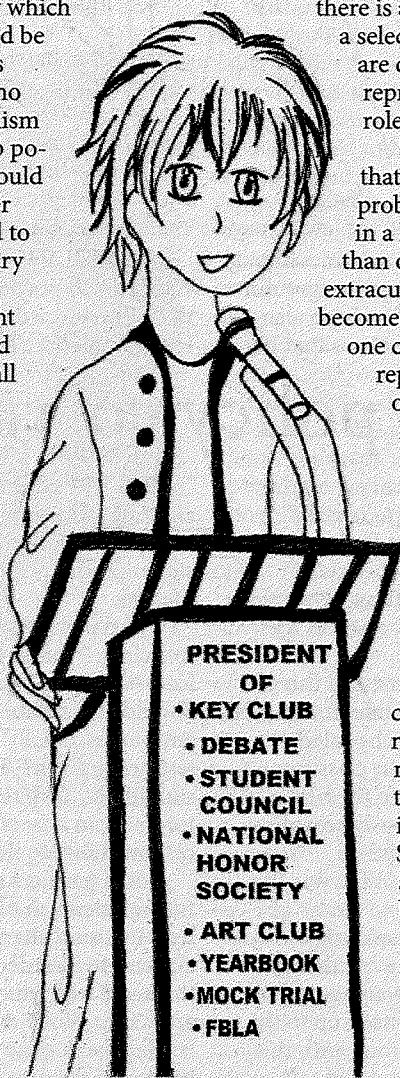
Many have heard the phrase "you can have too much of a good thing." Initially associated with young children eating ice cream by the gallon, this term has taken on a new prevalent application. When Shakespeare coined this term in *As You Like It* in 1600, you can be sure that he was not worried about the sort of excess that is prevalent in our school. Today, in almost every Schreiber club, members are elected or appointed to lead their club and represent them to the student body. We are so fortunate to have many clubs to represent the diversity of interests of our student body. Recently, however,

there is an increasing trend where a select group of students are disproportionately represented in the leadership roles in of clubs.

It is important to note that it is not an immediate problem when someone is in a leadership role in more than one club. This so-called extracurricular "pluralism" becomes a problem when only one chain of thought is represented in our clubs or when the person in a leadership role no longer has time for all the clubs they represent.

The most prevalent issue of the above mentioned is that of club leaders not having enough time for each club they are an officer in. What some club leaders have failed to realize is that they have a responsibility to represent the clubs they are officers in equally and adequately. Some of the clubs in our school have suffered because of pluralism. It is up to members to demand that their club leaders represent the club to the best of their ability.

I cannot say it enough: Your club



Eunice Kim

leaders should work for you—demand that they do so rather than represent some other club with other interests.

If we are able to change the culture in our school of having only a select group of individuals serving in leadership roles in our clubs, everyone stands to benefit. The leaders who engage in harmful pluralism will be forced out of some offices and have more time to spend on fewer clubs, and thus will be able to serve the members of those remaining clubs more meaningfully. Clubs will be better represented. Most importantly, you will have the opportunity to represent the clubs you care about without having to deal with a leader who is not committed to it.

The motivations for engaging in club pluralism are well-known. To colleges, prospective students who can effectively juggle leadership positions in several different extracurricular activities are very attractive candidates. To the college, it demonstrates that the student possesses initiative and intellectual passions.

It also suggests that they are capable, even ambitious people who will strive to better themselves (which will, of course, also benefit the college's name). Even if the student who engages in club pluralism is a vacuous and uninspiring leader because he or she spends so much time rushing from one club presidency to the next, colleges cannot know this and certainly do not take it into account when they are rendering their acceptance decisions.

Club pluralism is also harmful to the student body as a whole in other ways. Say you are a so-so student in school who has a passion for—to pull an example out of thin air—the elderly. You want to be president of the Elder Care Club (which does not exist). Only, there's a problem: Mr. or Ms. Club Pluralism is also running for the presidency of the Elder Care Club. Now, you are probably better-qualified than the pluralist for being head of the Elder Care Club. You have numerous grandparents and find caring for old people to be a soothing and rewarding experience.

However, the pluralist is in many ways an intimidating person to run against. Just as colleges will look at their awesome and imposing résumés and want to admit them, so, too, will you see the many leadership positions they have held (as well as, presumably, their extreme intelligence and articulateness) and not really want go all-out in a head-to-head democratic battle against them, which is a shame.

It is your time to stand up and demand an end to this ridiculous atrocity. Everyone deserves to be represented by someone who is dedicated to them and their club. The truth of the matter is, there will be resistance to calls for more accountability. Club members deserve better and are just as capable, if not more, to lead as someone who is running multiple clubs.

Schreiber Speaks

"If students are qualified, they should be allowed to lead all of the clubs that they wish. To limit them in their endeavors would be unjust."

—Joon Yeom, sophomore

"You would not want the president of the United States to be the president of Russia also; would you?"

—Sara Rodrigues, sophomore

Teenagers should have an in-class snacking option

BY Daniel Bialer

Staff Writer

Currently, there is no school-wide rule about whether food consumption should be permitted or banned during classes. In some classes, like science and photography, there is a clear ban against snacking because of the chemicals that could be in the room and contaminate the food. In addition, physical education classes are, clearly, against snacking because a student could easily choke on food while engaging in physical activities. However, teachers of subjects outside of art, science, and physical education should continue to give students permission to eat food in class when it is necessary to do so.

Many students miss their lunch periods for various reasons. Most students have had at least one day when they miss a class for an absence, sectional, or field trip. For students with modest amounts of off periods and a busy life outside of school, it becomes very difficult to make up the missed work, especially in more rigorous courses.

Instead of missing the assignment, quiz or test, and receiving a zero, students are sometimes forced to give up their lunch periods. The lunch period can also be a time to finish last-minute homework or print out an essay. If a student spends the whole period doing this, he or she could, again, lose his or her chance to eat lunch.

The same applies to attending freshman guidance groups. It may be very difficult to eat your lunch while being engaged in the activities and icebreakers used to adjust freshmen students into high school life. It may be necessary to eat afterwards for freshmen as well as

peer helpers. The lunch period may also be a time that it is necessary to make an appointment with a guidance counselor, so this can also conflict with eating.

If teachers are strict about not snacking in the classrooms, students who need to do work or make up missed assignments would not be able to eat during the entire day, which can pose a dilemma. With average food intake being every four or five hours, on days such as these, students will be forced to go eight hours without food, assuming they eat breakfast at 7 a.m. Many students also have commitments after school so they may not get a chance to eat until as late as nine o'clock.

By allowing consumption of food during classes, teachers are actually encouraging students to not skip meals throughout the day and promoting a healthier lifestyle. Even if students do eat lunch, some do not have the chance to eat breakfast in the morning.

Students who wake up late and arrive at school without eating should not have to go hungry during their earlier classes. Food can also help wake up sleepy students so that they

are ready for all of their morning classes. A drink or a fresh fruit will help those students who are tired to be more alert and to pay attention to their teachers throughout the morning.

option should also be open for students, as it could be considered a healthier lifestyle.

As teenagers, many high school students are still growing in height and still have fast metabolisms, so they can

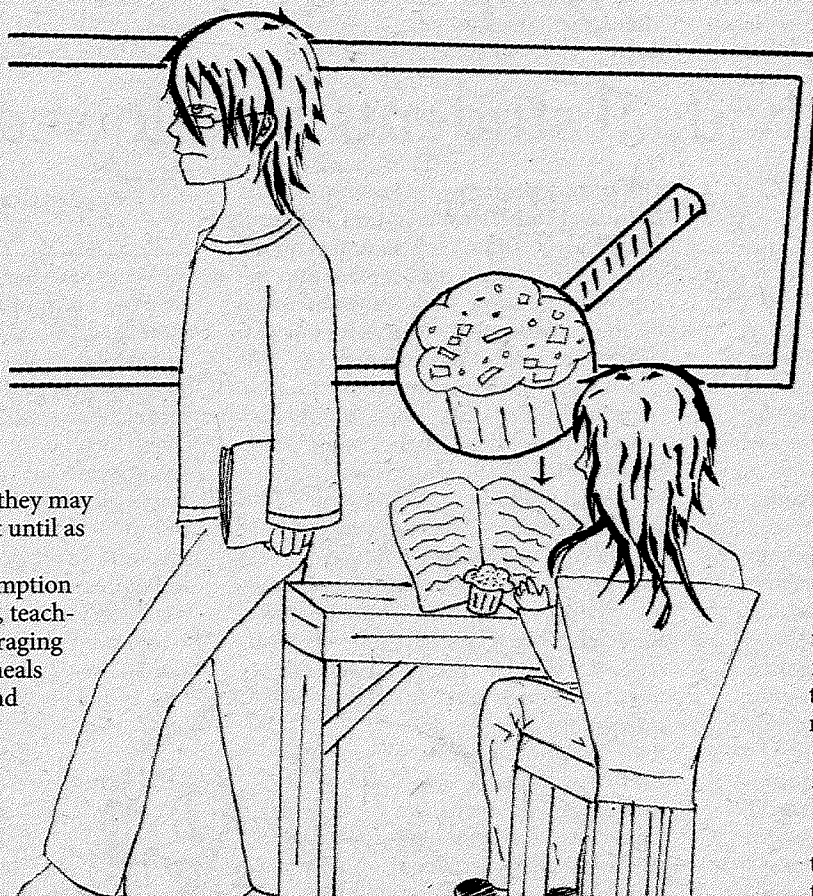
get hungry very quickly.

Teenagers also tend to be more active. This is one of the times in our lives where we can afford to and need to be eating the most. Therefore, teachers should not restrict their students from snacking during their classes.

"Some students need food in order to maintain their energy throughout the day to be able to focus in classes," said junior Ioanna Ioannides.

Another important reason why students should be allowed to eat during classes is because some students find that eating, chewing gum, or sucking on hard candies can help them concentrate on work or on tests better. There is recent scientific evidence that eating actually calms one's nerves and suppresses test anxiety, allowing a student to reach his or her greatest potential.

As long as students are respectful and careful about throwing out their garbage, there is no doubt that they should continue to have permission to eat when circumstances permit or require it. If a student needs time to eat during the day, they should definitely receive it.



Eunice Kim

Additionally, some people believe in eating small portions of food frequently throughout the day rather than eating the traditional three large meals a day. This

Abuse of "signing out" policy corrupts testing situations

BY Ryohei Ozaki

Copy/Managing Editor

There has been a recent epidemic sweeping the halls of our school, and it's not H1N1. Students peculiarly disappear on test days, having been signed out by their parents. The lenient policy of signing out from school allows any student to miss a class, especially when there is a test he or she forgot to study for.

According to the Student Handbook, an absence is legitimized only when a parent calls the respective assistant principal's office. While it seems this would deter abuse of the policy, it is not so. Students and their parents continue to take advantage of the "signing out" policy, and for various reasons, including to miss a test.

For example, let's say you're having a test in math class. You look around you and there are seats that seem to be empty every time there is an exam. Unless they have some convenient illness that strikes only when a test is scheduled, these students have been signed out by their parents.

This undoubtedly creates more work for the teacher. He or she must now take time out of their schedule to administer the test for the absent students separately. Furthermore, the missing students may get an unfair advantage by prying out the answers from those who have already taken the test.

While it seems counterintuitive, many students are completely willing to help out their peers when they miss a

test. This even happens when a teacher administers the same test to two different classes; students will try to find out the test questions from "the other class" beforehand. What is startling, however, is the ease with which test answers are revealed.

Unfortunately, I've witnessed this many times myself. Two different classes of the same subject were scheduled one right after the other. As our class came out of a test, the students in the next class were already voraciously crowding around us like a pack of hyenas. "Was it hard? What was on it? What was the essay question?"

I then see students answering each of these questions, in detail, even though it puts them at a clear disadvantage. It's as if the prey willingly gives itself up to the predator. See anything wrong with this picture?

When students sign themselves out from a test, they are unjustly benefitting in primarily two ways. One, they get an extra day to study for the exam, and two, they may know the answers to several questions.

Many teachers don't bother to make a separate test for those who take it later, as they shouldn't. They shouldn't have to spend time creating a completely different test of equal difficulty because a few students were absent. It is becoming clear, however, that this process may be necessary.

It is one thing when you're ill and you can't take a test. It is another when you just haven't studied enough or don't feel

"ready." The latter is no excuse to miss an exam, and certainly no justification to get an unfair advantage over the other students who responsibly prepared for the test.

I find it amusing when teachers say to a class, "Thank you everyone for being here, I appreciate it." Shouldn't we all be in school anyway, especially if there is a test being given? The teacher should not be thanking a class for being in school; it's our responsibility to do so.

Some teachers encourage their students to be present for tests by using alternate means. Some classes are awarded bonus points on the test if everyone is present for an exam. While this method is effective, it once again brings up the question whether students need to be enticed to take a test on a scheduled date.

There is no best option to counter this phenomenon. Students will most likely go out of their way to have parents schedule "doctor's appointments" conveniently during test periods. In the case that the student actually does have to leave, making the sign-out policy more strict will be faced with complaints.

The fact that students

missing tests is becoming a norm, however, is not acceptable. We might as well all skip tests and call in sick. The next time you want to sign out for a test, consider the sacrifices your teacher will be making for you and the unjust edge you are getting over your peers.



Eunice Kim

Charities need to minimize unnecessary expenses

by Sophia Jaffe

Assistant Opinions Editor

It's that time of year again. No matter what holiday you celebrate, you realize how lucky you are that you can spend it with friends or family in a nice, safe community. But what about those less fortunate than ourselves? Part of the holiday spirit is caring for others. We see opportunities to donate to or participate in charities all around us, but how efficiently are these organizations utilizing the money that they receive?

From the silicon wristbands to the incessant awareness pamphlets they send out to houses, charities could be using methods that would maximize their earnings in this tough economy when it is even more difficult for people to part with that extra dollar.

Charities should be looking for more ways in which they can minimize their production costs and maximize their fundraising during this holiday season as well as throughout the remainder of the year.

The bright yellow Livestrong bracelets from 2004 have become iconic. Everyone can notice those wristbands from a mile away. And ever since, charities worldwide have been trying to replicate this success.

However, there are flaws in trying to mimic the wristband. Some charities just give their version of the wristband away with any amount of donation. There is no problem if they are selling the wristbands for a value that is above their production costs, but they need not be given away as a reward for a donation.

The wristbands are wasteful on numerous levels. They waste oil and natural resources that are used to

manufacture and transport the bracelets. The bracelets waste money that could otherwise be better donated to the corresponding charity.

Also, because so many people have these silicon wristbands, they have lost their relevance. They come in all different colors, and people no longer even notice the bands or the charity that they are raising awareness for. The initial purpose of the bands has been lost because they have lost their meaning. A wristband should not be

given away as a reward for a donation. If you are going to donate to a charity, you should not be doing it for the superficial satisfaction of walking away with a useless bracelet.

"It is important that you should donate for the sake of donating," said sophomore Lauren Wilkin, "You shouldn't donate to get a free colorful bracelet."

Another flaw in the fundraising

method that many charities use is the mass distribution of pamphlets, calendars, or address labels to an extensive mailing list. Often when you donate to a charity, they add your name and address to their mailing lists so that they can send you random reminders that the charity is there and suggesting a donation.

These mailing lists are yet another example of wastefulness. They waste paper, oil, and money for something that most people view as a nuisance. It is quite annoying to receive unnecessary forms reminding a person of the charity's existence.

If you donate to a charity once, you're not going to forget that they exist. If you want to donate again, you could easily find your way to the website to make online donations. Donating online is a much easier and more eco-friendly way of donating to a charity.

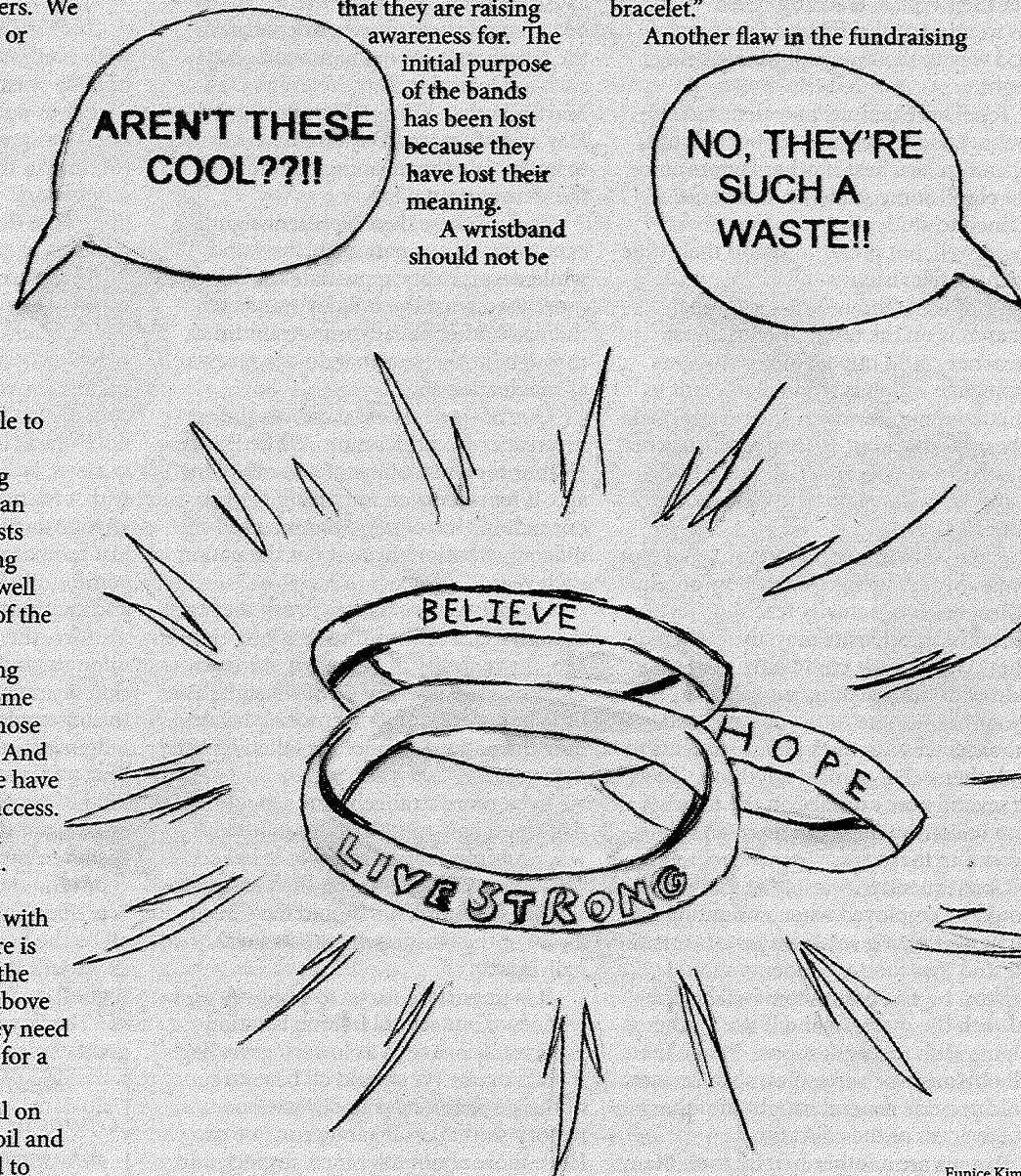
Snail-mail may prove to be counterproductive to the charity's objectives. It is quite possible that people will avoid donating to organizations in the first place because they don't want their name to be added to that infamous mailing list.

Nobody likes receiving numerous, unnecessary stickers or calendars that only annoy them. If a charity insists on these constant reminders, e-mails would be a much better and earth friendly option.

In this tough economic climate, charities should be looking for more ways to cut expenses and maximize donations for their cause. However, it seems that they are doing just the opposite.

The overused wristbands have lost meaning and money for the organization. Another flawed fundraising approach, the mailing lists, also prove to be wasteful and counterproductive.

Ridding us of these two fundraising approaches during this holiday season would make the holidays a little bit merrier for everyone.



Eunice Kim

Secularist bickering taints the holiday season spirit

by Evan Greenberg

Contributing Writer

The beginning of the cheerful days of the merry season also brings the bitterness, the adversarial dogma and the sensitivities; the negative sentiments of people who believe in secularism in the United States of America seem to arrive as fast as the first "Merry Christmas," is uttered.

Secularists and non-secularists have battled for decades with the fervor of a thousand religions against the inscription of a national holiday. It is an unfortunate battle, by all accounts.

There are those who would deem that the merry season is pulsating in grandeur, exhausts thousands of unneeded dollars and wears out the pockets of already economically unstable parents. It also takes blame for making those who do not celebrate the holiday uncomfortable and excluded.

But my opinion is the peaceful one; blindly pacifistic, ruthlessly stable. Let the faithless abound their faithlessness in their homes and let the religious pronounce their beliefs to a local public that shares them.

In the end, all of these "battles" over

the issue of secularism are fought for unjust reasons.

People who are concerned with political correctness continue to try to ruin our brief and tempered season of merriment. Those who do so are battling with the pillars of tradition in many homes of families throughout America. Can we not realize the pointlessness of this struggle?

Perhaps I'm being a little sentimental, but if everyone is in such a rush to give a gift to their eager children and decorate their houses in red, white and green swirls for the joys of a neighbor's smile, then why bother with the bitterness and the scowls? In the shallow roundabout between those who would diminish the holiday spirit and recuperate it, one thing is blazingly common: the urge to upset one another and cause debate in a continuous attacking environment.

This struggle is further exemplified by the debate over what music should be played on the radio. Often, you cannot turn to a station without being inundated by Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You" or Johnny Marks' "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." Although secularists are against the constant playing of joyful carols on the radio, the songs

set the holiday mood and are not necessarily bad. They increase the merriment and spirit of the holidays, and why would anyone want to rid of that?

In this week, with Christmas only a few days away after a countdown of months by many who celebrate this joyous holiday, the drums of both political storms have been beating, the sound waves even reaching the blandest members of the unbiased media.

It's good theater: the accusations of Christmas bashing and theological assaults. We, again, like every year, are bothered with this ridiculous nonsense while we try to embrace and celebrate the holiday spirit and mood.

But ultimately, the problem finds itself not at the root of an immediate discontent but an overall self-righteous and more enduring one. Is it the allure between the question of what is right and what is wrong that makes the debate so compelling? Because there is no clear answer to whether the country should recognize Christmas as a national holiday, there will always be a continuous heated debate between secularists and non-secularists—and also between those of other religions, such as those who celebrate Hannukah and Kwanzaa, as well

as those who do not celebrate any specific holiday at all during that time.

Perhaps, we as a common, civilized society just can't let go of the idea that our own individual's purposes aren't always the ones believed to be those of the common good.

In the end, if the holiday traditions of others should make people feel uncomfortable, they should simply accept it, rather than creating unnecessary disharmony in this holiday season which is meant to be harmonious and full of merriment for all.

The holiday season is a signaling of what the country may resemble in years to come. How many colors of the Christmas tree will remain after a new wind of traditions pours into our cities, shores and countrysides? In a country which prides itself on diversity, we should not be secularists but rather acceptors.

In conclusion, what seems as all but a changing of traditions is also sounded as but an ironic echo from the past. Now, in the midst of the culture war the real challenge to America and the fabled acceptance of those who inhabit it will be whether they can both peacefully blend new tradition with old and still keep the old in their hearts.

Editorials

Respect the Pledge of Allegiance

Before the announcements are made every morning, students are asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. While some teachers require their classes to respect the swearing of the Pledge, others are not as strict. Some teachers allow students in their classes during second period announcements to talk during the Pledge while other teachers begin their lessons during the recitation.

Witnessing these circumstances each day, *The Schreiber Times* staff would like to remind students that while reciting the Pledge is not mandatory, it should be respected. Students should at least remain quiet if they do not wish to stand.

Many people cannot hear the announcements because their peers are talking over them. Not only is this disrespectful when the Pledge is being announced, it defeats the purpose of the daily notices. Clubs and other groups that submit reminders for meetings and events do so for a reason.

If students are not listening—whether it be to the Pledge of Allegiance or the reminders—there is hardly any purpose for the announcements. With that said, students should be mindful when the PA is on, especially when the Pledge is being said.

It is up to the student to decide on the degree to which he or she will show “allegiance” to our country. Whether you sit or stand silently or actually recite the words with your right hand to your heart is a matter of personal concern. What shouldn't be called into question, however, is the need to remain silent as the slightest measure of respect. Teachers should not have to goad students into quieting down, especially when they are asked to stand.

In some classes, half of the students stand while the other half engages in conversation, apparently unaware of the announcements. If we can all stay quiet for a few moments every morning, students can both respect the Pledge as well as listen for important announcements that they might otherwise be missing.

In this respect, *The Schreiber Times* hopes that students will become more respectful when they hear the Pledge. The Pledge represents one's devotion to the United States of America and even if some students do not wish to stand, respect is deserved for the troops of our country and our government overall. Hopefully, in the near future, students recognize the importance of remaining quiet during this morning ritual.

Teacher evaluations necessary

Under our current system, teachers are rarely evaluated wholesomely. While the administration may examine New York State Regents grades, the abilities of our educators are never fully examined. An in-class observation conducted by an appropriate educator may, of course,

provide some insight, but the issue is that these reviews are somewhat untrustworthy; students may behave better than usual and teachers will almost certainly alter their typical teaching styles. With this in mind, it is difficult to pinpoint a good way to see how well we are being taught.

Tests, for example, may demonstrate what a student has learned, but is it fair to penalize teachers if other factors come into play? Some students do not feel inclined to study; they may have been taught well, but prefer to spend their time watching television.

Moreover, who is it that sets what material is on the tests? The teachers! A teacher could impart to her students knowledge which is wildly irrelevant to the curriculum to which she is supposed to be adhering...but so long as the teacher tests them on that material, no one will be any the wiser about the educational subterfuge.

Their performance, therefore, may not necessarily be a reflection of how good the teacher is at actually teaching. With this said, the opposite may also hold true. An excellent grade could have very little to do with the teaching, especially in this day and age where tutors abound and resources exist on the web for students to teach themselves almost anything. There are several note outlines on the internet from which students can learn and thus succeed in the class.

Consequently, a variety of methods should be employed when evaluating our teachers. Relying solely on tests is unreliable and inaccurate. Students should, perhaps, be asked how comfortable they feel with the material and if the teacher is helping with their questions. While there will obviously be some bias, such reviews could provide general insight into the effectiveness of the educator.

Parents are another helpful tool. Many are with their children as they study and do their homework, and thus form an opinion on the teacher and his/her class. They also speak to their children about school and may know something that the student may feel uncomfortable sharing with a guidance counselor or administrator. Surveys or evaluations, taking into account the parent's view, may be another tangible way to see how well our teachers are doing their jobs.

In Little Rock, Arkansas, school districts may soon be forced to implement a state-wide evaluation system. Officials are hoping that this will help schools clearly evaluate their teachers.

The proposed system takes into account test scores, organization, and the classroom environment, amongst other factors. They are trying to keep the evaluation empirical and avoid opinions and most students' bias. Often, though, these views may be accurate and extremely helpful to the schools and the district as a whole when evaluating their staff and teachers.

Clearly, it is impossible to evaluate our teachers in a completely accurate way. This does not mean, however, that we should not try.

The Schreiber Times believes that it is in the best interest of everyone involved with the school to better understand the dynamics of the classroom and the interactions between students and teach-

ers. The best way to do that would be to implement more means of evaluation, aside from our current, examination of Regents test scores.

Remembering historical events

There are certain federal holidays each year that we are all aware of, mainly because we get a day off for them. We have been taught throughout our education the significance of the national holidays such as Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day and Memorial Day. We have learned to appreciate the meaning behind each of these important days.

Each of these days represent significant times in our nation's history and while we probably appreciate the day off more than what the holiday stands for, there are other equally important times throughout the year that do not receive as much attention.

One of these recent days was the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. While Pearl Harbor took place almost seventy years ago, it represents an important time in our nation's history and has received significant attention throughout the nation each year.

However, it seems safe to say that even though it has occurred such a long time ago, the majority of Schreiber students, including members of our own staff, have little knowledge of its memorial day or how the nations honors the fallen on this day.

Even more strangely, our school's flag stood half-mast that day, but there was no explanation as to why it was so. This was a wrongdoing on the part of the school. The students should have been aware of the reason why the flag was half-mast.

It is important for us to be aware of whenever our school follows a nationwide tradition, such as lowering the flag to half-mast. We should all be aware of these solemn days in our nation's history so that, in the long run, we can learn more about tolerance, respect, and remembrance.

The faculty can play a role by mentioning these types of dates on the

morning announcements and teachers can bring it up for classroom discussion. With intolerance always present in today's society, it is important for us to remember the tragedies of the past to prevent similar ones in the future.

A happy and safe new year for all

The Schreiber Times staff would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

Let us not forget that although we ourselves are in happy, charitable moods, reveling in the snow and the break from schoolwork, there are still people out there who do not have everyone's best interests in mind.

Therefore, do not let your guard down if you are frolicking in Manhattan with your friends, don't walk around your neighborhood alone if you feel like enjoying the snowy exterior, and we implore you, please don't forget the golden rule: don't speak to strangers. Even around campus, ladies especially, always walk with a friend. This is not meant to scare anyone during this holiday season, it is just to raise awareness throughout the community how important it is to be safe and cautious.

Also, the dawn of the new year is upon us, and we are arriving at the inception of a new decade. Now is a good time to contemplate past occasional lapses in judgment, and to decide what kind of year we want to have; to determine what kind of people we want to be, and whether we want to act as forces of change in the world, or remain passive.

At the risk of sounding corny, *The Schreiber Times* staff hopes that you will all be the best you can be this new year, as we will strive as a staff to put out the highest quality newspaper we are capable of. Thank you, happy holidays, and make good choices!

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on Jan. 7. All new writers are welcome!

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.

House decorations throughout town promote holiday spirit

From lights to wreaths to menorahs, people display seasonal holiday cheer

by Emily Sanders

Contributing Writer

How can a Schreiber student tell that the holiday season has arrived? Christmas lights illuminate the streets, inflatable reindeer sit on lawns, and embellished wreaths hang on doors. During the holidays, it is traditional for families from all over the country to decorate their houses. Instead of each member of the family decorating different rooms of the house, families come together putting up intricate decorations. Many Schreiber students are so excited for the holidays that they decorate their houses weeks in advance.

"It's a family tradition, and something we can all come together to do. I love walking home to see my house decorated," said freshman Ariana DiPreta. It helps bring the holiday season festivities into the town's eye.

DiPreta, whose house is one of the most decorated in town, puts up Christmas lights, light-up reindeer, inflatable soldiers, a blow-up Santa, a wreath with cranberries and a spotlight, and ornaments on her tree. Other popular items are light-up candy canes and blow up elves. Some of the more religious Christmas decorations, rather



Chris Yap

Houses such as this one on Bogart Avenue can be found all over Port Washington during the holiday season. Popular decorations include light-up snowmen, reindeer, and snowflakes.

than generic ones like lights or reindeer, are scenes from the birth of Jesus.

The Port Washington community's cultural and religious diversity is evident when there are many types of decorations suitable for different religions. One of the best things about holiday house

decorations is that the decorations can represent any religion or even no religion at all. Freshman Michelle Fried puts a light-up menorah in her window along with Hanukkah pictures.

Senior Alexandra Buonadonna, whose family celebrates both Hanukkah and Christmas, puts up both types of decorations. Any holiday can be celebrated with decorations. Any religious holiday can be shown with decorations and our town does a great job of showing what holidays we celebrate.

"I like to celebrate both holidays with my family, so I put up both Christmas lights and a Hanukkah menorah," said Buonadonna. Decorating gives me a chance to spend more time with my family, and that brings us closer together. However, it's a big hassle to clean up decorations, and it wastes a lot of electricity, so I can understand why some people don't. Some neighbors may not enjoy people putting up bright lights, so try not to make your lights too bright.

Staff Profile: John Caputo

by Zach Halperin

Assistant Features Editor

Every morning, beginning at 7, one man takes his position in front of the oval in order to keep the students safe. Although most students see this man every morning, the majority of students do not know the name or storied history of service of this arbiter of traffic safety, Mr. John Caputo. This man, the stalwart defender of students' safety, has been directing traffic at the school since 1991, longer than almost every student in Schreiber has been alive.

Mr. Caputo almost never misses a day; he is outside in any weather, rain or shine. Focused intently on preserving order in the often chaotic flow of morning traffic, Mr. Caputo is almost never distracted. He makes sure cars go in the correct direction and that students can cross the precarious traffic circle safely. After directing the morning traffic, he can often be found in the cafeteria conversing with teachers and students.

Mr. Caputo, born and raised in Port Washington, is married with four sons and four grandchildren. He served in the

army as a combat engineer and served in World War II in Europe for many years before being discharged. After he returned home, he decided to give back to his hometown community.

Before becoming an employee of the school district, Mr. Caputo worked as a special police officer from 1953 to 1980 in Port Washington, directing traffic on local streets. Afterwards, he was head custodial engineer at Guggenheim, where he worked until he transitioned to a custodial position at Schreiber. Mr. Caputo worked as a custodian at Schreiber and cleaned her halls and blackboards until 1991, when he assumed his present day position as the traffic director.

Mr. Caputo graduated from this school and still lives in Port Washington. He is an avid Yankee fan. Needless to say, he loves his town and his job at Schreiber. To know that he helps the school function daily and makes the morning commute a safe one gives him great pride.

Mr. Caputo provides an essential service, upholding the general safety and impacting our school in a way that is nothing but positive.

Family and consumer sciences department focuses on careers

by Laura de Bruin

Contributing Writer

Hands-on fun and practical knowledge are what students in the family and consumer science department experience and emphasize. It is all about learning skills that you will use in the future. The students who spend time in the family and consumer science rooms are able to take a break from traditional academics and the stress it can bring to learn practical everyday skills.

"Family and consumer science is a nice change from academics," said Ms. Sally Reinhardt, one of the two teachers in the department. "There are no tests and the final exam in the cooking classes is making a three course meal."

The family and consumer science department offers an extensive course selection that ranges far beyond baking cookies and focuses on parenting, sewing, culture exploration and nutrition. Each course fixates on a different aspect of living in the real world.

Human Development is a course that focuses on skills needed to become a teacher or parent. In these classes, students are taught how to handle and take care of children from birth to age eight. These students have first hand experiences with children as they intern twice a week in a Daly or Pre-K classroom.

In Foods and Nutrition, students learn not just how to cook food, but how to choose food wisely, assess the nutrition of different foods, and how to have a healthy diet. Students learn about making healthy main dishes and snacks, low-fat foods and dessert, how to shop for food and how to entertain guests. Recently, in November, students in the Food and Nutrition classes prepared a Thanksgiving dinner that filled the school with the sumptuous aromas of the holiday. The classes also created a Holiday Party menu to make and eat.

While Food and Nutrition teaches about basic skills related to food, Culture and Foods focuses on individual foods that are integral parts of international cultures.

Students who take the Clothing and Textiles class learn how to sew, a small yet crucial life skill. Other than learning how to sew on a button, students are exposed to the fashion industry, and what jobs one can find in the competitive fashion arena. Housing and Development focuses on a task that all of us will have to face one day, and that is finding a house or apartment and learning how to furnish it. Similarly to Clothing and Textiles, this class teaches students what kinds of jobs are offered in the internal decorating industry. By taking these two classes, students can receive an art credit while learning skills that can be used in everyday life.

The family and consumer science department invites professionals to come and talk about their jobs to the students. This helps students see what it is really like to work in particular fields and helps them explore their career aspirations. Parents are also invited to come and share what their professions are like. When these visitors come, students' minds are opened to different possibilities of jobs that they could have when they are older.

"Family and consumer science has been a great elective for me because it has taught me about skills that are fun but can be necessary for jobs that I may want to explore in the future," said freshman Holly Hubsher.

When the students who partake in these classes graduate they often pursue the professions related to these classes. For example, many of the students that took the Human Development course have gone on to become teachers and parents. Cooking, sewing, parenting, teaching, nutrition, entertaining and fashion are just a few of the many things that Ms. Sally Reinhardt and Ms. Robin Block teach to their students in this department.

Although the United States was founded by groups of Protestant religious refugees, America has diversified greatly since the days of Pocahontas. Now, Christians both Protestant and Catholic, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, and countless other religious followings have been able to take root on American soil. This is no different in Schreiber. As the nation diversified, so did the school. By now, all of the aforementioned religions, as well as atheism and still other religions, can be found within Schreiber's walls.

For as many students as there are in

exact numbers are not known, followers of numerous Protestant denominations can be found. Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and countless other sects of Protestantism are recognizable within the school. Despite church organizations and self-identification, it is impossible to truly represent all denominations held under the banner of Protestantism.

A prominent source of Christian influence in the school is Jesus and Me in a 1-2-1 Relationship, or JAM for short. Otherwise known as the "Christian Club," JAM, according to its student president, senior Douly Yang, the majority of the club is Presbyterian, a branch of Protestantism.

are, people are almost always accepting of your religion."

Founded, as any AP European History student would know, in Germany in the early 16th century, Protestantism has long been a dominant religion in America. Famously, the "protestant work ethic" and other values were some of the formative aspects of the Constitution in the late 1700s. Despite the once seemingly omnipresent influence of Protestantism, Schreiber seems to have a more diverse religious body.

While Protestantism is a common branch of Christianity in the school, a reminder of Christianity's other major branch, Catholicism, can be found right

bat mitzvah.

Despite the fact that Protestantism was the predominantly practiced religion in America, Catholicism predates the former by hundreds of years. Like the rest of America, Protestantism holds more devotees than Catholicism does in the school. Despite this fact, little seems to be known about the formative religion other than what is taught by social studies teachers.

"Nobody knows what Catholicism is. I feel like the town is dominated by one religion. People know the basics, the cross, Christmas, Easter, and other things but nobody really knows what the difference between Catholicism and Christianity is," said Bricault.

Do our students believe?

Religion and its place in students' lives

Schreiber (roughly 1,500), there are undoubtedly nearly as many religious views and intensities of devotion. For many, however, the true religious tenure of the school is obscured. Views seem to range from atheistic to devout, and the great number of religions practiced by students ensures that each has a presence in the school. This diversity, a boon to the cultural interest of the school has also made an atmosphere in which there is no predominant religion. While some students differ on what god they revere, others vary in how often they attend service, and others in their level of belief, Schreiber has become a melting pot of countless religions.

The experiences of those who follow different religions can vary greatly depending on location and the level of piety a person portrays. Like the way that no two people tell a story the same way, the experience of each religious following in Schreiber is individual and unlike any other. While each of the diverse religious groups in Schreiber has a distinct story and experience to tell, it is near impossible to fully categorize every one. Each student in the school differs on their religious affiliation and level of devotion, but the broad experiences of some religions are possible to relate.

According to a census in the World Factbook (www.cia.gov), approximately 51.3% of Americans identify themselves as being Protestant. In Schreiber, although

Another source of Christian influence, specifically Protestant, is the church youth group Campus Life, or CL. Taking place at the Lutheran Church, CL, CL2, a youthgroup for younger kids, and other branch-offs of the groups, have developed a following that takes part in numerous annual traditions and trips (For more information on these, and other groups, see the side bar on the far right page).

For students who practice any of the many forms of Protestantism, it seems

For many students, the true religious tenure of the school is obscured. Religious views seem to range from atheistic to devout.

that Schreiber is a welcoming place.

"I don't think that people are really openly religious one way or another but it depends who you are with," said junior Sara Giraldo. "But no matter what you

down the street at St. Peter's Church. According to the same CIA website, 23.9% of America identifies as Catholic. Similarly to Protestantism, Catholicism encompasses a wide range of doctrines and ideals.

Schreiber, as a public school, is not associated with any religious group, but numerous students from Port Washington schools have entered Schreiber from private, religiously affiliated schools. St. Peter's, in Port Washington, Sacred Heart, St. Mary's, and a host of other Catholic schools have been feeding transfer students into Weber and Schreiber for years.

"I went to St. Peter's and because it was a religious school, we went to church during the school day but that's the most exposure we had to it. I don't think that coming to Schreiber has changed my religion," said junior Alex Bricault.

Although she left St. Peter's as a school, Bricault still teaches religious school to younger students during the weeknights. The practice of going to a religious education class after school is common throughout Schreiber, especially for those seeking to make communion or to have a bar or

While some students have been immersed in their religion at another school or through other means, students who attend only Schreiber often seem to look for a Catholic presence. Some feel that, compared to other religions, Catholicism has taken a lower profile in the school. However, like any group, stereotypes or rumors about Catholicism can be heard, albeit not loudly, in Schreiber's halls.

"It's not frowned upon but its sort of disregarded," Bricault said. "But I think that Catholics, Christians, however you want to say it, are conceived as a more conservative people. I try not to pay attention to people who express views like that."

Like many religions, Catholicism features many rights of passage, including baptism, communion and confirmation. While such ceremonies are landmarks in a person's religion experience, it can be hard to maintain a deep connection with a faith for some students as they age, or as other commitments complicate their lives and schedules.

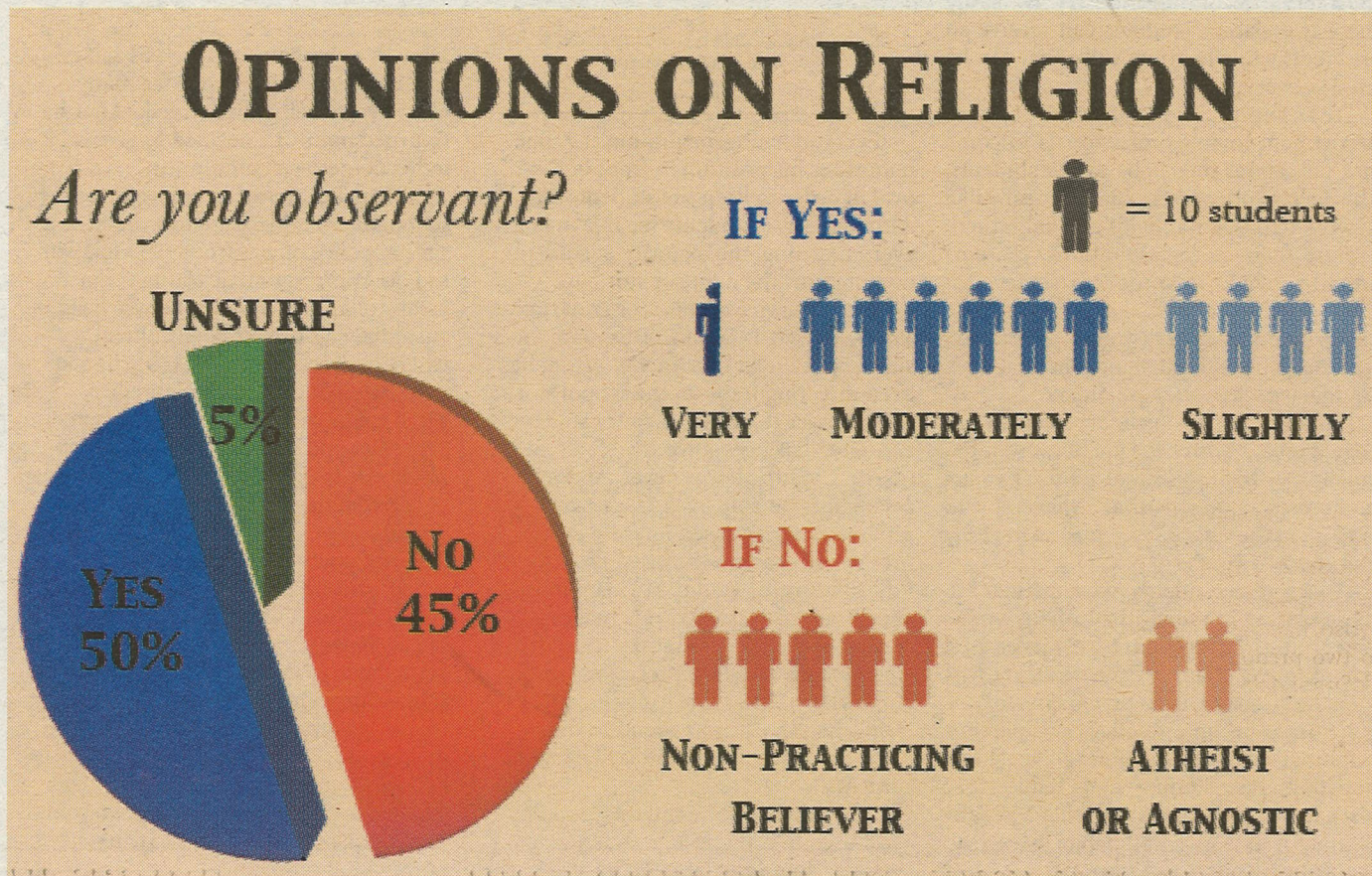
"I went through religious education at St. Peter's. I had my communion and I made my confirmation there. I understand about my religion and I try to practice it in my own life but I'm not someone that's always going to church but I do consider myself religious," said junior Bridgett McDermott.

Aside from the numerous branches of Christianity, a plethora of religious views are alive in Schreiber. Like many schools on the north shore of Long Island, Schreiber can boast a population of Jewish followers higher than many other high schools in the country.

As with nearly any religion, Judaism has multiple reincarnations as well. In town, there are at least three temples: a reform temple, a conservative temple, and an orthodox temple. The attitude of, and towards, any religion differs, and this is true of Judaism as well.

"I don't consider Schreiber to be a Jewish school any more than I consider it to be any kind of Christian or Catholic school," said senior Jonny Schechner, referring to assertions of some that Schreiber has an unusually large Jewish population. Many students, however, both Jewish and otherwise, see it differently.

The fact that Port Washington has a comparably high Jewish population in respect to the rest of the country has meant



that the town, and others on Long Island, have become a bastion of Judaism.

"Well, I know that there is a sense of Jewish pride in a lot of kids in Port Washington," said junior Kyra Schor, who is a member of Temple Beth Israel. "But there's also other groups so it sort of balances out. I mean, I feel like there are a lot of kids expressing their pride in their religion in a lot of ways. I don't really notice the Jewish presence more, or that it is overpowering any other religion."

As with every group, religious or not, there is an issue that is especially sensitive, for many Jewish students: the joke. Jokes and jibes about Jews and Jewish stereotypes are seemingly rampant in not just Schreiber, but society at large. In the popular show *South Park*, for example, a main character's mother is portrayed as a stereotypical Jewish mother, being over-protective and controlling. Despite the obvious falsity of such stereotypical views, Jewish jokes still abound.

However, even though jokes can still be heard in Schreiber, some students think that because of the higher population of Jews in the school, there is a different tenor to such jibes.

"You're going to get jokes and stereotyping anywhere, but to be honest in our town, I've experienced a lot less here than in other towns," Schor said. When I visit people in other towns on Long Island, people can think it's hilarious to make fun of Jews or to make jokes. But I feel like Port Washington people are a little more understanding and sensitive, even if they're not Jewish."

While the school has a majority of Judeo-Christian aligning students, other religions have presented a strong presence as well. Hinduism, a religion that is often practiced by Indians, its place of origin being India, is a present force alongside other, "Western," religions. However, because the school, and country at large, is predominantly Judeo-Christian, other

Although laws limit how outwardly people can display their religion in public schools, the mood in Schreiber, according to many students, is not a religious atmosphere.

religions like Hinduism can be misunderstood.

"New York has such a high density of Jewish and Christian people in comparison to Southeastern Asians that people are more accustomed to Jewish and Christian traditions and ideals," said junior Jai Sajani. "Most people rely more on stereotyping and the projections of the media to infer about lesser-practiced religions like Hinduism."

Those who follow Hinduism, just like the devotees of any religion, have principals to adhere to. A commonly misunderstood area of Hinduism is its relation to food, as many Hindus are vegetarians. Although the number of practicing Hindus is much smaller than that of Jews or Christians, it does not seem that the religion is lost among a sea of more prominent groups.

"In the 11th grade, 4 out of approximately 350 people are Hindu. It seems that this is also a fairly good representation of other grades as well," Sajani said. "Although it can be overshadowed, there is still a strong enough base for other students to be aware of it."

Religious Organizations

While Schreiber practices innumerable religions, along with a wide spectrum of how devout the students are, there are also more organized places for students to express their religion. Both in the school and out, religious groups other than those affiliated with places of worship, such as churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques, have provided atmospheres in which kids can practice and learn about religion.

In the school, groups like Jesus and Me in a 1-2-1 Relationship (JAM) and Jewish Student Union (JSU), have become hallmarks of the school. While the groups have come under question because of their obvious religious ties, they are not technically clubs, which means that they do not get the same funding and rights as other clubs, such as Young Historians or the Yearbook club.

"I'm not a club advisor exactly," said Ms. Kathleen McIntosh, a teacher in the English Department. "I'm a supervisor. We're a group, not a club. Because we are religious, it's sort of a gray area between the two."

JAM also works with other religious clubs from schools around Long Island. Often, the group of students will take "field trips" to meet with these student groups, and other organizations as well.

"Our trips as a group are always unofficial. Technically we're just going as friends," said senior Douilly Yang, the student president of JAM. "A few months ago we had a barbeque with other Christian clubs. We also work with an organization called Seekers. It's a group of pastors that hosts events like that. They help to connect high school faith clubs. I like to go to the events because it makes me feel more connected to the Christian community."

Although groups like JAM exist, the school administration must also limit religious expression in order to maintain neutrality. When the window painting was taking place in the cafeteria, for example, students were not allowed to paint depictions of Santa Claus or other holiday-specific icons.

Because of JAM's non-club configuration, they are not allowed to have official trips, hence their involvement with groups like Seekers.

"I think that the school policy is sort of restrictive," Yang said. "Officially we're not even called the Christian Club. Instead we're JAM 1-2-1. Personally, I think that they're overdoing it."

JAM meets on Tuesdays in Ms. McIntosh's room, 129. During the meetings, the group prays together and discusses religious topics. According to Yang, right now the group has "adopted" a child in the Philippines that they donate money to and pray for weekly.

Other than JAM, there is one other well-known school religious group: the JSU. In the group, students aim to teach other students about Judaism. JSU also takes part in activities that can help to teach about the religion.

"We're an organization that helps people in the public schools learn about Judaism and their religion," said junior Sela Grabiner. "It's about teaching kids."

While they are both faith-based organizations, the two differ. JSU, in contrast to JAM, does not have prayer sessions during the meetings. The emphasis in JSU is more about outreach to the school community, as opposed to JAM's more introverted mentality.

"Last week we made menorahs for kids," Grabiner said. "Although our leader said a blessing over the menorahs we didn't pray in any other way. We don't pray at the meetings."

Although the two groups represent different religions and have opposing methods of conducting meetings, they each support one message: all are welcome.

"It's open to anyone. Whether they want to come to learn more about their religion if they're Jewish, or if somebody comes with a specific question or to learn about a different religion, we always welcome them and try to answer their questions," Grabiner said of JSU.

"We have non-Christians come to our club as well. They're totally welcome, no matter what faith they are," said Yang.

Unlike many other religions, Hinduism is strongly tied to an ethnicity as well. This individual aspect of the religion can also eclipse the Hindu influence on the school, since the two groups can be so closely related.

"If people make jokes its more about Indians and not Hindus," said junior Aditi Schroff. "We Indians joke about it but I don't think other people really joke about it or talk about Hinduism."

While the school has a small Hindu population, the local area does as well. According to one student, the closest Hindu temple is not even in a neighboring town. The separation of a person from a strong, centralized influence, like a place of worship, can lessen the impact of a religion on its followers.

"I feel like because I didn't grow up in India I'm not as religious. I still take part in ceremonies but I don't lead them or understand their significance fully," Schroff said. "Christians and Jews are all more religious because there are so many synagogues and churches nearby. I feel like I'm more removed that I'm not exposed to Hinduism as much."

Another religion that originated in the East, Islam is perhaps the most talked about religion. Because of the prominence of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, both devoutly Muslim countries, the religion has been at the forefront of the national discussion for years. Similarly to jokes about Jewish stereotypes, many Muslims feel that they must overcome images of Muslims portrayed in the media.

"Because I 'look Muslim' I always get stopped in the airport," said one student.

Also, like other religions, Islam is split into two predominant groups: the Shiite and Sunni followings. However, unlike the differences between other religious groups, the Catholics and Protestants for example, it seems that fewer understand how these two groups are different.

"I know that the two different groups exist, and that they have differences, but I just don't know what they are. I must

have learned in Global but I forgot," said one non-Muslim student who wished to remain anonymous.

Although Global I teachers may be disappointed that students do not remember their lessons from ninth grade, like people of many other religions, students do not seem to feel a current of Islam in the school.

"There's no feeling of Islam at all. This school is not very Muslim," said junior Nick Autz. "If there were any in the school, they all graduated years ago. I don't think that there are any anti-Muslim feelings in the school and I've never noticed any before, but I don't think that there's a strong chance that there would be any because there's no real Muslim culture in the school."

While the school may have students who practice a multitude of religions, the tenor of the school overall is not one of religious piety. Because of state and federal laws, like the laws limiting the separation of church and state, public or school-organized prayer and other religious devotions are banned in public schools.

Controversies have been sparked for decades over the issue. Multiple times, activities like prayer in schools, and decorations, such as courthouses that have inscriptions of the 10 Commandments on the property, have raised nation-wide hysteria.

Although laws limit how outwardly people can display their religion on public grounds, the mood in Schreiber, according to many students, is not particularly religious anyway.

"The school is so diverse that everybody just accepts everybody else's religion or religious views," said junior Annabelle May. "Overall, no one is disparaging towards anybody else."

While the school has no particular religious affiliation or mood, and there are few incidents of religious bigotry, some religions are more in the public eye than others. For example, although most were years ago, bar and bat mitzvah clothing

is still worn in the school frequently. Although not expressly religious, such clothing can publicize Judaism.

"When I teach Religious Formation at St. Peter's and the kids are in sixth grade, they frequently bring up Judaism as if they want to be Jewish; often because of the image that is created in our schools by Jewish celebrations. They see the image of having this grand party in all of the clothing and wonder why they can't have one," Bricault said.

Although there are doubtlessly more religions in the school, and more views on each religion, there seems to be a consensus of students.

While each religion has a following, there are some students who have no following at all. Schreiber has a population of atheist, as well as agnostic, students, some of who are more outspoken than others.

Unknown to many, the difference between atheism and agnosticism is pronounced. According to dictionary.com, an agnostic is one who: "believes that it is impossible to know whether there is a God or one who is skeptical about the existence of God but does not profess true atheism." Conversely, an atheist is a person who: "denies or disbelieves the existence of a supreme being or beings."

Based on the secular nature of the school, atheism and agnosticism are often overlooked as an integral part of the school's religious fabric. However, the unorganized beliefs of the two groups can range from a disapproval of religion, to passive disbelief, to a questioning attitude towards God and about faith.

"I consider myself atheist," said May. "I don't feel any pressure to conform to a religion, nor do I feel that anybody should conform to mine. I think that's a common misconception about atheists. We don't hate religion, we just don't believe in it."

Reported by Laura Werle

Morning pledge becomes disregarded among announcements

Students are less likely to say pledge of allegiance as teachers reduce emphasis

By Kaia de Bruin

Staff Writer

When walking around Schreiber on any given morning, it is difficult to find a classroom in which each student is dutifully reciting the pledge of allegiance. Although it would be difficult to accuse the majority of the student body of a lack of patriotism, seemingly little attention is paid to the long-lived practice of saying the Pledge every morning.

Most students do not seem to have a particular reason for not saying the Pledge; and it would seem that they ignore it for the same reason that the majority of classes ignore the announcements in the morning. The Pledge is said during the extra five minutes each morning that can be used for catching up with friends, talking to teachers, or finishing homework at the last minute.

"I ignore it," said junior Jason Hubsher, citing talking with his friends as his reason for not paying attention to the Pledge. Others said that they stand up during the Pledge, but don't say it.

The Pledge of Allegiance has been a part of the lives of American schoolchildren since 1892, when it was written by Francis Bellamy. President Benjamin Harrison was responsible for the beginning of the Pledge's use in public schools. Throughout

the years, the Pledge has gone through slight changes in wording; the most recent change being the addition of the phrase: "under God."

This part, arguably the most controversial section of the morning ritual, has brought up debate ever since its addition in 1954. There have been court

It seems that the majority of classes ignore the pledge in the morning... Some teachers require students to be quiet and respectful during the Pledge, but they seem to be in the minority.

cases that reached the Supreme Court about whether it was constitutional to include God in a patriotic oath like the pledge, prosecutors sighting the separation of church and state.

Many believe that it is unfair and unjust

to mention God in the Pledge, because it violates freedom of religion, especially if it is presented to students in public school every morning. Others protest the Pledge, saying that it is undemocratic, and that pledges of its nature usually exist in totalitarian states. However, Schreiber students don't seem to have such lofty motives for not saying the Pledge.

"It's just become a morning routine and no one finds much meaning in it anymore," said junior Michael Graf. "It's not as important as it used to be."

Students have every right not to say the Pledge, if they don't want to, or if they feel that it contradicts their beliefs. A 1940 Supreme Court case ruled that students in public schools could be forced to say the Pledge, but the decision was overturned just three years later.

Some teachers require students to be quiet and respectful during the Pledge, but they seem to be in the minority. Although they don't have the power to compel students to say the Pledge, teachers are allowed to make them be quiet.

"I never make kids stand up for the pledge, but it seems as if most kids do anyway, so I don't see the need to take too much control," said Ms. Jennifer Sacha.

It is much more common in the elementary schools, and at Weber, for students to be required to stand for the Pledge every morning. Everyone

can remember learning the Pledge in elementary school. However, it has been argued that young children shouldn't have to say it, since they don't understand its meaning.

According to current freshmen, at Weber, they had to stand for the Pledge, or be quiet while it was recited in all of their classes, and that talking during the Pledge was not tolerated. They seem to have carried that up to Schreiber, and a great number of freshmen still stand and repeat the Pledge each day. Contrarily, the few upperclassmen that do actually stand for the Pledge are unlikely to say it as well.

"Most of the time, I don't even stand for the pledge. I'm either working, or in the middle of a conversation. It just doesn't seem that important as when I was an underclassman," said senior Alex Beall.

Although the Pledge has become little more than a hollow ritual for many, it is still an important facet of American history and culture; it holds significance for many people in our country. Schreiber students might not verbally affirm their dedication to their country every morning, but that doesn't mean that they're unpatriotic.

Students have different reasons for not saying the Pledge; those who don't say the Pledge might seem apathetic to some, and just normal to others, but everyone makes their own choice when it comes to the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chamber of Commerce and BID work together to decorate our town

By Ryan Havens

Contributing Writer

The holiday season is upon us and our town is once again showing its annually revived spirit. Every year the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Improvement District of Port Washington work together to decorate the town for the season. Both groups provide specific decorations around town.

The Chamber of Commerce is responsible for the lamppost decorations along the streets. They acquire garlands from florists around town to hang on the lampposts. According to Bobbie Polay, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce, 65 garlands complete with lights and bows are used to decorate the lampposts. This decoration design has been used for about ten years and is spearheaded by the holiday decorations committee, led by Marie Marcellino. Although feedback from the townspeople is generally positive, there are several problems with the Chamber's operations.

Money is always needed for work to be done, and the Chamber of Commerce's annual holiday venture is no exception. The money for the decorations comes from fundraisers and the donations from the community. Because of the variant nature of this type of funding, the amount of money changes depending on the donations.

Last year, for instance, there was not enough money raised for the decorations in part because of the recession. Ms. Polay is hopeful that more money will be raised this year as the U.S. economy strengthens. The Chamber of Commerce also runs a program to raise money called "Adopt-A-Lamppost." With this plan, a person or group can donate \$100 or more

to "own" a lamppost in town. It works much the same as the common "Adopt-a-Highway" campaign. Over the past few years, the project has worked well, but the Chamber of Commerce still is uneasy about obtaining funds each year.

In addition to holiday decorations, the Chamber of Commerce runs many events around town. The Chamber is responsible for Harborfest, a very popular end-of-summer event. The goal of Harborfest, according to Ms. Polay, is to bring attention to the waterfront's beauty and is used to emphasize that we are a waterfront town. At Harborfest, vendors sell homemade goods and games and fundraisers are gathered around the town dock and lower Main Street. It also runs many children's activities, such as craft shows and model boat races in town.

While the Chamber of Commerce is responsible for the lampposts, the Greater Port Washington Business Improvement District (BID) is accountable for the light-up snowflakes that adorn many major streets, from Main Street to Manorhaven Boulevard.

Roy Smithheimer, representative of the BID, explained that in addition to the single glowing snowflakes, the BID also puts up swags, the overhead displays of multiple snowflakes and scrolling garlands of lights. There are around 60 snowflakes put up on roads such as Main Street, Port Washington Boulevard, and Shore Road. The lights are eco-friendly, powered by solar energy.

The snowflakes are stored year-round, but when the time comes to put them up, the BID first checks for broken bulbs and then hires electricians to plug them in. The Business Improvement District's efforts are powered by tax dollars. Because of this steady income, the BID escapes the annual monetary ordeal of the Chamber

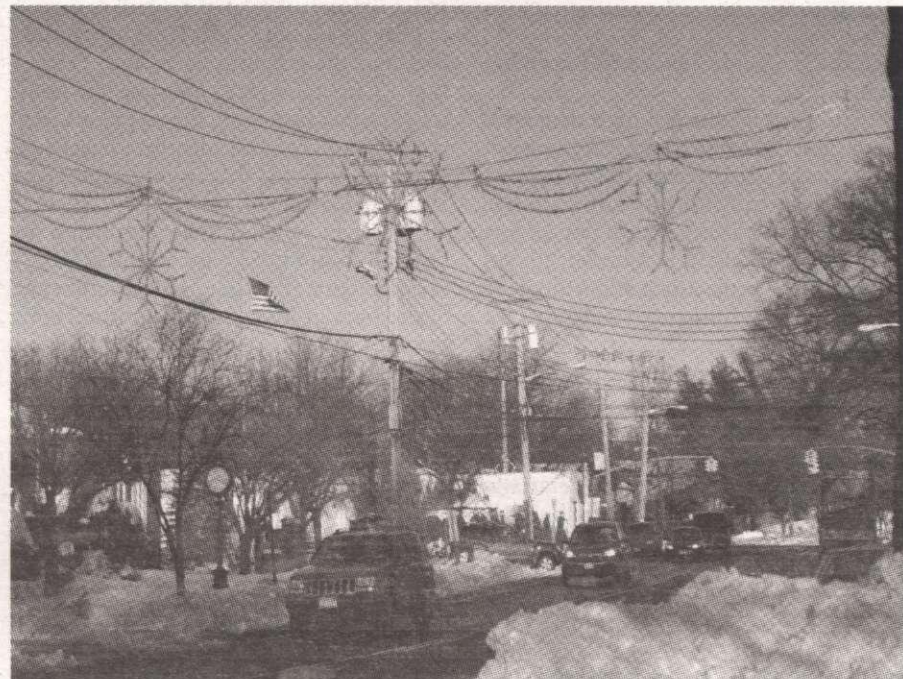
of Commerce.

Other than holiday decorations, the BID works on many community projects. They have placed benches along the sidewalks and renovated sidewalks as part of a streetscape improvement project. They have also installed numerous clocks in places such as the railroad station and in the village of Manorhaven. To show our town's marine heritage, the BID has had plain street signs replaced with ones bearing a small sailboat emblem.

The Business Improvement District also receives many grants from the state to renovate different areas of town. They

spent \$200,000 beautifying Main Street and they look to do similar projects in Manorhaven. They are also working to renovate old, run-down buildings to turn them into popular destinations. The BID works tirelessly to improve our town.

The holiday decorations in Port Washington, aside from the obvious seasonal significance, are a sign of the cooperation among the groups that operate in our town. The festive spirit shines bright as the snowflakes and lampposts produce a spectacular display for the winter holidays.



Laura Werle

The snowflakes, displayed above in Manorhaven, are an annual holiday decoration and are a tradition in the Port Washington community. They are provided by the Port Washington Business Improvement District, an organization that also works on beautifying the streets and abandoned buildings in our town.

Mascot in question: A referendum on the viking of Schreiber

By Brian Kennedy

Assistant Features Editor

As taken from its dictionary definition, a mascot is a person, animal, or object adopted by a group as its representative symbol. Although the term itself was not used readily until the twentieth century, mascots have had a long history of living up to their definition. In ancient Rome, the Aquila, a golden animal of some sort fixed upon a pole, took the form of a legion's mascot, with each animal representing certain qualities. Mascots represent not only the people, but also what they believe, and their belief in each other.

While the Aquila was a symbol of unity in battle, not all mascots are highly serious either. The British army has long cherished the use of ceremonial goats and bulldogs, and fiercely defends the right to use a mascot. Countries have also taken up mascots in several different forms, prominent examples being the British lion or the American bald eagle.

In more recent times, the grandiose past of the mascot has been largely forgotten, but mascots still hold a highly significant role in our culture. College sports teams represent perhaps the most committed supporters of mascots. The University of Georgia's Uga, a diminutive

bulldog, has long occupied the limelight and is the only mascot in history to attend the Heisman Award ceremonies. The leprechaun emblem of Notre Dame has become a symbol for not just the Fighting Irish sports teams, but for the entire school. The iconic green-clad man has grown beyond the boundaries of the school, often being seen on shirts around the country.

Just like the leprechaun, Schreiber's Viking has long been an effective mascot, allowing school spirit and a relative sense of identity to rally around its bearded locks. But by examining the Viking's place in the school, when compared to historical and other present day examples of mascots, our beloved sea-faring villain's role is often brought into question, in the most basic representative and symbolic sense. Vikings, who for a period of several centuries terrorized Northern Europe, hold an odd position as a representative symbol of Schreiber as a physical entity. Schreiber is decidedly non-violent, and while Port Washington had a large Dutch population at certain points in its past, it has always been lacking a substantial Scandinavian heritage.

Ultimately, the reasons why the Viking is our mascot lessens in importance when compared to the physical attitude towards the Viking as a representation of what Schreiber stands for. While the origin of the mascot is clouded by history, as well as why we chose the barbaric man to

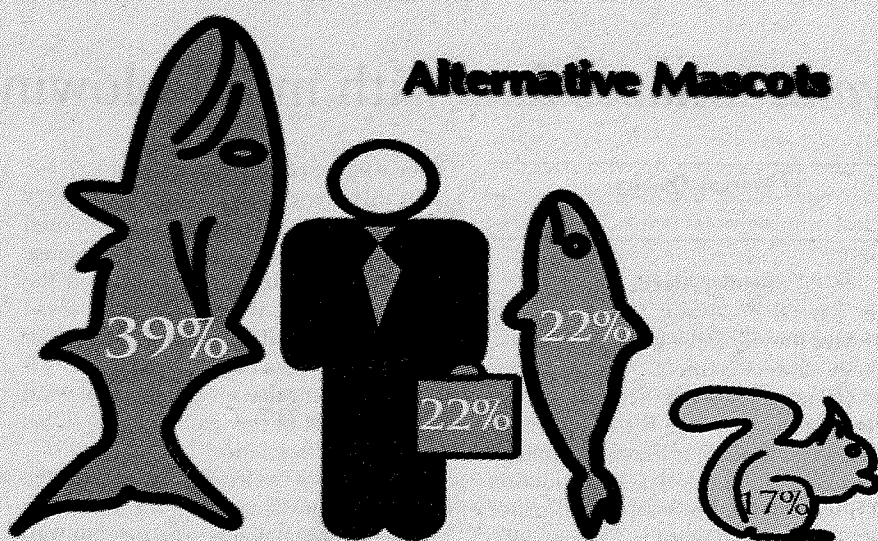
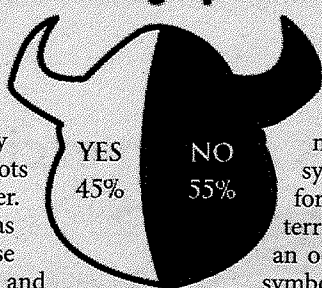
represent us, the most important issue is not why, but how: how the students react to the mascot and how much they think it represents the school is the crux of the matter. As discussed, an effective mascot is a representation of the group who uses it, so the fundamental question arises: if Schreiber was a recently post-pubescent sixteen year old looking in a mirror, what would it see? The current situation suggests the metaphorical mirror would reflect a grizzled, significantly bearded, blood stained Norseman staring back.

However, when this question was asked, through a more formal posturing, of a significant portion of Schreiber students, the answers suggested otherwise. While the statistical divide was not huge,

a substantial amount of students said that they do not think that a bearded Nordic male would stare back at the student body. In fact, when given the other choices of a squirrel, stockbroker, porpoise, or barracuda, most responders supported a barracuda as a hypothetical mascot.

The results point towards a student body that, when forced to confront the reality of a Schreiber Viking, offers a slight rebuke instead of a familiar embrace. The victory of the barracuda, a fierce, six foot long, sea-borne carnivore, suggests a mild rejection of the Viking, but also helps explain the sometimes inexplicable reasons why groups choose certain symbols to represent themselves.

Does a Viking represent us?



Restaurant Review Battle of the Bakeries

By Blake and Reid Mergler

Opinions Editor and Sports Editor

During the Holiday Season, Port Washington's bakeries cater to all occasions, whether it is a family get together or a party with friends. Each bakery offers something sweet to add to the holiday spirit. Whatever your favorite dessert is, there is definitely a treat at one of the bakeries in this town.

Baked to Perfection

Established in 1986, Baked to Perfection prides itself on being the "originators" in Port Washington. This bakery is summed up with its motto, "fun, food and excitement." Producing over 200 items each day, including 40 varieties of cookies, the bakery provides many options to its customers. In all of its goods, it uses all real ingredients, including its own chocolate and nutella.

When we walked in, the bakery was

very busy. The staff was very helpful and the display was enormous. Although this bakery has quite a small storefront, it offers great goods inside.

"When you walk into the bakery, everything should invite you," said the wife of the owner, Rhonda Ellinger. "You should want to touch everything."

First, we tried a gingerbread cookie. For the holidays, the bakery creates a whole line of gingerbread treats including a giant gingerbread man as well as a gingerbread Christmas tree. The gingerbread was delicious, spicy, and sweet at the same time, just as gingerbread should be.

Additionally, for the holidays, there are four varieties of snowman cakes, beautifully decorated for Christmas as well as Hanukkah. As well as their aesthetic appeal, the treats were moist and sweet. The bakery adds to the holiday spirit with mini yule logs in four different varieties, as well as torah, menorah, and dreidel shaped cookies.

We also sampled their everyday goods, including moist tricolor cookies and different sugar cookies. All of these were delectable.

Also, Baked to Perfection would be a great choice for anyone who has a sensitivity to gluten. They are starting a line of gluten free goods, including something called a "pyramid" in three different varieties. These sugar powdered, nutty treats were one of our favorites from this bakery. Overall, eating from Baked to Perfection was a

very positive experience.

St. Honore Pastry Shop

Another popular bakery in town is St. Honore. As you walk down Port Washington Boulevard, the famous scents of brownies and other sweets seem to penetrate the glass storefront. The display in the windows currently shows many intricately decorated gingerbread houses, which would be a great centerpiece for a holiday table.

On a Saturday in December, this bakery was busy with eager customers and helpful staff. This bakery is famous for its ornate cakes and cupcakes. We tried a snowman chocolate cupcake with chocolate frosting, one of the many varieties of cupcakes that was offered. The frosting was rich and decadent, but the cupcake, although moist, was only average. However, the large cupcake was perfectly priced at \$2.00.

Similar to Baked to Perfection, St. Honore offers petit fours and tricolor cookies for the holidays.

This bakery also offers cookies shaped like reindeer, snowmen, angels, stockings, stars, and dreidels. There are many decorated cakes including blackout, carrot, and fudge flavors that are suitable for the holiday season. The decorations on their goods are truly beautiful.

bakery that provided lounge area seating, which is definitely a plus. The interior decoration was one that could allow you to sit down and relax.

Although this bakery is limited in terms of their holiday-specific goods, it is rewarding to support this bakery as half of its workers are disabled. The staff is very outgoing, ready to help you, and make you feel welcome in this warm and cozy hideaway just by the train station. We highly suggest the decorated sugar cookies, which were sweet and light. The fruit cake, for \$4.99, as well as one and two pound trays of holiday cookies, were all highlights.



While the goods of all the bakeries were delicious, Baked to Perfection definitely wins the battle of the bakeries. They have perfected the art of originality, with their several different dessert innovations. However, St. Honore gives their customers the honor of having beautifully executed baked goods on their holiday table, while Sweet Comfort will add a touch of comfort and relaxation during this busy time.

Winner: Baked to Perfection

Number: 944-5642
Address: 91 Main Street
Cuisine: Cookies, cakes, baked goods
Atmosphere: Clean, busy
Service: Efficient and welcoming
Food: Tasty and pretty



Christina Vlahos

The sumptuous display of cookies sold by the pound at the St. Honore Pastry Shop tempts not only with taste, but with aesthetics as well.



Sweet Comfort Bakery

Serving with a social mission, Sweet Comfort Bakery provides a nice environment during this winter holiday season. Of the three, this is the only

arts & entertainment

Avatar amazes fans with mind-blowing special effects and an exciting story

by Morgan Quigley

Assistant A&E Editor

Spoiler Alert!

To say that *Avatar* is a visually impressive movie, and a great experience, is a huge understatement. *Avatar* is just as revolutionary in the field of special effects as is the first *Star Wars*. However, this brand new \$237 million technology and half-a-billion-dollar production would have gone to waste if director James Cameron (*Titanic*, *Dances with Wolves*, *Terminator* series) did not make a spectacular movie to compliment the dumbfounding special effects.

Jake Scully (Sam Worthington) is an ex-marine who is paralyzed from the waist down. He sets out to prove that he is able to accomplish anything that a normally functioning human being can do, which is why at the beginning of the movie we see him doing everything by himself and refusing help from anybody who offers it. We also learn that Jake had a twin brother, a scientist who is recently deceased. Jake is aboard an aircraft heading toward Pandora, a planet which is home to the Navi.

The Navi are the indigenous population to Pandora and, as of now, the humans are at war with the Navi over a very precious, rare stone, unobtainium, which is plentiful on Pandora. Throughout the film, Jake is shown adding to a video log. In his first video log, we meet the lead scientist, Dr.

Grace Augustine (Sigourney Weaver).

In this scene, Grace comes off as very cold-hearted. She seems disappointed that Jake's brother died, only because he had a Ph.D. and was training on the mission for three years. Jake takes some offense to this but is jokingly told that Grace likes "plants better than people." It is very apparent that Grace does not want Jake to be part of the team because of his inexperience in science.

The name of the movie comes from the species that are created by the scientists. The avatars are soldiers who are put into a machine which makes them part Navi and part human. While Jake is in his avatar state, he is able to walk, and the audience is able to see his reaction to his ability to walk. He gets up from the gurney immediately and begins to walk, despite the doctors advising him not to. He runs away out of the lab, amazed by his restored ability. While being linked to the avatar, the scientist doing so claims that Jake has a gorgeous brain.

Later in the movie, Jake goes to see his Colonel Miles Quaritch. He implies that he thinks the avatar mission is a complete joke, but he will help Jake get his real legs back.

While Jake is trying to infiltrate the Navi people in his avatar state he rather quickly falls in love with a Navi named Neytiri (Zoe Saldana). Neytiri presents Jake to the Omatikaya tribe and to her parents, the king and queen of the tribe. The king decrees that Jake is to live with



www.videogametrader.com

This scene demonstrates the amazing special effects used in *Avatar*. The technology used in *Avatar* is considered revolutionary. The film has already been hailed as the *Star Wars* of this era.

the Omatikaya tribe. While Jake is doing this, he reports back to his team with everything he learns about the Navi.

After much Navi training, Neytiri declares that Jake is ready to begin a Navi rite of passage. He has to connect with a mountain banshee, a very dangerous mission, but Jake does it fearlessly, impressing Tsu'te, (Laz Alonso) who is Neytiri's brother and next in line for the throne.

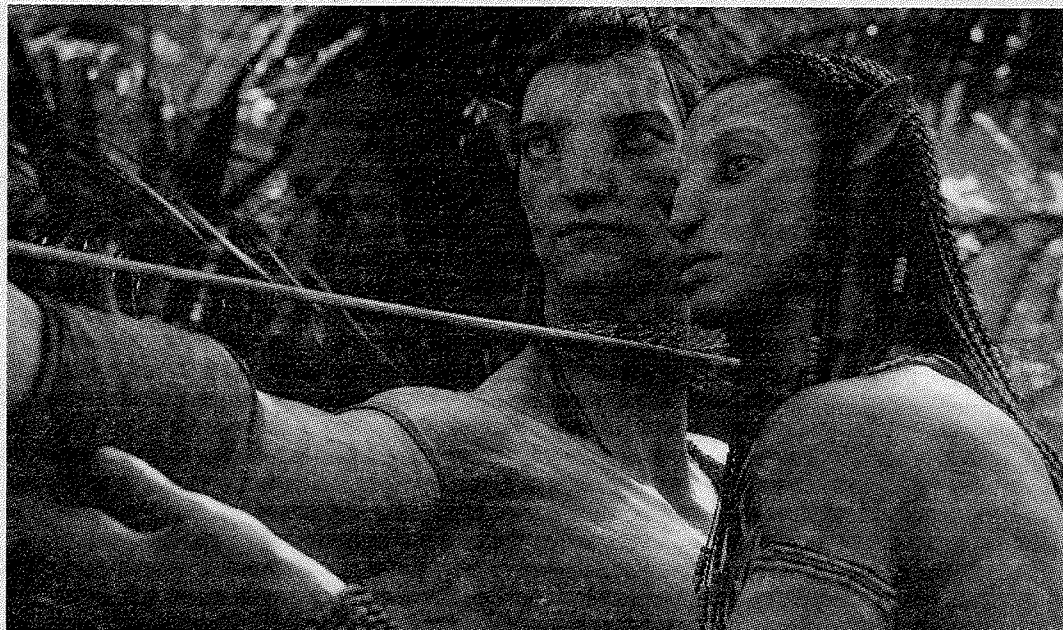
This is a critical point in the movie because it establishes an unbreakable bond between Jake and the Navi. His relationship with the Navi is the driving force which causes Jake to choose sides in the epic Battle of Pandora.

The Battle of Pandora is where the special effects of sheer greatness can really be seen, especially if you are watching the movie in 3-D. In the battle, Jake fights for the Navi, and because of the magnetic field around the planet, human-made weapons are failing which allows the Navi to attack. The action locks onto all of the main characters fighting as deaths on both sides are rapidly increasing. This is when the visual brilliance of the entire movie comes into play.

Originally, Weta was signed to do the special effects for *Avatar*, but quickly

found out that they were in way over their heads in accomplishing Cameron's vision of the movie. Weta was forced to turn to other companies for help in meeting their deadline, especially ILM. The movie was shot with a newly designed 3-D camera which allowed Cameron to shoot in 3-D but still maintained the same picture quality as you would see on the screen. Everything you were watching, even if it was fake, looked unbelievably real due to the amazing special effects team and this brilliantly designed camera. It was visual poetry. Because of all of the design and special effects that went into the film, *Avatar* took five years to make. Many people questioned what happened to James Cameron after he made *Titanic* because he pretty much disappeared, but now we have our answer. *Avatar* is perhaps the greatest space movie ever made, not only because of its effects, but because of its storyline.

This movie was revolutionary. The only problem I had was its length. This 160-minute ballad was a little too long, and I feel it could have been shortened. However, lengthy movies are part of Cameron's style, seeing as *Titanic* was 194 minutes long. There are also other similarities in the plots of *Avatar* and *Dances with Wolves*. Both movies share many of the same ideas, and it makes me question the originality of *Avatar* and the mindset of James Cameron. Everybody should see this movie, even if you do not like the concept of space movies, just because the effects are especially mind-blowing.



www.allmoviephoto.com

This scene portrays Neytiri (Zoe Saldana) teaching Jake Scully (Sam Worthington) how to fire a bow used by the Navi in the Battle of Pandora. Jake turns against the humans and fights for the Navi in his Avatar state.

Up In The Air lifts viewers spirits and warms hearts

BY Jess Greenwald

Staff Writer

Up In The Air, starring George Clooney, exemplified the combination of comedy and drama. In a simple, yet brilliant way, director Jason Reitman combines several genres and creates a fantastic film.

Clooney plays Ryan Bingham, a man who spends his time and effort flying across the country just to fire people that he has never met before. He flies solo, receiving all the little quirks that come with his job such as immediate services at airports and hotels. He lives a life disconnected and oblivious to society. His life goal is becoming the seventh person in the world to reach ten million flying miles. Ryan's content life of no personal connections is jeopardized with the arrival of Natalie Keener (Anna Kendrick). Instead of laying off clientele in person she suggests that they fire people through a computer chat room. Keener is a young and determined woman who stereotypes the modern age woman. By the age of twenty-three she wants to be married and by twenty-four have children. She pictures herself to be with the man of her dreams, which she mistakes to be a man with good hair and

a nice smile. Initially she seems to be all shine and no substance. She proposes that instead of flying across the country they can simply fire anyone around the world from one computer screen. A fair amount of the movie is spent in the situation where Ryan and Keener have to sit down and inform people that they are no longer employed. During these scenes the audience gets to see one of life's hardest realities. To make the film even more authentic Reitman had real life unemployed workers who were fired during the recession play these characters. With that, they brought an unbelievable sense of reality.

Clooney plays a self imposed man who is more than content with living a life of solitude. He does not have any desire to have children or get married. He does not have a permanent residence. His only home is the airports and hotels that he is all too familiar with. When he is not firing others Clooney gives lectures to eager listeners. In his speeches, he talks about the burdens of life and relationships and how much they can weigh one down. He makes the analogy to a backpack. If you pack all of the "stuff" in your life in that backpack it will soon become too heavy and you will not be able to carry it. What he suggests is to empty that backpack and move freely.



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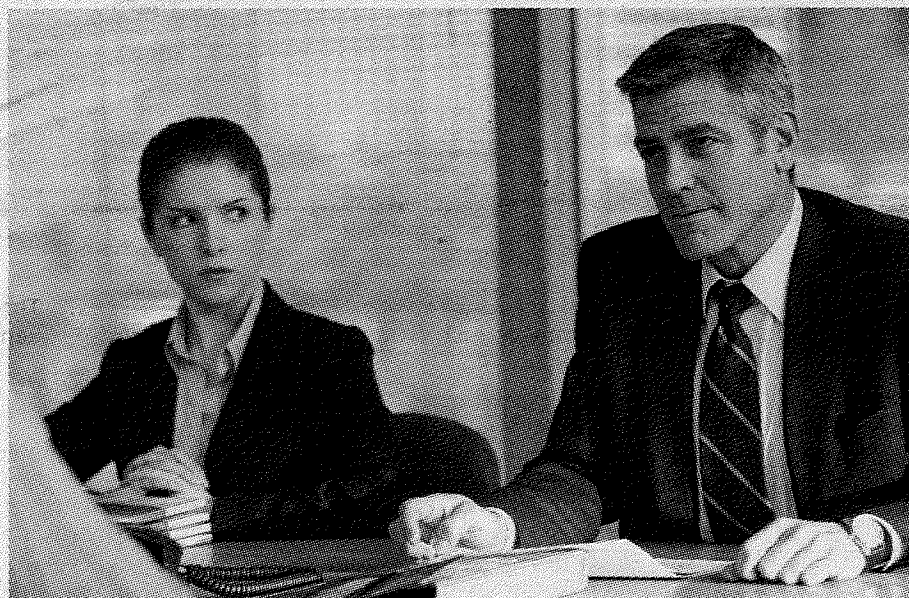
Ryan Bingham, played by George Clooney, starts to move on from his solitary ways, and begins a freindship with Natalie Keener (Anna Kendrick). Although they are usually independant, they begin to let each other into their lives.

Although Ryan plays a Grim Reaper kind of role, he does it with a sense of morality. With Keener's new proposal Ryan believes that their jobs would be cold and heartless, losing the human touch. Ryan is so attached to his job in the sky that he is frightened of the premise of settling down and living a grounded life. As a way to dissuade the young Ms. Keener, he shows her the ropes of his job. By doing so, Clooney's character forms an interesting and special relationship with her.

It is not until Ryan meets Vera Farminga's (Alex Goran) character that he soon begins to have doubts about his solitary life choice. The two of them are almost identical except for their genders. They both are attracted to people of elite status. Having met at a hotel on business, the two soon begin to see more of each other, forming a relationship that makes both their lives a little less lonely. Unfortunately in today's economic crisis there has been a large increase in the number of those unemployed. Through these characters the audience is able to see how

much people lose when their jobs are stripped away.

This movie seperated itself from other dramedies because it had more a great set of actors, or funny one-liners. The script and plot had real depth to it. They chose a theme, and ran with it. Although they will not be nominated for any Oscars, *Up in The Air* serves as a fun, meaningful film that just about anyone can enjoy, and relate to. The tagline of this film is "The story of a man ready to make a connection." Moving without stopping is living a life without friends and family. This film does a fantastic job proving the importance of relationships, whether it be a friendship, a family relation, or even a romance. Despite the fact that we can be independent and live by ourselves, human beings were not meant to live solitary lives. It's a life where you have no one to talk to other than yourself. The truth is that we all need support systems in our lives and to find true happiness and this movie reinforces that.



www.allmoviephoto.com

Keener (Anna Kendrick) and Bingham (George Clooney) meet for the first time. Bingham is quite put off by Keener's radical, yet effective ideas.

Morgan Freeman shines as Nelson Mandela in his latest film, *Invictus*

BY Victor Dos Santos

Staff Writer

Based on a true and compelling story, *Invictus* captivates the audience, stirring emotions with its excellent acting. The film takes an interesting approach, covering events from the perspectives of two different men. In the first, Nelson Mandela (Morgan Freeman), becomes the newly elected leader of South Africa in 1995, after spending several decades in prison. Racial tensions are strong at the time and Mandela decides to change this, making room for the other compelling performances.

At a rugby game, Mandela observes the thousands of fans watching the match of the Springboks, led by captain Francois Pienaar (Matt Damon).

He notices that all of the blacks cheer for the opposing team, simply because of their race. Since the Springboks are set to host the Rugby World Cup, Mandela wants to use this opportunity to bridge the

gap, and to essentially bring everyone together and foster a sense of national pride. Therefore, he decides to have a word with Pienaar after the game, emphasizing that a win would truly help the divided country.

The issue is, though, that the Springboks are not the greatest team and this pressure could create exhaustion and harm their image.

Mandela, however, is very determined and tries his hardest, convincing the blacks to root for the Springboks, even bringing the team to a black neighborhood to interact with the children. The country, consequently, begins to form this connection with each other that did not exist before.

As the match approaches, Mandela is confident that he may be able to bring his country together as one, using the sport that everyone loves.

Aside from a fascinating story, the film also features a talented cast and beautiful scenery. Clint Eastwood, the film's director, took incredible shots of the South African landscape, bringing everything to life.

Morgan Freeman's performance, though, is what makes this film so stellar. His words and mannerisms made me question whether this was in fact an actor, or the respected leader himself.

One scene in particular, really captured the film's essence. Watching the young children interact with the rugby team is truly beautiful. At this point, the film's message is clear.

Overall, Eastwood, along with Freeman and Damon do an excellent job throughout this film. The storyline, plot, and graphics truly combined to create an excellent film that will go down as one of Eastwood's best.

The director and all of the actors really convey the idea of unity that Nelson Mandela has ded-

icated his entire life to, and do an enormous job showing the political, and social struggles that Mandela had to overcome.



www.Domkop.com

Nelson Mandela (Morgan Freeman) celebrates his victory, becoming the newly elected leader of South Africa. Nelson made history with this win because he spent several previous decades in prison.

Wisteria Lane is on fire, literally, with intrigue and suspense

by Lauren Effune

Copy/Managing Editor

Every finale of *Desperate Housewives* leaves viewers hanging on the edge of their seats with their mouths hanging open the whole summer until September and the fifth season's was no exception. So far, the sixth season of the classic ABC show has not disappointed. While it may still include some of the old clichés, such as murders, steamy love affairs, and hidden secrets, show creator Marc Cherry has managed to twist them all around to make them a little bit more unique than seasons' past.

Last May's finale revolved around the love triangle between Mike (James Denton), his ex-wife Susan (Teri Hatcher) and her best friend/neighbor/his current girlfriend Katherine Mayfair (Dana Delaney).

Mike gets married to someone in the final minute, and much to everyone's delight, he chooses Susan, and thus the two begin their approximately 30th attempt at a relationship.

Nevertheless, not all is perfect in paradise, as much of this season consists of Katharine seeking revenge on both Mike and Susan. Katharine's character has become one of the most annoying characters this season, and the one flaw of

this season is that Cherry let her whining go on for too long.

The biggest mystery revolves around the typical "new neighbors," the Bolens. We learn that the wife, Angie (Drea de Matteo), fled from one of her own murders and is living under a secret identity, while her husband Nick (Jeffrey Nordling) starts a secret affair with Julie. Even stranger, their son Danny (Beau Mirchoff) knew about his father's affair, but still longs for Julie to be with him.

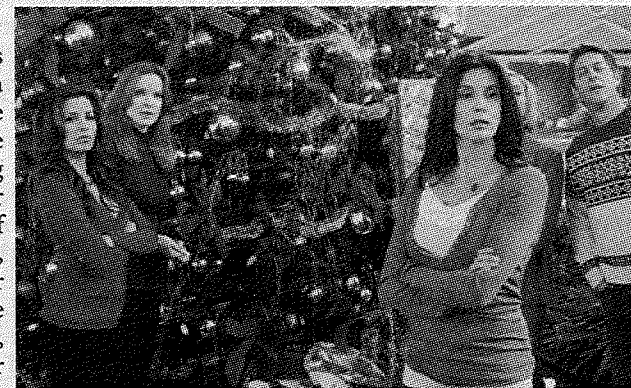
The main questions this season are what the true story of the Bolens is and if one of them had anything to do with the strangling of Susan's daughter Julie and the sudden death of a waitress who worked in a nearby café.

After being blackmailed by her husband when she requested a divorce, the ever-so-classy Bree (Marcia Cross) decides to compromise her morals in order to find true happiness by engaging in a secret love-affair with Susan's ex-husband, the womanizer Karl (Richard Burgi). Literally all of the episodes this season have to do with Karl and Bree sneaking off to a variety of different motel rooms, where Bree laments about whether she is a good person. While their affair seemed so scandalous in the beginning episodes, their story line has become slightly repetitive. Luckily, the mid-season finale may have resolved this

repetition.

Similarly, the storylines of Gabby (Eva Longoria Parker) and Lynette (Felicity Huffman) have not been as exciting as they were in prior seasons. In fact, most of the time they are shown, they are fighting. After Lynette discovered she was pregnant with twins, she attempts to hide her pregnancy from her boss and Gabby's husband, Carlos (Ricardo Antonio Chavira) in order to secure her promotion. Eventually Carlos finds out and the couple becomes upset at Lynette for harboring this secret. Carlos finds a way to fire Lynette legally (since he cannot fire a pregnant woman), but Lynette retaliates with a lawsuit, further dividing the former friends.

In particular, the mid-season finale provided an excellent end to the season before its hiatus. It raised many questions and provided some closure at the same time. Katharine decided to stab herself after Mike told her he didn't love her, and when her daughter Dylan came to visit, she realized how delusional her mother was and institutionalized her. The last five minutes of the episode involve a sudden plane crash on Wisteria Lane during the neighbors' Christmas party. After Orson discovers Bree's affair with Karl, all three start to fight inside one of the Christmas decoration houses, the particular house into which the plane crashes, leaving one of them dead. As the plane soared forward, Gabby's daughter, Celia, is stuck right in the middle of the plane's pathway, but Lynette suddenly runs and saves her



The housewives try to make this the most perfect Christmas ever. Expectedly, though, fights and secrets turn it into more of a disaster than a celebration as a plane suddenly "crashes" their party.

from the plane, which may have caused damage to her unborn children. This raises questions about the future of Lynette's pregnancy and her relationship with Gabby. Plus, a killer is still on the loose, so there is much to be resolved and viewers have a lot to expect.

While the overall storyline this season has not been as amazing as it was in prior seasons, the show stands strong and contains a good blend of humor and mystery.

Cherry manages to reuse his old tricks, such as the mysterious new neighbor storyline, but recreates them to make them unique and still enjoyable. The people who play the Bolens are a great addition to the cast and they portray this mysterious family very well.

Because there were so many new possibilities raised from the mid-season finale, the second half of the sixth season will be much better than the first half and will continue to entertain its viewers until May.

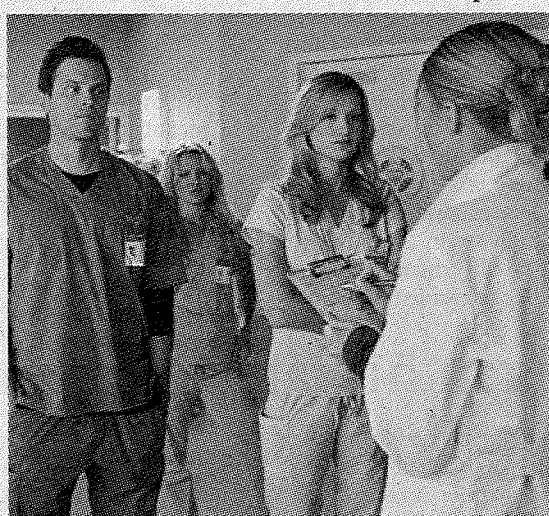
Scrubs sticks to its roots, even with new faces

by Brett Fishbin

Assistant A&E Editor

After eight seasons of brilliance (except season seven), and a perfect season finale, no one thought that *Scrubs* would be back on ABC for another season.

The new season (a spinoff of the original series) takes place one year after JD's (Zach Braff) departure from Sacred Heart Hospital. He returns to where the hospital was and it is revealed that it had been knocked down and replaced with a medical school, hence the new name, *Scrubs: Med School*. The



Denise (Eliza Coupe) explains some basic rules to the new medical students at Winston University in the new *Scrubs* spinoff

first eight seasons contained the same seven regular stars, in addition to several hilarious recurring characters. In season 9, three of the old characters continue as stars (Turk, Dr. Cox, and JD), along with the season 8 intern Denise, and three new med school students. The eventual replacement for JD is named Lucy (Kerry Bishe), and serves as a more neurotic, but less crazy version of JD. Dave Franco, younger brother of James Franco, portrays the cocky student, Cole, and Michael Mosley serves as Drew.

Although the new season has a different setting, cast, and even writing staff, it still has a similar feel. Although the writers have tried to hard to make it the same as the original, they have still

managed to keep it humorous, and contain the same dramatic themes that have been a key element of *Scrubs*. Although it will take some getting used to, the new characters can easily carry a few seasons, and once they hit their stride, it should be successful.

The season premiere featured two episodes called "Our First Day of School," and "Our Drunk Friend." For the first eight seasons, almost every episode started with the word my, and this is another departure from the norm. The purpose of these first two episodes, were to set the scene, and introduce (and reintroduce) the characters, much like the

premier of season 1. Several of the shows trademarks, and staples were displayed such as JD's "eagle," and Dr. Cox's signature rants. The guy love between Turk and JD also was quite obvious as a reprise of the song "guy love" played when they reunited at work after a year. Overall, the new writers and cast did a fantastic job setting the scene for the new season, and hopefully this seemingly immortal comedy will continue to make loyal fans laugh, cry, and think as they always have.

While it is quite obvious that the show has undergone changes, they have effectively made great use of what they have, and this season should be able to compete with seasons past.

The Office is still going strong in its sixth season

by Kyle Manzione

Staff Writer

There has been multiple times when a successful show approaches its fifth and sixth seasons, but suddenly it fails to meet the standards set by its earlier episodes. For six years, the lovable Scranton, PA branch of the small paper company Dunder Mifflin has kept viewers greatly entertained. From its unique group of characters to its humorous story lines, *The Office* has consistently impressed.

The finale of last year's season five left the fans of the show with implications of Pam's (Jenna Fischer) pregnancy, as well as rumors of problems and downsizing at Dunder Mifflin. As this season began, the audience was welcomed by office rumors that ultimately led Pam's pregnancy to being ousted. Soon after, in a surprising turn of events, the longtime boss of Dunder Mifflin, Michael Scott (Steve Carell), would now be co-Regional Manager with Jim Halpert (John Krasinski), the affable office prankster and salesman.

Although the season is only half-way finished, by the end of the season, the episode featuring the wedding of Jim and Pam will still be the most memorable of all time. Fans of *The Office* had watched the relationship of the couple grow over the course of the six seasons, from Jim's attempts to court Pam, despite her engagement to another employee, to the uncertainties of their romantic relationship.

However, with this plot line dissolving

and the show reaching a high number of seasons, one begins to question how much originality the writers can generate to keep the audience entertained.

I myself have seen critics claim that the show lacks new ideas and will soon run thin of thoughts to develop the plot. However, not only does *The Office* remain an unquestionably hilarious show, but new plot devices are in fact developing in the season, as seen in Dwight (Rainn Wilson) and Ryan's (B.J. Novak) newly created alliance to eliminate Jim as Co-Regional Manager.

As a fan of the show, I can only hope that the show will continue to generate ideas to keep it going. Only time can tell as we have an entire second half of season six still to air.



Michael Scott (Steve Carell) is watching as Dwight (Rainn Wilson) cracks a walnut with his "Secret Santa" present.

Despite the absence of many celebrations, television specials spread joy and cheer

BY **Bethia Kwak**

Staff Writer

It's that time of the year again, when we sip our hot cocoa and sit down for our favorite holiday specials. Christmas specials on television have been a classic tradition since at least the 1940s. While some, like *The Littlest Angel* and *The Year Without Santa Claus* have been lost, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* are two examples of classic broadcasts that continue to charm during the holiday season.

A *Charlie Brown Christmas*, has been a classic since 1965. It was the first television special based on the well-known comic itself. Because of its tremendous popularity, it is now aired twice during the holiday season. It has been one of CBS's most successful TV specials, but was recently moved to ABC. Despite this change, the adorable cartoon continues to spread holiday spirit, as Charlie Brown and the gang mull over the real meaning of Christmas, not the commercial one that seems to have taken over in their society.

Even though most of these Christmas specials are animated, the whole family can enjoy them. They may seem juvenile, but they still reflect the meaning of the holidays and provide everyone with that warm, comforting feeling.

"I watch Christmas specials because they are heartwarming and a great family

bonding experience. They are fun and entertaining as well," said junior Stella Kim.

Aside from the traditional specials, many television shows air episodes that incorporate holiday themes. Well-known shows on Nickelodeon and Disney such as *Spongebob Squarepants* and *Phineas and Ferb* have an annual Christmas special, while ABC has even released a new television movie, *Prep and Landing*. Even shows like *Grey's Anatomy*, that appeal to a more mature audience, integrate the holidays into an episode or two. It is a great way to create more drama and, of course, humor.

Despite the cheer and good intentions, many people are often skeptical of these specials. After all, most of them are Christmas-based, ignoring some of the other popular holidays, including Kwanza and Chanukah.

"Even though Chanukah is not the most popular Jewish holiday, television stations should still try to integrate the celebration into the episodes. It would be nice to see more than a casual mention once and a while," said sophomore Lauren Wilkin.

Despite this one flaw in TV's holiday broadcasts, there seems to be something about holiday specials that all individuals can identify with. Whether the specials show a chaotic family dinner or tearful memories, these specials really draw everyone in, and without them, the holidays would seem a little emptier.

Holiday Gift Guide

Reported by Brett Fishbin

As winter and the holiday season rolls around, students and parents alike have one common thought that they share, and that is what gifts they want or what they should buy for others. Whether they want a new laptop, can't think of what to buy their friends, or want to be the one that impresses everyone with the best present, the struggle to find the perfect gift for the perfect person is one that we have all experienced. Perhaps the toughest part about gift giving is originality. Although technology is advancing, and new products are being introduced to the world, each year it seems that everyone you want to buy a gift for has everything they need. Recently, a few interesting products have been released, just in the nick of time for the holiday shopping season.

Low Price Range



Sometimes you want to show your feelings for someone, but do not have the \$500 it takes to buy an expensive piece of jewelry. But, for fewer than \$50, equally useful and meaningful gifts can be bought. For just \$43, you can buy a 2GB Sansa MP3 player that includes many features an iPod has, and much more. For the convenient price, this music player includes an FM radio, a microphone, a long lasting rechargeable battery, and a bright screen for exceptionally easy navigation of tunes. This product boasts an exceptional amount of memory for such a small, easily portable machine.

Medium Price Range



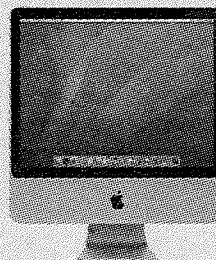
A great gift idea for either a man or a woman is a good watch. If you aren't in the market for a Rolex, there are several watches that are price efficient, and do not run you \$1000. The Casio G-Shock G100 has several features that you would not find in an expensive watch, and only costs \$84. Features include an alarm, a backlight, a stopwatch, and it is water-resistant. It has also been considered the most durable watch over the last 10 years, with ground-breaking shock-resistant technology.

Getting Steeper Price Range



If you fall into the category of "gamer" and are a fan of music, why not purchase the new hit, *DJ Hero*? Out to match the hype of *Guitar Hero* and *Rock Band*, the new music based game has many interesting features such as mixing your very own songs from artists including Jay-Z, Daft Punk, and Rihanna. Although the Renegade edition is quite pricey, at \$199.99, the outstanding features should warrant the hefty price tag. The product is available for PS3, Xbox 360, Wii, and PS2.

High Price Range



Although computers are not the most unique idea, Apple has recently released its new iMac. This is the first Mac computer that includes a Magic Mouse, which is a new mouse that is used based on different patterns of hand motions. It also boasts a beautiful LED backlit display, and is widely considered the fastest Mac yet. It also contains environmentally friendly features and is made without many harmful toxins. The 21.5 inch model starts at \$1199, while the larger 27 inch model starts at \$1699.

Unnecessary Ego-Driven Price Range



If you have not been affected by the recession that has taken over our economy for the last two years, why don't you buy someone a gold plated (24 k) PlayStation 3? This game console includes all of the normal features such as two controllers (gold plated as well) and 80 GB of memory. The one glaring difference is the fact that it is plated in gold. If this idea already seems over the top, you won't change your mind once you see the ridiculous price tag of \$4,999. Although this might not be a logical gift idea, at least it will give your family and friends a good laugh.

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Music Box

Keys' new album strays from typical pop beats

BY Ali Nierenberg

A&E Editor

While her voice, for now, is closely tied to Jay-Z and "Empire State of Mind," Alicia Keys' new album demonstrates that she is talented on her own. Featuring a diverse range of tracks, the album covers both upbeat and melancholy tones.

The Element of Freedom is Keys' most recent release, her signature voice, however, remains strong. One of the better tracks, "Try Sleeping With a Broken Heart," has an interesting melody. The tone is not very depressing nor cheerful, but it manages to find a nice, middle-ground. In fact, it is quite catchy. The same cannot be said of the lyrics. While Keys sings them quite well, her choice of words is very trite and uninteresting. In this work, it is clear that the melody is the stronger, more emphasized aspect. The lyrics get lost within the notes, which in this case, is not a terrible thing.

An especially interesting track is "Empire State of Mind (Part II) Broken Down." The lyrics in this song nearly mirror the popular radio version. The melody, though, is much slower and acoustic. It really allows Keys to showcase



www.mtv.com

Alicia Keys performs her hit collaboration, "Empire State of Mind," at the 2009 Video Music Awards. While this exact version is not featured on her new album, a slower, more lyrical one can be heard.

her singing abilities, as the piano is heard beautifully in the background. Listeners will have a hard time deciding on which version they prefer. While similar, this

Keys' version seems to be more musical, with less emphasis on rap and more on the instruments and voices.

The album as a whole, does not feature many upbeat tracks. With "Pray for Forgiveness" and "How it Feels to Fly," Keys demonstrates that she is more than

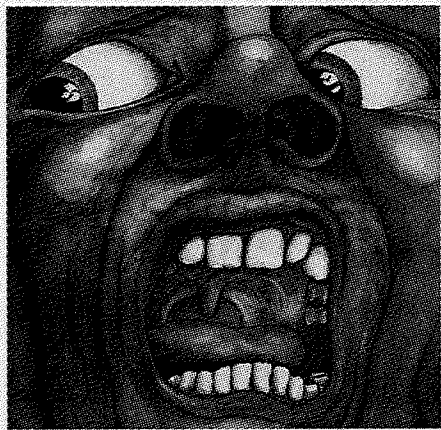
a pop singer, one who can truly sing a along with a beautiful melody. The lyrics, too, are excellent, as Keys contemplates mistakes and possibilities. They blend seamlessly with the instruments; there are no awkward pauses or drawls.

Despite the many great tracks, the album does have its setbacks. In "This Bed," Keys sounds like she is trying too hard and her voice comes across almost as a whisper. In "That's How Strong My Love Is," she sounds very off tune. Its almost as if she is whining. "Un-thinkable (I'm Ready)" is another weak track. Keys attempts to hit very high notes, but she does not sound very comfortable.

In Keys' previous works, there was always a strong song, one that listeners could clearly note. This album does not have a leader, of sorts. It is missing a "No One," type of complement. While it is great as a whole, these outstanding tracks often carry an album, so it should be interesting to see how the compilation does without the publicity and excitement that often comes from a hit single.

Overall, though, Keys does a great job with the album. The weak songs do not detract from the great ones and it is clear that this singer has not lost her touch. While, it may not be her strongest album, the artist continues to impress with her R&B and pop-like sounds.

Classic Album: King Crimson



BY Kerim Kivrak

Staff Writer

The debut albums of progressive rock bands do not usually yield a wide variety of results. More often than not, the album will garner enough interest, propelling the band into the spotlight, or generate so little buzz that they are essentially swept under the cultural carpet. If the band follows the former path, its members will typically refine their music as their careers progress, producing their best work later on. King Crimson's *In the Court of the Crimson King* is one of the few exceptions. Not only is it King Crimson's first album, but nothing short of a masterpiece.

The album begins strongly with the rock hybrid, "21st Century Schizoid Man." The song is heavily centered around the saxophone, which is emphasized just as much as the guitar. The song is exemplary of the proper use of the bass and percussion in progressive rock. As brilliant as the use of the saxophone is, the heavily distorted vocals and prophetic lyrics are arguably the most intriguing. From a modern perspective, the lyrics make an all too accurate prediction of a society where the

natural is replaced by machine, where one man profits off another man's suffering, and where originality is overshadowed by conformity. At the time the song was written, though, the lyrics were much more literal and timely, alluding to the Vietnam War.

There is a rather sudden change of pace with the second track, "I Talk to the Wind." The transition from the chaos at the end of "21st Century Schizoid Man" to the flutes and much slower tempo of the next song is abrupt and unexpected, but it is a solid track nonetheless (especially if one is willing to overlook the incredibly cheesy title). Almost every aspect of the song completely contrasts the track preceding it. The piercing saxophone is replaced with sounds of the soothing flute; calm lyrics and a comforting tone overshadow violent images and distorted vocals. The next song, "Epitaph," is more of a combination of the former two songs. It takes the first track's dystopian lyrics, adding the musical serenity of "I Talk to the Wind." Both tracks are very solid and maintain the desired mood without boring the listener.

The title track, "The Court of the Crimson King," slowly winds the listener down, this time placing emphasis on the mellotron, an electronic keyboard-like instrument that would define the band's sound for its next seven albums. The song continues the trend of engaging lyrics. Split into three distinct parts, "The Court of the Crimson King" is second only to "21st Century Schizoid Man."

With the help of commercial and critical success and acclaim from esteemed musicians, *In The Court of the Crimson King* has withstood the test of time. The album is one of the greatest progressive rock albums of all time and an excellent testament to the genre.

Staff Holiday Picks

Editors-in-Chief

"White Christmas/Bianco Natale" by Andrea Bocelli

Copy/Managing Editors

"Christmas Tree" by Lady Gaga

News

"Winter Wonderland"

Opinions

"Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays" by 'N SYNC

Features

"The Dreidel Song"

Arts & Entertainment

"Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah"

Sports

"Do They Know It's Christmas?" by Band Aid

Graphics

"Let it Snow"

Business Manager

"Jingle Bells"

Vikings gain victories under new Coach Foxen

BY Max Kraus and Dan Miller

Staff Writers

Following a bout in the county circuit during the 2008-09 season, the varsity wrestling team is looking ahead with new additions this season. Filling the void of senior members last year, there is an influx of freshmen and returning veterans under new coach Mr. Dave Foxen.

Despite the loss of graduates Brendan Johns and John Steadman, the team continues to succeed. Several freshmen, such as Christian Castillo and John Crawley, have stepped up and filled the gap on the varsity team.

"Although the two wrestlers accounted for much of our success last season, our team is doing extremely well with their absence," said junior Lev Pinkus. "This season, we had an amazing turnout with many new wrestlers. Not only were there new guys from the freshman class, but we had several sophomore and senior additions as well. If they continue in the sport, they could lead our team to tremendous success."

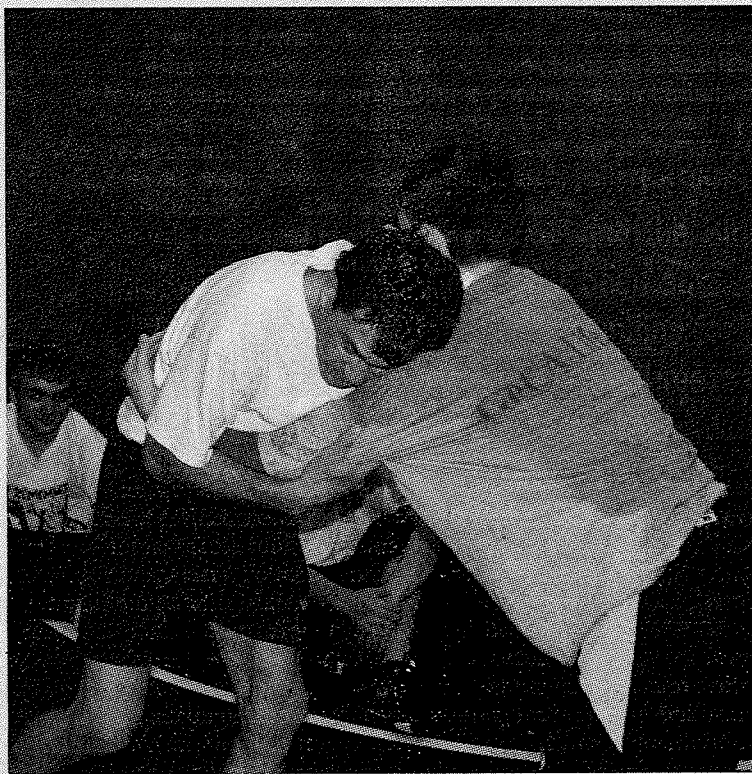
Junior Harry Weinstein believes only with hard work will the new faces be able to lead the team.

"The new freshmen have to keep showing up to practice to get more experience and mat time," said Weinstein.

Along with the several new freshmen, Coach Foxen replaced Coach Brian Walsh,

who retired last year.

Coach Foxen is very knowledgeable about wrestling, as he participated in the sport for his entire life and coached at the collegiate level before coaching at Schreiber.



Harrison Remler

New varsity wrestling coach, Dave Foxen introduces a new move on freshman wrestler John Crawley during practice. Foxen brings national experience to the Vikings program, as teammates watch in the background.

"He's very experienced and he really knows what he's doing," said junior Boris Joutovsky. "He was an All-American wrestler."

Many key members returned to the team, including senior captains Luke Klumpp and Mike O'Brien. They are sup-

ported by fellow seniors Anton Cataldi, Max Klemes, and Cody White. So far, the team has won two matches and two tournaments.

The first two matches were both on the road, first against Hewlett and then Oceanside. The team won their match against Oceanside by 50 points. At the first tournament of the season, known as the Hank Paris Tournament, Schreiber placed fourth out of twelve teams, compared to seventh place last season.

The second tournament was a major obstacle for the team where it faced many Suffolk County teams.

"The last tournament we had was probably the hardest tournament until the county tournament because it was all Suffolk County and Suffolk is known for their wrestling," said Weinstein.

Overcoming its obstacle, at that tournament there were numerous place-winners, including first placings by Klumpp and O'Brien. Klumpp is undefeated in both tournaments and matches so far.

With a new coach, a new team, and tough training, the varsity boys wrestling team believes they are ready to surpass the success of team's from Schreiber's past.

"I feel that our team is a lot stronger this year," said Pinkus. "Last season, our team lacked the motivation to work hard during practice. This season, however, everyone is always working hard, and that's what leads to success on the mat."

Advice from Schreiber superfan on keys to season

BY Ross Balaban

Staff Writer

The following is a piece by a Schreiber superfan on what needs to be done for the Vikings to win basketball games this year:

After last year's Conference II Championship victory, the boys varsity basketball team has changed drastically.

This change brings about new aspects of the game to focus on for a very new team now in Conference I.

The number one key to victory for the Vikings starts inside the paint. With the loss of two big men in Zach Kriftcher and Nick Omeltchenko, the Vikings need players to fill the void on the inside.

On defense, being in Conference I especially, the Vikings cannot let up offensive rebounds by creating easy baskets for the opposition.

The undersized squad needs to play team defense, box out, and collectively converge for rebounds on defense. Allowing a minimal amount of second chance buckets for the opponent is key.

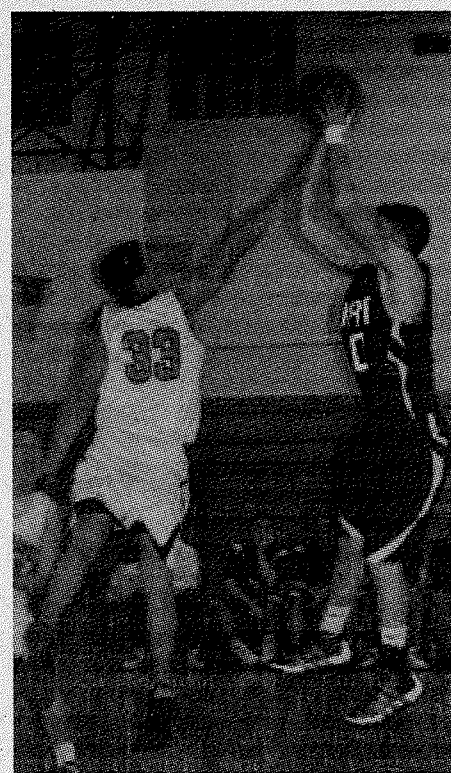
The next key to victory for the players is to step up in their respective roles.

The largest difference between Conference I and Conference II is undoubtedly the versatility of the opposition both on offense and on defense and the increased number of impact players.

Conference I is filled with athleticism, whether it is guards who can drive as well as hit the outside jump shot, big men who

can knock it down from outside, and defenses that can transition a turnover into a quick basket.

As a result, the Vikings are going to



Courtesy of Dan Bernstein

Senior Dan Bernstein puts a shot over a defender on the Carey Seahawks. According to Balaban, he is crucial to the team's rebounds.

need guards such as seniors Jason Desimone and Harrison Remler to play lockdown defense on speedy, physical, and quick guards.

Port needs senior Dan Bernstein, junior K.C. Ozcayir, and sophomore Malik Merriweather to get crucial rebounds on defense and the occasional put-back on offense.

In addition, senior Adam Epstein has to score when called upon. Fundamentals are a huge aspect of the game for the Vikings and what they have to establish.

With a relatively inexperienced starting lineup this season (only two starters carrying over from last year in Bernstein and Epstein), a strong supporting cast—both starters and bench players—crucial to the team's success. Support stems from confidence.

And if players can step up in the midst of a crucial game and be confident in handling the ball through a press, taking an open shot, or going up for a crucial board, they will add other dimensions that the opposition will need to focus on.

The crowd plays a huge role in the sense that the crowd noise and fan support will help add confidence, inspiration, and ultimately success for the players on the team.

After being promoted to the more talented and competitive Conference I, the team will have to focus on these keys to be successful and live up to the high expectations they have set year after year.

Calling the Shots

BY Harrison Remler

Senior Sports Editor

Considering I only have 526 (now 521) words to recap the month's happenings in the sports world, fitting it all in here will be as tough as selling stocks in this wretched economy.

So, I am placing a tablespoon of Hofstra football, a spoonful of Tiger Woods, drops of Notre Dame's Brian Kelly, and 11 random mistresses into a blender and hoping to devise a concoction called "Calling the Shots."

What do these surprising and controversial events have in common? One main ingredient ties them together: trust.

Who is a young person to trust in the world of sports today?

Hofstra beats its final opponent, sends its assistant coaches off on a recruiting trip across the country and suddenly announces the fold of their program.

What can we say to Mike Lisi, Carey High School's senior lineman who committed to Hofstra weeks before the announcement?

How do you tell his family there might not be any more scholarships available at another university, as he reopens his recruitment?

How about Aaron Weaver, a Baldwin graduate who destroyed Port Washington's cornerbacks years ago when he realized that his dream of becoming a potential senior captain and winning a CAA championship would disappear in front of his eyes?

I am a fan of Brian Kelly's coaching style and his captivating politician-esque ability to conduct press conferences, but there is a boundary between being a good person and a great coach.

Being a person before a coach is more important. Would John Wooden ever leave his team before the national championship like Kelly did to his Bearcats before a chance to knock off perennial powerhouse Florida in a BCS bowl game?

Cincinnati players are rightfully fueled, but Kelly has introduced to a new conflict: chasing your dreams as a coach versus taking care of your team.

And last but not least, Tiger Woods. Oops! Did I forget to include Andre Agassi on my list as another athlete who has lived a second life under the watch of followers across the world?

Tiger made some mistakes, but his betrayal of golf fans by hiding the truth has left us in shock. Tiger has the sport in the palm of his hand and 11 mistresses in cities across the country. What type of role model is he?

At least he wasn't driving a Buick when he crashed his car; that would have been a marketing disaster, to say the least.

And his decisions will also likely have a major impact on the golfing world in general. It's widely known that Tiger brought huge crowds of supporters to all of his events, and now the PGA is sure to suffer without all those precious fans.

Who does the 12-year old shooting foul shots in the public park preparing for his middle school tryout look up to? It's like being a senior looking for a Gambol date in late May.

As I find out that everyone has their dates set, I cross off more girls on my list. The same goes for potential role models, as I cross off Woods, Kelly, and others. Who is left? Only Derek Jeter?

Let's hope we stay cleaner than his third base mate, A-Rod.

Captain's Corner: Emma Horowitz, Girls Varsity Basketball

BY **Harrison Remler**
Senior Sports Editor

Senior Harrison Remler interviews senior Emma Horowitz who plays field hockey, basketball and softball for the Lady Vikings.

Harrison Remler: Oh, hey you.

Emma Horowitz: Hi, Harry.

HR: Should I call you Sporty Spice, Emma Jane or Emma?

EH: Can we stick with Sporty Spice?

HR: So, we can say that your 8th grade days are over?

EH: Yeah, definitely.

HR: Some people define you as "that sports girl." The ones closest to you know that you are much more than an athlete. Can you elaborate?

EH: I like being seen as the "sports girl," but I would love if people took more interest in my photography.

HR: So the photo career, tell me about it.

EH: Well, I intern at a photo company in the city and photo is a completely different world than sports. You don't have the weight of others depending on you.

HR: What is a teenaged female athlete's perspective on Tiger Woods?

EH: I don't really have an opinion because he plays golf and to me, golf isn't really a

sport. It is so boring, and I don't follow it at all.

HR: You play varsity field hockey, basketball, and softball. Which is your favorite sport?

EH: Basketball.

HR: Why basketball?

EH: I grew up playing basketball and being surrounded by it while living in New York City. Softball and field hockey have been sports I have just picked up during my athletic career.

HR: Next year, what will it be like being solely a student at a college? What is it going to be like having some free time for the first time since sixth grade? (Horowitz has played a sport in each season dating back to seventh grade.)

EH: It should be nice, but I am just scared I will not have the motivation to work out on my own. I have always relied on practices.

HR: And large doses of orange soda...

EH: First of all it is zero calorie, Diet Sunkist.

HR: What are the highest and the lowest points of your Schreiber athletic career?

EH: My highest point was getting all-conference for field hockey and basketball and my lowest was having mono, a broken ankle, and broken wrist all in one season (sophomore year basketball).

HR: For those of you who don't know, Emma's father was a Division I athlete himself. What kind of impact has your dad had on your game?

EH: He knows the game well, but he's never pushed me to the extent where I want to hate it. He has encouraged me to do what I want to do with the sport.

HR: Most athletes prefer Gatorade, but for you the drink of choice seems to be iced coffee. Talk to me about your preference.

EH: It is just so good and addicting. I have seen some specialists about my addiction as well.

HR: Describe the differences between the boys and girls game of basketball.

EH: Technically, there is no difference except for the fan factor.

HR: In female sports, there is a huge emphasis on the bench players cheering on the starters. Does the bench support actually help come game time?

EH: It does help because it attempts to make up for the lack of fans in the bleachers, while the boys have a full gym.

HR: Tell me three things the average Schreiber student doesn't know about the Lady Vikings basketball program.

EH: We all have the same handshake, we have white uniforms, and [senior] Katie Weil has the best pasta parties.

Underclassmen to Watch:

Jongho Byun: A freshman forward on the boys JV-1 basketball team. Byun is one of the more athletic underclassmen players in the program. Byun, who is also a varsity volleyball player, can be a threat both on the perimeter and on the boards for the JV this year.

James Gallagher: One of the seven runners from the fall cross country team that competed at the New York State Championship. Gallagher will be running for the boys winter track team this winter. Gallagher ran a season best time of 18:05 for the 5-km race at the State Qualifier race. Only a freshman, Gallagher has impressed many with his ability to compete with the best in distance.

Chrissy Commons: Commons, who will fight for time with fellow underclassmen guards sophomores Emily Rosenthal and Ariana Spagna, was promoted to the Lady Vikings varsity basketball squad this season after starting for JV last year.

THE WRITING CENTER

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

WHAT IS THE WRITING CENTER?

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Athletes of the Month

Elise Ressa

BY Rohit Khullar
Assistant Sports Editor

Senior Elise Ressa, a three-year varsity athlete on the Viking girls winter and spring track and field teams, is on a mission. This season, she is motivated to make the State Championships for hurdles after narrowly missing out on it last spring.

"In the state qualifiers, I was so close to making the State Championship finals," said Ressa. "I missed it by .02 seconds, just because I hit a hurdle with my knee. This year, I want to be better than ever. I know I can make it this year."

Ressa has also become a team leader in each of her events, including the 55-meter hurdles and triple jump, as well as the 100-meter hurdles during the spring track season.

She has used the past five years to develop her skills in each of these events, participating in track and field every year since 7th grade.

"Elise is a gifted athlete. She has improved from year to year while I have been her coach. As her mental toughness increases, she will become a much better athlete," said Coach Kristopher Ocker, who is in his third year of coaching.

Ressa's goal for this season is to increase her personal record times for each of her events, especially the 100-meter hurdles. Last spring, she obtained a personal record of 16.8 seconds in the 100-meter hurdles.

"Our training is rigorous. It is just my fellow teammates running beside me and participating in the same training that enables me to become better as a runner,"

said Ressa.

Ressa may want to continue competing even after graduating at the end of this year. She may join the track and field teams at Division III schools.

"Elise is a wonderful, caring person," said Coach Ocker. "She always has great sportsmanship. Her personality and athletic ability make her a tremendous asset to the team."



Reid Mergler

Running her final season on the girls winter track team, senior Elise Ressa is motivated to make the State Championships for hurdles.

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

A new face: Coach Kevin Facey

BY Reid Mergler
Sports Editor

Training the boys varsity track team this season, Coach Kevin Facey hopes for immeasurable success. As he coaches some of the state's top long-distance runners, including seniors Marco Bertolotti and Jake Levine, he wants to accomplish many goals this season, such as going to the New York State Championship.

"First, I hope that all the runners run their personal best times and break their own goals," said Facey. "I want the team to be able to win their conference, and further be a contender in the county. Since the team has a great deal of talent, I want some runners to place in the state and even the nation."

To meet these goals, he outlines practices to help the runners improve. He usually works mainly with the distance runners, while Coach Bruce MacDonald helps with the hurdlers and the throwers.

In addition, assistant Coach Charisse Thompson works with sprinters and middle-distance runners throughout practices. As the main coach, Facey oversees what is going on for each group.

"I am learning different techniques as I am networking with different coaches on Long Island," said Facey. "In order to work with these high-caliber distance runners, I am modifying my typical track workouts according to the athletes' needs."

Levine believes that Facey's ability to meet each individual's needs is admirable.

"I really like him as a coach," said

Levine. "He knows a lot of modern techniques and it is important that he caters to the individual. But, I feel that he is a bit inexperienced when it comes to long-distance running."

Before Schreiber, Facey ran for his high school track team for four years. He also was recruited to Temple University for track. Then, due to an injury, he transferred to C.W. Post. After attending C.W. Post, he also continued to run at Adelphi University. Currently, he is going to graduate school there in order to receive his degree in physical education.

During college, he volunteered as a coach at Uniondale High School and Massapequa High School. In addition, he used to be an assistant coach for the Hewlett boys varsity track team. Coaching these three teams in the past, Facey developed key skills to train sprinters.

As a majority of the Vikings are top long-distance runners, coaching at Schreiber has also been a learning experience for Facey.

Through his running success, Facey aspires to act as a role model for his team. Stemming from his first steps, he was able to be recruited and continue running throughout college. He hopes that the Vikings will be able to follow his lead in the future.

"Being a track runner, my passion for coaching came from that," said Facey. "As I used track as a way to achieve later success in my life, I hope that these high school students will use track as a stepping stone for their future as well."

Adam Epstein

BY Dan Miranda
Staff Writer

Finding an athlete who has more school pride than senior Adam Epstein is a tough task to accomplish.

"I can't think of a way to describe how much I love Port. When I say, 'I bleed blue and white,' I mean that I give everything for Port Washington. Our school colors are the colors that keep me up and alive," said Epstein.

Not only has Epstein increased school spirit, but he has brought the basketball program to its height since playing varsity as a freshman. Epstein led the team to the playoffs for three consecutive years, winning a conference title in 2007-08.

One game has had an especially profound impact on Epstein.

"The highest point of my basketball career at Schreiber was the home playoff game of the 2008-09 season against Carey. It was the first time and probably the only time I will ever see the gym filled to capacity with fans for a basketball game. The white-out was unbelievable, and I will never forget that game," said Epstein.

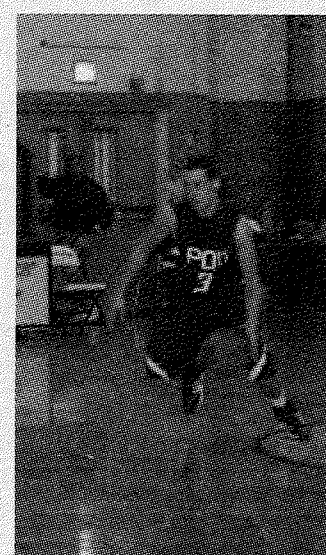
Epstein's junior season was arguably his best, as he received All County honors. He and 2009 graduates Ryan Goldstein and Brennan Spreitzer proved to be the strongest backcourt in Nassau Conference AA-II, winning the title over rivals Carey and Massapequa.

Epstein was one the strongest guards in the conference; the Vikings relied on him to defend East Meadow's Azfar Khan, Carey's Terrance Murchie, and Hicksville's John Petrucelli.

Last year, Epstein's playoff success carried over into the spring volleyball season. He once again teamed up with Spreitzer to lead the Vikings to the County Championships.

When asked what was more exciting, spiking a volleyball for a point or scoring on an "and one" in basketball, Epstein was unable to choose a clear winner.

"It depends on the situation," said Epstein. "A hard spike into an opponent's face is a magnificent feeling. However, an 'and one' after a hard foul is one of the most exhilarating things to me."



Courtesy of Dan Bernstein

Playing since freshman year, senior Adam Epstein has led the varsity basketball team to the playoffs for the past three years.

The Fan's Five

1. Boys Varsity Basketball

Nothing captures school spirit like the Vikings' riveting home win over Farmingdale on Dec. 15. Senior Adam Epstein once again led the way scoring on a momentum-changing buzzer beater at halftime. Senior Dan Bernstein has stepped up his game, averaging 22.5 points in conference play after missing a majority of last year's season with an ankle sprain.

2. Girls Varsity Basketball

Playing on arguably the biggest stage in basketball, Madison Square Garden, the girls varsity team is led by sophomore Emily Rosenthal and senior Emma Horowitz. The Lady Vikings fell short to Mineola at the Garden, despite Rosenthal's efforts. She scored 13 points, hitting three pointers from behind the college line. In addition, freshman Alison Seltzer joins the team this season as the only freshman on the Lady Vikings squad.

3. Boys Winter Track

How could a team consisting of seniors Marco Bertolotti, Jake Levine, and Andrew Minicucci be left out of the Fan's Five? With many crucial meets coming up at the Armory, this team is primed for another successful winter season. Jake Levine recently ranked second in the league for his performance in the 1600M with a time of 4:39.4 seconds. Upcoming meets include Friendship Games and Conference meets at Suffolk and Nassau Community College.

4. Varsity Wrestling

New coach Mr. Dave Foxen is helping seniors Luke Klump and Mike O'Brien reach their potentials as the Vikings compete for a county championship. With the influx of freshmen, the Vikings have filled the void left by the graduation of Brendan Johns and Nick Omeltchenko.

5. Boys Varsity Swimming

In his final season, senior Ivan Bandovic is looking to end his high school career with a splash. Despite an early season loss to Great Neck North, expect big things from Head Coach Joe Lennon's squad this winter. They will swim against rivals such as Garden City, Farmingdale, Herricks, Manhasset, Plainview JFK and Great Neck South throughout January 2009. During senior Tommy Jester's temporary injury this season, the Vikings will face rough waters.

VIKING SPORTS

Youthful Lady Vikings team exceed expectations with runner-up finish *Senior Emma Horowitz and underclassmen guards finish second in the PW Tournament*

BY Harrison Remler

Senior Sports Editor

In an early season matchup against Cold Spring Harbor, the Lady Vikings basketball team found its identity while trailing at the end of the third quarter.

Down two after losing a four-point lead at halftime, sophomore guard Emily Rosenthal scored seven points in the Viking's 15-11 fourth quarter to lead the home team to a first round victory in the annual Lady Vikings Holiday Basketball Tournament.

"This team leaves everything on the court. They play until the final whistle blows," said senior Katie Weil.

With a young roster, this year's team will need to continue to build experience quickly. The Dec. 12 victory over Cold Spring Harbor proved to be one of many games decided in the fourth quarter of the Vikings early season matchups.

Starting four underclassmen this year, the Lady Vikings are led by senior forward Emma Horowitz, sophomore Hayley Kerr, Rosenthal, Ariana Spagna, and eighth grade point guard Christina Leonard. Rosenthal and Spagna, both returning guards from last year's team, have developed into legitimate three-point threats in the early parts of the season. Leonard is learning quickly under the direction of second-year Head Coach Dennis Trottier. Despite what seems like inexperience and youth on paper, Coach Trottier is confident in his roster.

"We only graduated one girl from last year's team. Most of these girls have played together at some point, either on the team last year or during spring or fall teams. They are like family. The girls will do anything for each other as they are always supporting each other. It is nice to see," said Coach Trottier.

Sophomore guard Chrissy Commons has seen an improvement over the development of the team from last year.

"I think there is a huge improvement between this year and last year. This year we know where everyone is on the court and the skill level is twice as high as last



Courtesy of Katie Weil

Sophomore Hayley Kerr fights for a rebound in a game against the Cold Spring Harbor Seahawks. This was one of Kerr's eight rebounds on the game, which the Lady Vikings won 35-33 after staging a comeback in the fourth quarter.

year," said Commons.

Seniors Leah Feldman, Rachel Strongin and Weil all share time in their final season, providing years-worth of experience off the bench. Ms. Danielle Gil returns in her second year as assistant coach. She played for the Lady Vikings program under current athletic director and previous head coach Ms. Stephanie Joannon. Coach Gil brings college level experience to this year's team after playing for four years at Skidmore College.

The team entered the championship game of their Holiday Tournament looking to defeat the Carle Place Frogs. De-

spite another fourth quarter push by Rosenthal, who helped the Lady Vikings outscore the Frogs 14-8, Port fell by a final score of 49-43.

The Lady Vikings next game was against Herricks High School. The two teams were tied after regulation, but Herricks scored two early points in the overtime period. But Port rallied late in overtime after Horowitz hit two free throws. However, Port's efforts were not enough to stop Herrick's last second heroics; Michelle Weinman hit a three pointer with two seconds left to seal the victory for the Highlanders. The 32-29 loss marked Port's first conference loss of the season.

Port Washington recorded their first conference win defeating Valley Stream Central at home on Dec. 17. Horowitz and Rosenthal had nine points each as freshman Ali Seltzer scored a career high seven points to lead Port to a 41-31 victory.

The team is currently third in the Nassau Conference AA-III standings, trailing the undefeated Herricks and Carey squads.

Horowitz attributes the team's solid start to strong team chemistry.

"We all get along great and are all eager to play hard and come out with a win. When we are in a game and people are on the bench, we are always cheering for each other and motivating one another," said Horowitz. "Even in practice we consistently clap for each other and feed off the positive attitude."

On Dec. 19, the Lady Vikings had the opportunity to play at Madison Square Garden in a non-league game against the Mineola Lady Mustangs. Leading throughout the first three quarters, the team faltered in the fourth quarter as they

were unable to stop Kalie Medlock, who scored sixteen points for Mineola.

Despite the final score, the game was an unforgettable experience for the Lady Vikings, who were treated like basketball royalty, suiting up in the professional locker rooms. The team enjoyed all of the amenities of playing at the Garden, such as



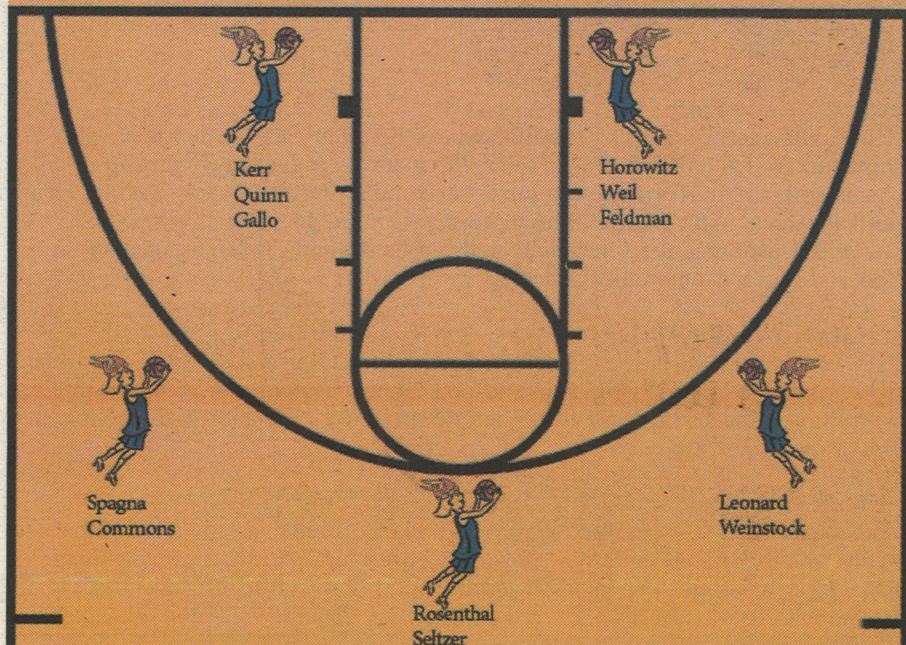
Courtesy of Katie Weil

Sophomore Emily Rosenthal goes up for a layup in the annual Port Washington Holiday Tournament.

a professional sound system, scoreboard, and courtside fans. Rosenthal scored a team-high 13 points, connecting on four three pointers from behind the regulation college line.

"The desire to win is much stronger than last year and everyone on the team wants to work to win," said Weil.

LADY VIKINGS DEPTH CHART



Chris Yap