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THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LX No. 8 April 2010

Tales of the
Viking Mice
and Other Short Stories



Glee
-A&E-



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This photo, taken by sophomore Molly Kluger for her Digital Photography class, displays the connection between dance and music. The assignment was to capture a photo of an unusual still life. The photographer also used an interesting perspective to enhance the photo's depth.

NEWS BRIEFS

Poem in Your Pocket Day

In 2008, "Poem in Your Pocket Day" was declared a national event by the Academy of American Poets as a way to celebrate National Poetry Month.

On April 29, Americans nationwide were encouraged to carry a poem in their pockets and to share it with friends, family, coworkers, teachers, and classmates. The English Honor Society decided to join in on the festivities, and it set up a variety of activities around the building to help involve the entire student body and staff.

"The idea was to escalate everyone's awareness of poetry," said Ms. Joan Lisecki, advisor of the English Honor Society.

To start off the celebration, a Poetry Café was held at the library where anyone was welcome to read a poem of his or her choice. Students and faculty members had the opportunity to recite an original piece of work or to read someone else's poem with their own interpretations.

To further raise awareness and to get the student body involved, envelopes were hung up around the building with poems placed in each one. This allowed students and staff members to easily take a poem to share with their peers.

One of the main goals of the English Honor Society is to expose and educate students to all forms of writings. This day helped the group to fulfill this task by introducing students to many different

types of poetry.

"This day serves to emphasize the meaning of poetry in a very unique way which will further unify the student body," said senior Brittany Berliner, vice president of the English Honor Society.

~ Lauren Goldstein

Fed Challenge team moves to semifinal round

The school's Fed Challenge team is one of 13 teams to move on to the regional semifinal round of the competition, and will compete against schools from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

"I was very pleased to move on to the next round. After the judges' difficult questions, I did not think we would make it. In the end, our creativity and very strong knowledge of economics helped us to thoroughly answer every tricky question the judges asked," said senior Alexander Beall, a member of the team.

The team is made of five senior AP Economics students: Beall, Marco Bertolotti, Anton Cataldi, Peter Maxted, and Graham Potters. To select this team, Mr. Craig Medico held an in-class preliminary round in which teams had the opportunity to compete for the position.

For the competition, students had to create their own monetary policy. The project is centered around the Federal

Open Market Committee (FOMC) and its policy determination, including the buying and selling of bonds to change the money supply and federal funds rate. The team's project also uses the discount rate, which is another major tool of monetary policy that the Fed determines.

Students prepare a 15-minute presentation that outlines the state of the economy, their proposed policies, and the effects that these policies will have on the economy.

"I really enjoyed speaking with the judges. One of our judges was a professional economist and another was a university professor," said Beall. "The questions they asked were challenging but the feedback they gave was invaluable."

The team now competes today at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and if it wins, the students will have the opportunity to compete at the national round in Washington D.C.

~Sahil Doshi and Leah Nash

ERRATA:

The March 2010 issue incorrectly stated the results of the *Trust Me!* assembly survey. 80% of the students surveyed liked the assembly while 20% of students disliked it.

In addition, Victor dos Santos was not credited for writing the "Far from memorable, Pattinson's latest film disappoints" article.

The Schreiber Times

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Shakespeare Day performances honor famous playwright

Both students and teachers participate in musical, theatrical and comedic skits

by Katya Barrett
Assistant News Editor

The annual tradition of Shakespeare Day continued this year with a variety of activities and performances that commemorated one of the most celebrated playwrights in the world. Both students and teachers were involved in the event, which was held throughout the day on April 23.

Many of the performances were led by students, including the reading of sonnets and enactments of dramatic scenes. Others were led by teachers from across the school and even the audience participated in the Shakespeare-themed game shows, such as Shakespeare Family Feud and Shakespeare's "Two Truths and a Lie."

"Overall, I really enjoyed attending Shakespeare Day this year. I actually learned a lot about Shakespeare while also having fun and being entertained," said sophomore Brendan Weintraub.

Some of the student performances connected Shakespeare to pop culture. A modern version of *The Merchant of*

and sophomore Adam Cuthill worked together in a performance choreographed to represent a Shakespearean fight scene from *Romeo and Juliet*. This surprising event was well-received by both the students and the teachers in the audience.

"I really enjoyed the more modern performances because, at least to me, they were very unexpected and truly amusing," said sophomore Meghan Ferris. "I think that the audience was pleasantly surprised by these modern interludes, and that they were effective in lightening the mood of the day."

Members of the faculty were also involved in the event. A group of teachers (Mr. Corey Block, Mr. Joseph Corbo, Mr. Craig Medico, Mr. Anthony Pinelli, and Mr. Mark Reynolds) performed the song "Limelight" by the band Rush. This song fit well with the theme of the day in that it employs one of Shakespeare's most famous phrases.

The day also included a variety of competitions. The scene contest, held during third period, was won by seniors Jon Hurwitz and Justin Volpe. The winning duo, who performed a scene from *Taming of the Shrew*, were then asked to repeat their scene at the end of the day.

Another popular competition was the cake contest, which was introduced for the first time this year. The cakes were displayed in the lobby, and a panel of judges announced a tie for first place. Seniors Rayna Hovanec and Rachel Prowler shared the top prize with freshman Hannah Fagen.

"I was really pleased with how people reacted to, and got involved with, the new competitions," said Ms. Donna Valenti, the faculty coordinator for Shakespeare Day. "Everyone, including myself, was so surprised and impressed by the beautiful cakes."

The celebration of Shakespeare also included tributes to two English teachers who are retiring after this school year: Ms. Lynn Kennedy and Mr. Henry Tabickman. A group of students sang "Where is the Life that Late I Lead?" with the lyrics adapted to fittingly commemorate the career of Mr. Tabickman. In the tribute to Ms. Kennedy, the members of the English Department each placed a different flower in a basket while reciting a line from a



Kevin Granger

Many of the skits that were performed throughout the event featured staff members. Above, a group of teachers enact a scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

"We all hope that everyone enjoyed coming to Shakespeare Day and will appreciate all the hard work that has gone into every aspect of the event," said student coordinator Molly Ronis.

Venice, re-named "The Merchant of the Venetian, Las Vegas," incorporated characters from both the popular reality show *The Jersey Shore* and the summer blockbuster *The Hangover* to represent classic Shakespearean characters.

In what seemed like a re-match from Spirit Week, a break-dancing performance was added into the schedule. Instead of competing against each other, senior Dean Takahashi, junior Timmy Zhong,

Shakespearean play that applied to the flower.

The event was planned and led by a committee of student coordinators under the guidance of Ms. Valenti. The group consisted of seniors Cory Morano and David Yedid, and juniors Andy Lieberman and Molly Ronis. These student leaders were chosen after a long application and interview process.

"It was very interesting to be able to be a part of the interview process this year, and we had so many qualified applicants that it was a really hard decision," said Yedid.

As the day of the event neared, the coordinators met increasingly with Ms. Valenti to plan the different performances and attract interested students.

"I hope that the show was one that a wide variety of students were able to enjoy," said Ronis. "We all hope that everyone enjoyed coming to Shakespeare Day and will appreciate all the hard work that has gone into every aspect of the event."

The student advisors publicized the

event in the weeks prior to the event and stressed the idea that anyone can be involved in Shakespeare Day, not just people who have been involved in previous years.

"One of the real difficulties this year was trying to get students who do not normally perform to get involved in the events," said Yedid.

Despite a few technical difficulties regarding the sound and projector systems, the coordinators were proud of the event.

"Overall, I am relieved and pleased. The student coordinators did a fantastic job; each one of them is extremely talented and proposed ideas with maturity and respect," said Ms. Valenti. "I am mindful, however, that there is still room for improvement. I have already begun to make a list of modifications for next year, as well as a list of new ideas. That is the nature of Shakespeare Day; it is organic. We never see it in its entirety until the day of the performance, so invariably, there have been a few surprises."

Board of Education settles on a 1.97 percent budget increase for 2011

by Andrew Seo
Editor-in-Chief

In less than three weeks, voters will be heading to the polls to decide whether or not they approve a school budget that has been under constant scrutiny since February.

This year, given the economic climate, the Board strived to strike the balance between program savings for students and dollar savings for taxpayers.

The Board unanimously adopted the \$127,093,256 proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year, which reflects a 1.97 percent increase from last year's budget. In dollar amounts, this percentage represents an additional \$2,452,677.

At the April 20 meeting, which was the final day that the Board could make modifications, a handout explaining the budget's significance was distributed.

It advertised the budget as offering

"fewer positions through attrition without [the] elimination of programs." It goes on by stating that it would provide a "realignment of assignments so students do not lose programs."

The focal point of the Board's campaign to get this proposal passed in the coming weeks is this idea of program preservation. The Board has worked continuously on achieving this end since it first held a budget-related meeting on Feb. 2, when it called for a 2.92 percent increase.

At the meeting, Board President Ms. Karen Sloan said, "We have come a very long way in showing the community respect with what is going out there."

The Board will be hosting a public hearing to present information pertaining to the budget on May 4 at Schreiber.

Two weeks later, on May 18, residents will have the opportunity to vote on the budget, a property sale proposition, and Board members for next year.

The Board is selling the parcel of land

it owns on Ashwood Road in an effort to raise additional funds. However, before it is able to go through with the transaction, the Board requires approval from the voters.

Finally, residents will have the chance to fill three Board positions for next year from a field of four candidates, incumbents Mr. William Hohauser and current president, Ms. Karen Sloan, and challengers Mr. Joseph Mirzoeff, who was a past member, and Mr. Robert Ryan. Current member Ms. Jean-Marie Posner's term expires this school year, but she is not seeking re-election.

Despite extensive debate over the number of polls, the district will again operate four locations, Daly, Salem, Sousa, and Weber.

Now that the work sessions are over, Mr. Hohauser and Ms. Sloan will be campaigning alongside the other five members in order to pass the \$127,093,256 budget and avoid contingency.

2010-11 Proposed Budget to Budget Increase

Herricks	3.80%
Jericho	3.50%
North Shore	3.31%
Garden City	3.21%
Manhasset	2.98%
Locust Valley	2.90%
Oyster Bay	2.89%
Syosset	2.74%
East Williston	2.43%
Great Neck	2.16%
Port Washington	1.97%
Roslyn	1.12%

Natural Helpers address the myths of relationship violence

With loss of school social worker, program will be offered to seniors for the last time

by Lauren Effune

Copy/Managing Editor

One in six women and one in 33 men will be victims of sexual assault in their lifetimes. The Natural Helpers continued their yearly tradition of educating seniors about the dangers of relationship violence through the Relationship Violence Workshop.

The workshop begins with a survey given to seniors that quizzes them on common sexual violence myths and asks them about their own history with relationships. The Natural Helpers then analyzed the survey results with the seniors during a day-long workshop.

The workshop finishes off when the Natural Helpers teach seniors about healthy relationships so they can use this knowledge as they head off to college. However, with the loss of social worker and Natural Helpers advisor Ms. Michele Weiden's position, this will be the last year the Relationship Violence Workshop will be offered to students.

"The first year of college can be a very difficult time around these issues, and we feel that through this program, we are sending our graduates off to college a little bit safer," said Ms. Weiden.

This year, approximately 157 seniors completed the survey, distributed in social studies classes throughout March.

Compared to last year's survey results, many seniors answered the myth questions correctly. When told that the primary motivation for someone who commits sexual assault is to have sex, 65% of seniors correctly answered false. Similarly, 79% of seniors correctly answered false to the statement that most rapes and sexual assaults are committed by strangers. However, there were a couple of questions

"I am especially disappointed that the relationship violence program will be terminated. It is one of only a handful of programs like it anywhere in the world," said Ms. Julia Brandt.

that were borderline 50-50 or the majority of seniors chose the wrong answer. In particular, when presented with the myth that alcohol is a factor in about half of all sexual assaults on college campuses, 93% thought it was true and 7% thought it was false, while in fact the answer is false.

The second part of the survey had a slightly more personal angle and asked students more about their own experiences in relationships. Similarly to the myth questions, some answers were surprising while others were expected. One question asked if students these days feel expected to have sex if they are in a relationship. The results were almost even; 47% of seniors felt they did while 53% felt they did not. Furthermore, more females said they felt pressured to have sex than did males. The Natural Helpers will analyze the strong correlations and myths regarding alcohol and sexual acts indicated by the survey during the training workshop.

"[The survey] helps in training the Natural Helpers, but it also helps when they go into the classes. Before we started doing the survey, the seniors would challenge the Natural Helpers presenting this information to them saying 'this kind of thing doesn't happen to kids like us at schools like Schreiber.' Doing the survey proves that it does," said Ms. Weiden.

Students also had the opportunity to write about any issues mentioned in the survey that they wanted to know more about. Once again, responses varied widely. One student wanted to know the statistics of sexual assaults on college campuses, while another one wanted to know how teens should act while they are on a date. In addition, seniors were able to provide input about their own personal experiences in relationships.

"Sexual pressure is often denied, but it is present in more ways than are recognized," wrote one student.

Other seniors also felt that the pressure to engage in sexual acts is prevalent among the student body.

"What I don't like about relationships in Schreiber is that you are asked too much if you've had sex, when it is in fact very personal," said one student.

Once again, the correlation between the use of alcohol or drugs and engaging in sexual behaviors while under the influence was present in one student's testimony.

"Alcohol makes you willing to engage in sexual acts you normally wouldn't do. I've woken up in the morning thinking

'What did I do?' and regretting the things I've done," said one senior.

During the training, the Natural Helpers learn more about particular issues and trends regarding relationship violence and the differences between a healthy and unhealthy relationship. A packet of information is compiled, distributed, and used throughout the day-long training for discussion. To help the discussion, Ms. Brandt and Ms. Weiden bring in a trainer from the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence to teach the students more about relationship violence and date rape awareness.

"It is not easy to speak about these topics with your peers, but after the training the Natural Helpers do a great job. This is a skill that they can take with them wherever the future takes them," said Ms. Weiden.

However, with the loss of Ms. Weiden's position as social worker, the Natural Helpers club will not continue and this will be the last year the Relationship Violence Workshop will be offered. This program is unique on Long Island, as it has been recognized outside of school by the Town of North Hempstead for its innovation and is the only student-led program on Long Island. Previously, Ms. Brandt and Ms. Weiden have created a guideline for

other schools that want to adopt similar programs. Nevertheless, Schreiber is the only Natural Helpers program in the country that includes a relationship violence component.

"Due to my position being eliminated from next year's school district budget, and the state offering a retirement incentive, I was left no choice then but to retire. If there is no social worker in the high school, I cannot imagine who will pick up the enormous job of Natural Helpers. Even if they do find someone to take on that role, the Relationship Violence Awareness Program is a labor of love that developed from an offshoot of a peer leadership conference that I took some Natural Helpers to several years ago," said Ms. Weiden.

With the loss of Natural Helpers, the entire purpose of the Relationship Violence Workshop is defeated, as it was designed to be a peer-led program where peers could talk to each other about these issues as the seniors head off to college.

"I am especially disappointed that the relationship violence program will be terminated. It is one of only a handful of programs like it anywhere in the world," said Ms. Brandt. "We are clearly addressing what has become a social and criminal epidemic."

Earth Day highlights global issues

by Alison Ehrlich

Contributing Writer

To celebrate Earth Day, the Treehuggers Environmental Club held two events to foster environmental awareness and to encourage students to actively participate in helping the Earth. On the week of April 22, students had the opportunity to view a documentary exposing the realities of the food industry and were also encouraged to sign pledges of their commitment to the environment.

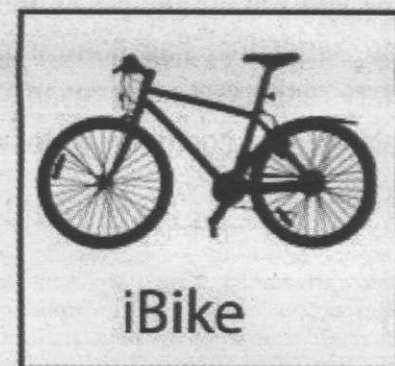
"The goal of these programs was to make the student body more aware of environmental problems, and to offer easy ways in which they can reduce the deterioration of our planet," said senior Alex Zippo, co-president of the club. "There are many dangers facing the world today that environmental protection has become an issue of paramount importance. We chose this specific movie because we believed it would attract many students."

Leading up to Earth Day, a screening of *Food Inc.* was held in the choir room on April 20. Approximately 20 students attended the presentation of this film, which focused on farming methods, food contamination, mistreatment of animals, and other environmental issues.

The movie not only examined the meat industry, but also exposed the adverse effects of the overuse of corn and wheat. In addition, members of the club brought organic and vegetarian food for dinner to emphasize the message of the movie.

"The movie was interesting and enlightening because I was able to learn a lot more about the harmful effects of the food industry in America. I thought it was a good idea that they chose to bring only vegetarian or organic food that went in line with the focus of the movie," said senior Koeun Ro.

On Earth Day (April 22), a table was set up during 4-1/4-2 in the lobby where students and teachers were encouraged



On Earth Day, students were able to sign pledges to different actions including "iBike" to demonstrate their dedication to helping the environment.

to make pledges to help the environment. Large posters were hung around the lobby with different actions such as "iRecycle" that people were asked to sign to demonstrate their dedication. Others pledged to not use plastic bottles, to replace conventional light bulbs with compact fluorescents, and to bike instead of drive. People who wrote their names on posters also received slips of paper explaining how to follow through with their pledge.

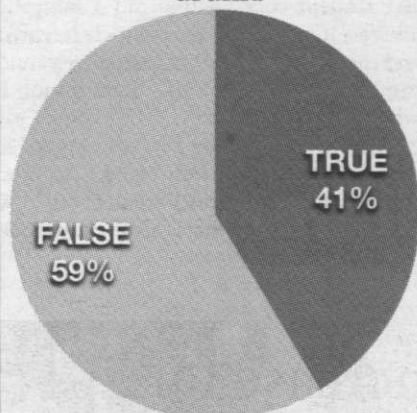
"The pledges were a great way to remind everyone of how they can do their part to help the environment during this Earth Day," said sophomore Alison Peraza.

Unlike last year's week-long event filled with various activities, the club decided to hold only two events this year in order to better focus its planning. The club was able to more efficiently plan the events and received an enthusiastic response from the student body.

"I think that these events really helped people become more aware of Earth Day. The actions of our Environmental Club were very effective in spreading awareness of these important issues and promoting environmental protection," said junior Andy Lieberman.

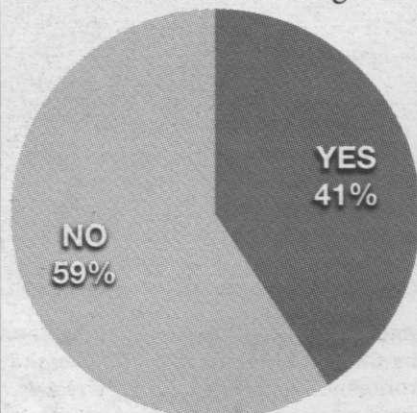
Senior Survey Results

A person can be arrested for having sex with someone who is drunk.



Correct Answer: True

Have you ever engaged in sexual acts while you or your partner was under the influence of alcohol or other drugs?



For first time in eight years, NYSSMA is held in Port

Over 2,200 students from all over Long Island arrive at Schreiber for music festival

by Matt Heiden

Assistant News Editor

This past weekend, the school was filled with the sound of music as the annual New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) festival took place at Schreiber. This is the first time in eight years that the event was held in Port Washington. Over the weekend of April 23 to 25, students from all over Long Island brought their instruments to the school to be evaluated by judges on their musical proficiency.

Over 2,200 students participated in the festival, coming from districts such as Roslyn, Great Neck, Manhasset, Herricks, and several private schools. For this year's festival, 15 different school districts from across Long Island were present, and there were 47 judges.

"I'm really excited to be helping out at NYSSMA held at Schreiber this year. Whenever I went to other schools for my NYSSMA performances, I was always jealous of seeing kids helping out and wanted to do the same," said senior Connie Kim.

NYSSMA is a state-wide organization that promotes music education in a variety of ways, including holding music festivals such as this one. Participants are required to perform a graded piece of music for judges and to demonstrate their technical skills through scales and sight reading. There are six difficulty levels with level six being the most difficult and level one being the easiest. Grades earned from the festival are also used as criteria for performing groups such as All County and All State ensembles.

Schreiber was named the host school for this year through a rotation system.

This process gives participating districts an opportunity to host the NYSSMA festival every five years. The last time it was offered, Port Washington passed because of budgetary and spatial reasons.

"It was great to have NYSSMA here. We got the home-field advantage, and we were comfortable playing in a classroom that we were familiar with," said sophomore Jen Kim.

The festival brought together students from a variety of ages and skill levels to be evaluated on their musical talent. At this festival, all musical instruments, excluding classical guitar and piano, were judged. The NYSSMA festival for piano is held in May at C.W. Post.

Schreiber students were involved in the festival by giving directions to participants and ushering them to the judging rooms.

"All the staff and members of Tri-M Music Honor Society did a wonderful job. They're hard-working and everything went smoothly," said band teacher Mr. John Meyer.

Both Key Club members and Tri-M members had the opportunity to sign up and help out at the festival.

"I signed up through the Key Club, and with so many people from all over Long Island, it was nice to help out," said sophomore Jake Yedid.

As the host school, Schreiber was given the ability to select the dates of the event so that they would not conflict with other events, such as the spring concert or the school musical, *Grease*.

"It was nice to have NYSSMA here this year because it eliminated the hassle of driving to another town and walking through an unfamiliar school to find the

room," said sophomore Sean Mintz.

Judges from around New York State visited to help evaluate the students and they had the opportunity to informally compare the Port Washington music department with others.

Although they are qualified, Schreiber teachers did not have to function as judges this year. However, if it were absolutely necessary for them to evaluate students, they would have to grade musicians from outside the district to eliminate any potential biases.

"As the host we get to show off our music program to other districts and judges from around the state," said Mr. Mark Brenner, chair of the music department. "Students and teachers responded well to this like any opportunity to display the musicianship of students."

Almost all of the classrooms in the school were used over the course of the weekend. They were organized into different wings grouped by the different families of instruments. Staff members helped to organize the event and were there to help participants.

Upright pianos were rented to be used for All State and voice auditions, which often require the presence of an accompanist. Student volunteers as well as custodians helped transport the pianos Thursday afternoon during the set-up process.

"The music department is grateful to the administration and especially the custodial staff who had to deal with a big shift from Shakespeare Day to the music festival. You cannot do that without the support of these wonderful people," said Mr. Brenner.

Participant Perspectives on NYSSMA festival

"I'm extremely impressed with the school and skills of the students. I enjoyed coming to Schreiber for my good friend, Mr. Phil Glover, the choral director, and the NYSSMA student helpers were extremely helpful and knowledgeable," said Gwendolyn Carroll, NYSSMA judge and adjunct professor at C. W. Post.

"I think the event is well organized and I think everyone is doing what they can," said Mr. Steve Gleason, a parent of a participant from Manhasset High School.

"I found that the school was really easy to navigate with the students giving directions. They did a great job organizing the event and the student volunteers were really helpful," said Deepti Mahajan, a participant from Herricks Middle School.

Photography class receives award for climate change themed work

by Hannah Fagen

Staff Writer

Over the next few weeks, a special display of photographs, all featuring an environmental theme, will be displayed throughout the atrium.

Although extremely unique in design, technique, and subject matter, all photographs are part of the project, "The Glory and Demise of our Environment," which was recently awarded the Chase Multimedia in the Classroom Award.

All of the school's AP photography students took part in this special project, which was overseen by art department chair Ms. Kris Murphy.

The photography project that was submitted was nature-inspired and it focused on how the environment has been negatively affected by man-made technology.

The project was created in honor of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference's plans to help encourage conservation efforts and promote the movement to "go green." Students involved used a large variety of historical techniques dating back to the 1850s, as well as modern innovations. Once completed, the project was submitted to the contest through mail.

"I think the topic was wonderful. There is so much beauty in nature, but it is also important to realize the negative effects of how we are treating the Earth. Hopefully this project will enlighten people," said senior Rachel Sciacca, who participated in

the project.

Schreiber was one of ten tri-state area schools selected to receive an award and prize of \$1,000 from Chase. While the school only submitted photographs to the competition, other schools submitted multimedia projects.

The award will provide the photo lab with funds for supplies and innovative equipment that the district budget cannot cover. Additionally, students will be given the opportunity to experiment in specialized photo processes.

"I was absolutely thrilled and I jumped for joy when I found out that we were rewarded," said Ms. Murphy. "I am so proud of the concept and work that the students created. The money we were rewarded with will be put to good use, especially during this time of economic strife."

The 2010 Chase Multimedia in the Classroom Awards is a part of the Thirteen Network and WLIW21's Celebration of Teaching and Learning 2010.

The projects are all collaborations between teachers and students showing how they can use technology to creatively enhance their learning experiences. It is open to all K-12 teachers and their students in both public and non-public schools.

The photographs are not only displayed in the atrium throughout April, but they are available online as well at thirteencelebration.org for all who wish to view them.

Four years ago, AP Photography students were the recipients of this same

award, yet the project was on a different nature-inspired topic. Additionally, the art department has also won many other awards in the past, including many PWEF grants.

Several students and staff members recently attended the 2010 Celebration of Teaching and Learning Conference in order to accept the Chase Multimedia in the Classroom award.

Juniors Ann Lee and Lalia Iravani and teachers Ms. Terri Hall, Mr. Peter Koch, and Ms. Marisa De Marco were present at the ceremony.

"The art program at Schreiber continues to grow and evolve with new technology and world trends. It is an excellent program that is also very unique," said Ms. Murphy.



Photographs such as this one, shot by senior Carly Cindrich, were on display in the atrium as part of a project sponsored by Chase. Students submitted work for the theme, "Glory and Demise of our Environment," which depicted the effects of human encroachment on nature.

Groundbreaking teacher contract agreed upon

After months of negotiation, Board of Education and the Teachers Association compromise

by Leah Nash

News Editor

Negotiations for a teacher contract have been occurring ever since the previous contract expired late last summer, but now an agreement between both parties has been reached. Negotiations culminated with the ratification of the contract by teachers the week of March 15 and unanimous approval of the contract by the Board of Education on March 23.

"After many months of negotiations, it was rewarding to all parties to arrive at such a positive outcome," said Board of Education President Ms. Karen Sloan. "It took a great deal of hard work and compromise, and the good will was able to bring us to a winning agreement for our entire community."

Recently, news channels NY 1, NBC 4, and WABC 7 came out to Port Washington to report on the contract. This agreement is the first teacher contract on Long Island to have a 0% increase and no retroactive pay.

"The groundbreaking contract was a win-win-win," said Superintendent Dr. Geoffrey Gordon. "That is the community and taxpayers benefit because with the givebacks and attritions, the entire negotiated raise over five years is projected to be funded within a frozen budget line. In the end, the Teachers Association and the Board of Education cooperated and agreed to terms that I felt would benefit

the students."

A major component of the contract is the agreement by the Teachers Association to a 0% base salary increase with no retroactive pay for the current school year. This will help the district save money without making any additional cuts in personnel or clubs.

"The highlights of this agreement would have to be the tremendous givebacks from the teachers starting with a zero increase in year one," said Ms. Sloan. "The contract has been very well received from within our community and outside of it. Officials and taxpayers from many other communities have reached to us about it as it is indeed groundbreaking. Our teachers were willing to cooperate for the good of the community."

The Teachers Association will freeze compensation for miscellaneous activities. This will not only initially save the district approximately \$60,000, but will also result in long term monetary benefits. The Teachers Association has also agreed to an approximate \$350,000 reduction to next year's contribution to the Benefit Trust. The salary increase for the 2010-2011 school year will be funded by this reduction in contributions to the Teachers' Benefit Trust. Additionally, the number of sick days for teachers hired before 1982 will be reduced with provisions of sick days in the contract.

During contract negotiations, the main point of contention was salary increase, and now for the upcoming 2010-2011

school year until the 2013-2014 school year, teachers will receive an increase in pay. For the 2010-2011 school year, teachers will receive a 1.75% base salary increase and an additional 1.0% lump sum

"The highlights of this agreement would have to be the tremendous givebacks from the teachers starting with a zero increase in year one," said Board of Education President Karen Sloan. "The contract has been very well received from within our community."

payment that will not be included in the scheduled salary payment.

This increase will be funded by the reduction in contributions to the Teachers' Benefit Trust and reductions of staff by attrition. Over the next few years, the salary increase for teachers will gradually progress. Overall, teachers will receive a salary increase of 2.5% in 2010-2011, 2.75% in 2012-2013, and 2.95% in 2013-2014.

"I think the entire district, both students and taxpayers, will benefit from

this contract," said Ms. Sloan. "Controlling our costs in this area has enabled us to put up a budget this year that reflects the times and needs of our community while allowing us to keep the standards of education where we all want them to remain. Additionally, we will not need to cut staff."

With 15 retirements this year, the anticipated savings of \$1,066,000 is expected to result in more than a \$200,000 positive differential from the estimated \$837,000 raise (1.75%) in the 2010-2011 school year.

"The only increases to taxpayers will be step increases which are mandated in New York for every district by the Taylor law and/or Triborough Amendment because every district of which I am aware of has long-standing step guides which in Port Washington's case dates back to 1957 according to union officials," said Dr. Gordon.

The teacher contract, which was negotiated for approximately a year, will last five years and provide personnel with a gradual salary increase each year. Although the budget vote is drawing near, the teacher contract will not be altered by the outcome of the vote.

"By keeping our teachers, classes, and co-curriculars, students get the biggest win of all," said Dr. Gordon. "The Board of Education and teachers deserve the highest praise for working out an agreement that is a win for taxpayers, a win for teachers, and a win for students."



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Shakespeare performing duo interacts with students

Knighthorse Theatre Company shares its passion through classroom visits and workshops

by Blake Mergler and Reid Mergler

Opinions Editor and Sports Editor

Emulating a scene from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Tyrus Lemerande took a sword out of his back pocket and pretended to "carve out [a student's] passage...till he unseam'd him from the navel to the chaps." As the student blushed in embarrassment, Ms. Lynn Kennedy's Shakespeare class understood *Macbeth's* value to the English language.

On April 16, Knighthorse Theatre Company performers Tyrus and Amy Lemerande and their baby, Declan, came to share Shakespearean glee with students and faculty.

Throughout the day, the group performed an adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* for two freshmen assemblies, and performed for Ms. Sari Schulman's Theatre Arts class and Ms. Kennedy's Shakespeare class.

"I feel that Ty and Amy shared the love they have for Shakespeare and his poetry in an almost contagious fashion," said Ms. Joan Lisecki, chair of the English department. "Our freshmen interacted enthusiastically and responded appropriately, appearing to enjoy every minute, despite being part of a group of 200 in the auditorium. Whether it was our ninth grade students, Ms. Schulman's theatre class, or Ms. Kennedy's Shakespeare

elective, the reception to the program was overwhelmingly positive."

Students as well as teachers found these performances to be educational and engaging.

"With dramatic hand gestures and props, Mr. Lemerande truly acted out *Macbeth* in an understandable way," said junior Aditi Shroff, a student taking Shakespeare this semester. "By speaking in different voices and by using various interpretations, the presentation was humorous while informative."

During sixth period, the Lemerandes hosted a workshop for the English department. All English teachers cancelled their last period classes to learn how to better teach Shakespeare in a classroom.

A non-profit organization founded in Sept. 2003, the Knighthorse Theatre Company specializes in adaptations of Shakespearean plays.

Ty Lemerande, who had majored in English at the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated from Penn State University with an M.F.A. in Theatre Arts in 2002, is the artistic director of this company. In the past, he has developed and directed numerous adaptations of Shakespeare's works. Additionally, he has acted as Ferdinand in *The Tempest* and Lucentio in *The Taming of the Shrew*.

His wife, Amy Lemerande, the executive director of the company, attended Boston College for her undergraduate

degrees in English and Theatre Arts, and Trinity Rep Conservatory for her M.F.A. After college, she performed in the same plays as her husband. Both are extremely interested in Shakespeare, and founded this company to engage others nationwide in the Elizabethan era.

According to the company's website, "at Knighthorse our guiding principle is simple: make Shakespeare 'cool' again; we do that by engaging students physically, emotionally and intellectually. But, mostly, we do it by making them laugh, often in spite of themselves."

Through contact with Ms. Rose Marvel, head of the Cultural Arts committee, and Ms. Shirley Cepero, director of ESL, this group was able to visit Schreiber.

The day's events were also organized by Principal Mr. Jay Lewis, English teacher Ms. Donna Valenti, the organizer of this year's Shakespeare's Day, and Ms. Lisecki. Events were planned throughout the day to give a wide range of students and faculty members the opportunity to experience Shakespeare in a new way.

"We had a blast. The students here are absolutely fantastic," said Mr. Lemerande. "Because of the interactive nature of our performance, it makes it so much more fun for us when the students are willing to follow us on our journey of imagination. We seemed to be well received by the students and faculty and we hope that we can find a way to get back again next year," said Mr. Lemerande.



Courtesy of Ms. Joan Lisecki

Ty Lemerande of the Knighthorse Theatre Company performed a scene from *Macbeth* with his wife, Amy Lemerande, for Ms. Lynn Kennedy's Shakespeare class.

Senior science researchers excel

by Sahil Doshi

News Editor

This year's senior Science Research class has achieved high honors in various competitions across the country. In addition to their achievements at Intel, students participated at I-SWEEEP (International Sustainable World - Energy, Engineering & Environment), YES (Young Epidemiology Scholars), and LISEF (Long Island Science & Engineering Fair), with one student qualifying to participate at ISEF (International Science & Engineering Fair).

Senior Marco Bertolotti's application to I-SWEEEP qualified him to compete from April 15-18 in Houston, Texas with students from over 40 states and 70 countries. He entered into the Senior Engineering category and received a Bronze medal for his work.

His project was titled, "Green Concrete: Eliminating the Use of Heat Treatment and Portland Cement in CO₂-free Enhanced-Fly-Ash Cement." Through his project, he explored the possibility of using a more environmentally friendly form of concrete that is made from a geopolymer called fly ash. He worked on his project at the UC Berkeley Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering under Professor Paulo Monteiro and Dr. Mauricio Mancio.

"I was excited when I heard of my selection to attend the I-SWEEEP fair in Houston. It was also fun to win Bronze," said Bertolotti.

Similarly, senior Katelynn Catalano was selected as a regional finalist of YES, and she competed in Washington, D.C. from April 23-26.

"I was ecstatic when I learned about my success in the YES competition," said

Catalano. "When I received the news, I was a little bit in shock, and I could not stop smiling. It is an amazing opportunity for me to present at YES."

In her project titled, "Microvascular abnormalities in type-1 diabetes mellitus patients," Catalano used computer assisted intravital microscopy (CAIM) to look at blood vessels in the white of the eye to find any abnormalities that form as a result of diabetes. She worked on this project at the UC Davis Medical Center under the guidance of Dr. Anthony Cheung.

At LISEF, seniors Bertolotti, Eddie Grove, Nicole Meyers, Ryohai Ozaki, and Christina Zhou all qualified to compete at Round Two. Bertolotti, Meyers, and Zhou all received honorable mentions, Grove received a third place award, and Ozaki was announced as a Grand Award Winner, and will have the opportunity to compete at ISEF in San Jose, California from May 9-14.

"When they called me up, it was a mix of excitement and shock. It finally 'felt real' when a fellow winner said to me, 'We're going to San Jose,'" said Ozaki.

Ozaki's project was titled, "Neurons and glia exhibit different cell adhesion complexes in the embryonic chicken retina," and he worked on it at Boston University's biology department with Dr. Robert Hausman.

His research project investigated the interactions between the various cell types of the embryonic chick retina to determine how a particular protein, R-cognin, aids the accumulation and adhesion of these certain cells.

Under the guidance of Mr. John Schineller, these seniors have surpassed previous years in their strong showings over a broad spectrum of topics—ranging from genetics to engineering—at the national level.

Walk honors children killed in Holocaust

by Katya Barrett

Assistant News Editor

Members of Key Club, Social Studies Honor Society, and other students came together this Sunday for a Holocaust remembrance called A Walk To Remember. Held on April 25 at the Welwyn Preserve in Glen Cove, the event honored the memory of the children killed in the Holocaust.

Senior Alizé Margulis has been involved with this event for a few years. This year, she helped publicize the walk throughout the school by putting up posters, handing out flyers, and announcing it to students in various classes. She also raised awareness in the Port Washington community.

"My grandparents are Holocaust survivors and my great-grandparents were involved in the French Resistance, so educating others about World War II and the Holocaust is very important to me," said Margulis.

The walk took place in one of the largest bird sanctuaries on Long Island, which also happens to be the home of the

Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. Participants were able to choose from trails of varying lengths and then followed a guide who provided information at different educational check points. This year, a tour of the newly renovated museum was also available.

In addition to the walk itself, a memorial event featuring musical presentations by children was also held. Throughout the day, Holocaust survivors recounted their different journeys.

"At school, we learn about the Holocaust from a history class with a textbook, but at this event, people are able to talk to people who actually survived this tragic genocide," said Margulis.

The event also works to raise money to support this memorial and educational center in hopes that the museum can continue to spread its lesson of compassion and understanding for all people.

"It is important for the next generation to know the truth about the Holocaust," said Margulis. "Through this event, people from the community come together for part of a day to remember the millions of children who perished."

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GEOMETRY
ALGEBRA 2 and TRIGONOMETRY
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PRE-ALGEBRA
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Point Counterpoint

Should students be allowed to use cell phones in the hallways?

By Will Zhou

Assistant Opinions Editor

It is now time to discuss an issue that has long been plaguing our high school for quite some time. Or, an issue that has been with us for so long that those that were charged with enforcing it have given up quite a while ago. That is, of course, the cell phone policy.

Who would have guessed, what with the profuse usage of cell phones in the hallways (and classrooms), that there was actually a policy that stated that you aren't allowed to use your cell phones when walking around? I certainly was never aware of this issue until I was told to put my phone away one day last year, but around 10 minutes later I conveniently seemed to forget about the matter.

This is probably the thought process that goes through the heads of many students. Most of the teachers have also stopped attempting to enforce a rule that is broken by thousands of individuals streaming from one class to the next. Indeed, it is nigh impossible and those who do attempt to do something are often met with derision, or at the very best leave an effect that lasts around five short minutes. This brings us to the most important issue at hand when discussing cell phone usage in the halls: there's no point in the first place.

Why leave a useless law in place? It's like a broken pencil. Pointless. This same kind of logic applies when examining the policies in place here at school. Nobody follows the rules, and nobody attempts to enforce them. It's simply useless baggage adding on to the weight of our planners.

There is just no way to truly enforce hundreds of students going about in the hallways at one time, especially in between classes where a large majority of them are using their cell phones. The premise of this rule seems to be based on the fact that students will be willing to obey it simply because it is in the books.

Unfortunately, this is just not true for the large majority of the student body. Rules must be enforced, and if a rule exists that cannot be, it is useless. Just try to imagine how many teachers it would take to get every single student to stop using his or her cell phone in the hallways, and it will be easy to see the absurdity of implementing the policy.

A quick glance at the student planner also points to the true situation at the school. It states that "cell phones, walkmans, iPods, and other similar items are only permitted in the student cafeteria, the student commons, or outside. Viola-

tion or continued abuse of this rule will result in confiscation of the electronic device and detention."

When was the last time that anyone has received detention, not even for the use of their cell phones, but for their iPods? Some may claim that placing a somewhat more stringent policy into place may allow the faculty to successfully enforce the policy upon the students. That is simply wishful thinking: the current situation has already shown it is impossible to do such a thing.

But wait. Perhaps the most important argument to make in this case is that there really isn't anything negative about using cell phones in the hallway in the first place. With the constant use that we

By Annabelle May

Staff Writer

As soon as the bell rings and students spill into the hallways, the cell phones begin to appear. Walking from one class to the next, one is guaranteed to see at least five people with their cell phones out. Whether it be checking messages or status updates, there is always some reason to use your phone between classes. Unfortunately, despite the fact that using your phone between classes seems harmless, that is not always the case.

Despite popular belief, or denial in some cases, our school actually does

Our school is famous for its ridiculously twisted schedule, capable of confusing even seniors, because of the 4-1/4-2 block in the middle of the day. Cell phones can become a huge problem during these times of day. If your class lets out at 12:25 p.m., there are some students still in classes.

Taking out your cell phone and chattering away while traversing the halls at this time could potentially be distracting to students and teachers alike. Once again, you may not be caught doing so, but it is disrespectful to all those trying to work at giving or gaining an education at our school.

Finally, there comes the issue of hall traffic. Our school hallways are notoriously small and, with our large student body, become easily congested during class changes. Having your cell phone out in between classes can make this problem even worse.

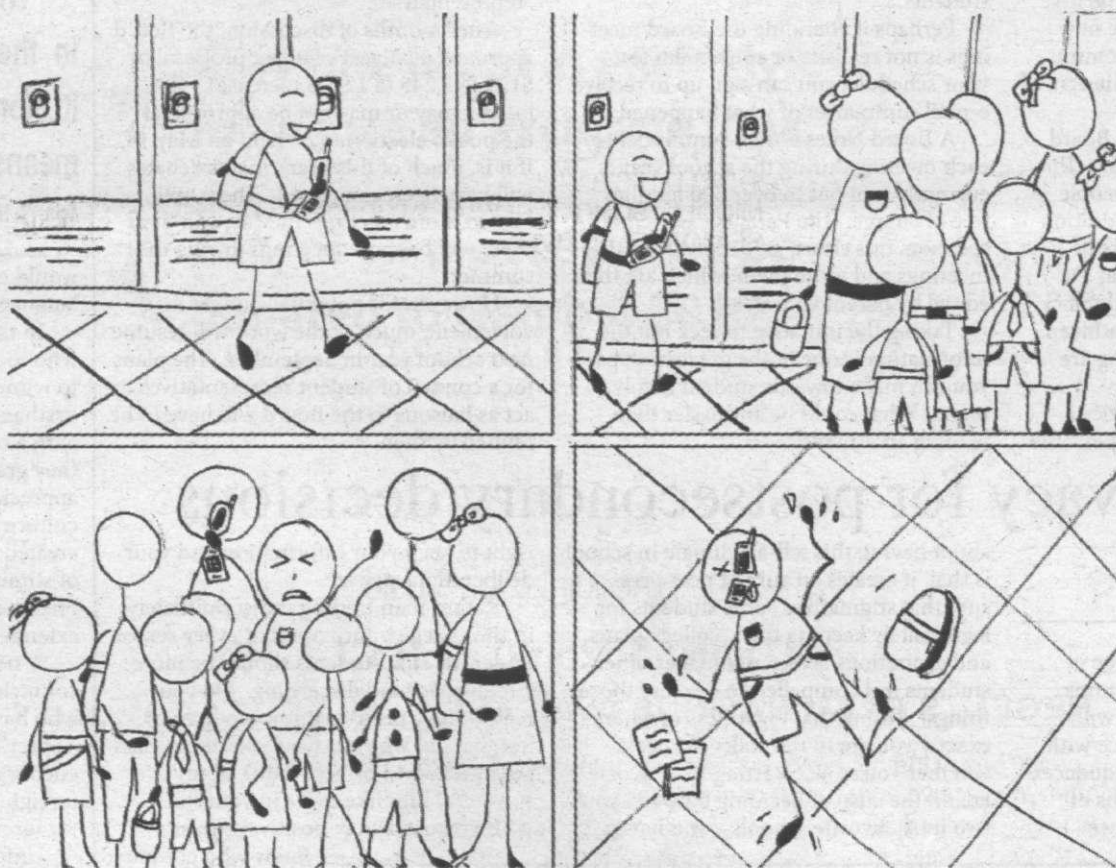
Even though most high school students think that they are master multitaskers, this is not always true. There is no way that a student can make his or her way through the halls without interfering with other students when he or she is using a cell phone. If students have enough trouble moving through the hallways normally, adding cell phones to the equation does not make it any better.

Statistics show that texting while driving can increase your risk of crashing by up to 23 times that of driving without distraction, and the same could be said for texting while walking the halls. Simply put, students are not paying attention if they are constantly fixated to their incoming texts.

If all students could just think for one second about how their texting and calls affect everyone else, they might think again next time before taking their phones out again during the day.

As the student handbook says, there are certain areas of the school where you can use your phone: the cafeteria, the commons, or outside. All students are in at least one of these areas throughout the day, seeing as we all have a lunch period during the day.

If checking your messages absolutely cannot wait, our school is not that big. I am sure that you can find your way to one of the cell phone-permitting areas for a couple of seconds between classes. But cell phones should be put away between classes. They are a hassle to everyone that is extremely unnecessary. Trust me, Facebook can wait.



Eunice Kim

have clear rules concerning cell phones, which can easily be found in the student handbook.

Now I know for a fact that most students do not obey this rule and keep their electronic devices with them throughout the day. This rule is not really enforced in classes unless you happen to be unfortunate enough to have your cell phone go off in class, but as long as you do not use your cell phone, this is not a problem.

This changes when students are between classes. Everyone takes out his or her cell phone despite the rule. Now I am not trying to advocate or force students to obey these rules, just trying to remind them of said rules. Simply out of respect to our administration and their rules, it is a good idea to limit cell phone use in the halls, but that is not the only reason.

can already see today, it is obvious that no one is bumping into each other, and the main reason that students are late for class certainly isn't texting in the hallways. This usage doesn't "distract from the educational mission" of the school.

There should be no cell phone policy at all. Since any attempt at making one would result in failure anyway, simply doing away with it would make the lives of both the students and the faculty much easier. Those individuals who still insist on trying to manage hundreds of students will be put at ease, and the students will no longer have to deal with the occasional reprimand or confiscation.

By simply leaving the rule out of the books, the school and the students will have less to deal with and less to worry about. It simply makes sense to leave the students the way they want to be.

Let's represent on the Board of Education

BY Sophia Jaffe

Assistant Opinions Editor

After years of discussion, the Board of Education has included for the first time two students, juniors Tommy Doyle and Laura Werle, as student representatives to the Board. On April 20, the two students sat at the front table alongside the other members and voiced their opinions on several issues.

The purpose of having student representatives is to provide a bridge between the elected members and the broader student body. In addition to providing a student report to the Board on various issues of concern, the student representatives were asked during the meeting to comment on topics ranging from the budget to policy matters.

"Because I believe that the primary focus of schools and school systems is what is best for students, I am extremely pleased with the BOE support of student representatives," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon. "I wish to commend Tommy Doyle and Laura Werle and all of the students over the years for their involvement."

This breakthrough of student involvement in Board matters should not be underrated. However, this is only the first step, and a number of actions are now required in order to effectively communicate the voices of students to the ears of Board members.

First, a little background: the Board consists of seven elected members. The members are a varied group of people who live in the community. In addition to the elected members, members of the school administration, such as Dr. Gordon, and the assistant superintendents Ms. Mary Callahan, Dr. Kathleen Mooney, and Dr. Nicholas Stirling are also regularly in attendance.

The Board generally meets twice a month at either Weber or Schreiber. The

meetings could be as short as 45 minutes. However, during "budget season" when tax increases, curriculum matters, and class size are energetically debated, the meetings could run for as long as three hours.

Every meeting also includes a portion of time allocated to community comments, when any person in the audience is entitled to raise issues or seek clarification from the Board on relevant matters of concern.

Given the amount of preparation and debate that is part of every single Board meeting, it is clear that more than just two students are needed during the school year to properly support the effort started by Doyle and Werle.

The very first step that everyone should consider taking is to personally attend a Board meeting. Not only are they interesting, but they are extremely informative as to how decisions are made. Instead of watching *Glee*, you should consider going to some of the meetings that occur twice monthly on Tuesdays.

After attending just a few meetings, you may surprise yourself with your interest in the decision-making process. You will also be able to see and hear some of your friends and neighbors speak about issues that often impact all students.

Perhaps if attending the Board meetings is not realistic or convenient for your schedule, you can sign up to receive e-mail summaries of what happened.

A Board Notes e-mail summarizing each meeting during the school year is currently sent out to over 600 families free of charge. The Parents Council/HSA sponsors this effort; students attend the meetings and write them, which are then edited by parent volunteers.

Taking the initiative to seek out the information is one of the greatest steps you can make towards student involvement. What could be any easier than reading an e-mail?

My proposal for an effective approach for maximum student participation in the Board's decisions is to form a student club or organization dedicated to it. If there were 10 kids in the organization, then they could each take turns rotating attendance to the Board meetings, writing up brief summaries of the meeting, and then submit it to the Board Notes editor to be e-mailed out to the Port Washington community.

Prior to each Board meeting, the organization would congregate to discuss the issues that were raised previously and together reach a common student opinion on a topic, as well as address any other matter of concern to students. These opinions can then be formally presented to the Board during the next meeting.

One of the crucial conditions for the success of this proposal is that the students who are in this organization be representative of the student body. Perhaps the members should be selected or recommended by teachers and/or coaches. This is to ensure that this student organization contains a variety of perspectives in order to more fully represent everyone. This also prevents elections by popularity, which often happens when students choose their own "representatives."

After months of discussion, the Board approved next year's budget proposal of \$127,093,245 (a 1.97% increase). The budget may or may not be approved at the public election to be held on May 18. If it is, much of this year's major debates will have been completed. There will be two more meetings in May, and then there will be more meetings during the summer.

However, for potential student involvement, much of the work will resume next school year in September. The plans for a council of student representatives to act as liaisons to the Board will have to be refined by then.

Vamos Overseas

BY Daniel Bialer

Staff Writer

It is evident that overseas trips for foreign language classes would provide enjoyable and beneficial experiences. Not only would they give students the opportunity to speak their newly-learned languages in the real world, but they would also provide students with the opportunity to witness the different cultures behind the language.

French students should have the opportunity to experience what life in Paris is like, while Latin students should have the opportunity to view the ruins left in Italy after the fall of the Roman Empire. Many students have pursued these topics for years in school and should be able to observe them firsthand.

Though learning languages in the classroom is important, it alone is not sufficient if one means to become fluent in a language. Living in a country where the language is spoken is the best method to learn the language sufficiently to communicate effectively with others.

Although visiting for a week or two would not be a substitute for living in a country for a few months or years, it

Though learning languages in the classroom is important, it alone is not sufficient if one means to become fluent in a language.

would enhance one's abilities to speak the language, as they witness native speakers.

In the eighth grade, many students who took French had the opportunity to witness French Canadian culture firsthand by visiting Quebec and living with a host family. As a result of the trip, they grasped a new understanding and appreciation for the French Canadian culture and the French language, and created exciting memories. This type of stimulation should not be limited to French students exclusively, but should be extended to all foreign language students.

A trip to their respective European countries should be a reward for students who have spent many years studying a specific foreign language. It would encourage students to continue taking foreign languages and keep enthusiasm for foreign languages alive in the school.

Unfortunately, raising enough money for a trip to Europe even for a few students would be a large undertaking. Students and staff would have to take an active role in raising money to help pay for students whose families are of lower income. The cost of a trip to Europe would have to include airfare, as well as hotel and food costs, so it could easily turn into a pricey endeavor. It also may be difficult for teachers to keep track of such a large number of students, so organization would be of extreme importance throughout the process.

The possibility of trips overseas may currently be unlikely, but through hard work and dedication it could become a reality. Foreign language classes may teach students the basics of a language, but by traveling to the country where a language is spoken, a student betters his or her language skills while becoming directly engaged in an unfamiliar culture.

Respect privacy for postsecondary decisions

BY Jonathan Heiden

Opinions Editor

Deciding where to go to college is probably one of the most momentous and stressful decisions a student will make in high school. It is a choice with immense and far-reaching consequences. Especially in these volatile months of April and May it is crucial that we students are enabled to make informed and well-considered decisions.

The problem is gossip. These days, it is almost impossible to be a senior in Schreiber and not be embroiled in talk about who got in where, why (and the discussions of the "why" can get very sordid indeed), and whether or not they'll go there. Even if you do not yourself plan on going to college, it is still hard to escape the conversational kerfuffle about those who will.

Now, look: I'm not against having people tell others about what colleges they got into—if they want to. But I think that one of the bad things

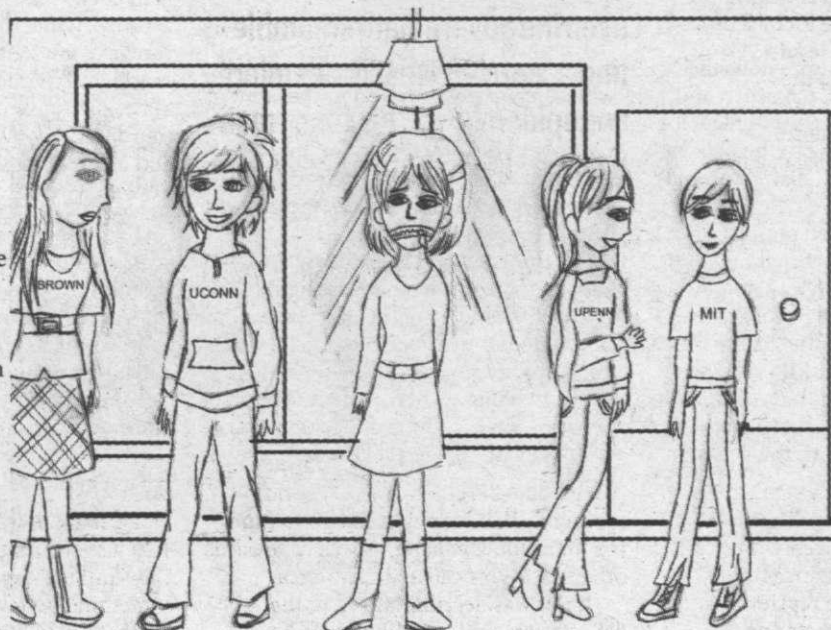
about having this tell-all climate in school is that it creates an aura of peer pressure that stigmatizes some students for legitimately keeping their college plans and aspirations secret and makes other students feel compelled to disclose those things. I think that regardless of where exactly you are in the college process—whether you're just starting to look or are on the cusp of deciding between your two most favorite schools—you have a

right to keep your information and your deliberations private.

Rather than trading indiscriminately in the college information of every senior under the sun, students should be more circumspect and discerning. Do you really, really need to know whether or not that kid who sits near you in bio class got into Brown or not? You've only ever spoken to him like twice in your life.

If you absolutely positively must know who got into where, you can simply (and discreetly) consult this very newspaper, which publishes everyone's college plans in June.

Another reason to be circumspect in talking about your and others' college plans is the potential for awkwardness that could erupt if you are talking about colleges which you got into and somebody else did not. You don't want to make anyone feel bad by insulting their dream school.



Eunice Kim

Blessed are you who gives us more spring break

Nondenominational vacation time limited religious observation

BY Sarah Paul
Contributing Writer

Spring break. Time to go to the Caribbean, go shopping for prom dresses with friends, catch up on some needed sleep, study for those looming AP exams and finals. Days and days; never-ending time.

But this year was different. Only one week was allotted to us hardworking, sleep-deprived, stressed-out students.

"I don't see why ours ended early when all the other schools were able to have a few more days off, and we did too every other year," said junior Stella Kim.

What's the deal? Every other school district was off until Wednesday, but we had to wake up to the alarm at 6:30 on Monday morning, walk groggily in the school door at 8:00, take out our pens and notebooks and get working.

Could the school district have miscalculated? Nope, our school year has exactly the prescribed number of days. Will the school year end earlier in June? Because we started earlier we'll end earlier, but the number of days stays the same. The answer lies in the fact that here in Port Washington, we received days off that other districts did not grant to their students.

We received an extra day off for Thanksgiving; few other districts closed school for the Wednesday before the holiday. And not every district closes school for Election Day, and why should they? Very few of us are eligible to vote, and those who are can vote right after school.

Yet we had school over the last two days of Passover and the day after Easter Sunday! Those of us wanting to celebrate these holidays had to cut short our celebrations because of a poorly calculated schedule.

"It's unquestionably rude. I was not able to enjoy Easter Sunday as much as usual because I had to wake up early the next morning," said sophomore Olivia Gilmore.

There are many reasons why a longer spring break would have been more beneficial than a few sporadic days off here and there.

There is a preconceived notion that teenagers with time off most likely spend it playing video games, going to parties, or sleeping. This stereotype is extremely destructive, and this shortened spring break provides a perfect opportunity to address it. Vacations are looked upon as time off and time to relax and forget about school. And to an extent, this is true; the structure of class, the early mornings, and the teachers are temporarily absent from the students' lives.

But vacation and time away from school are not wastes of time. There should be a rhythm between

structured class and one's own time—a balance between classroom time and time where one is in charge of his or her own schedule.

Teenagers need time to do more interesting things, such as volunteering, traveling, and learning about things about which we are passionate—recharging, in other words, our academic batteries. Schools may need to widen their vision of how children need to learn.

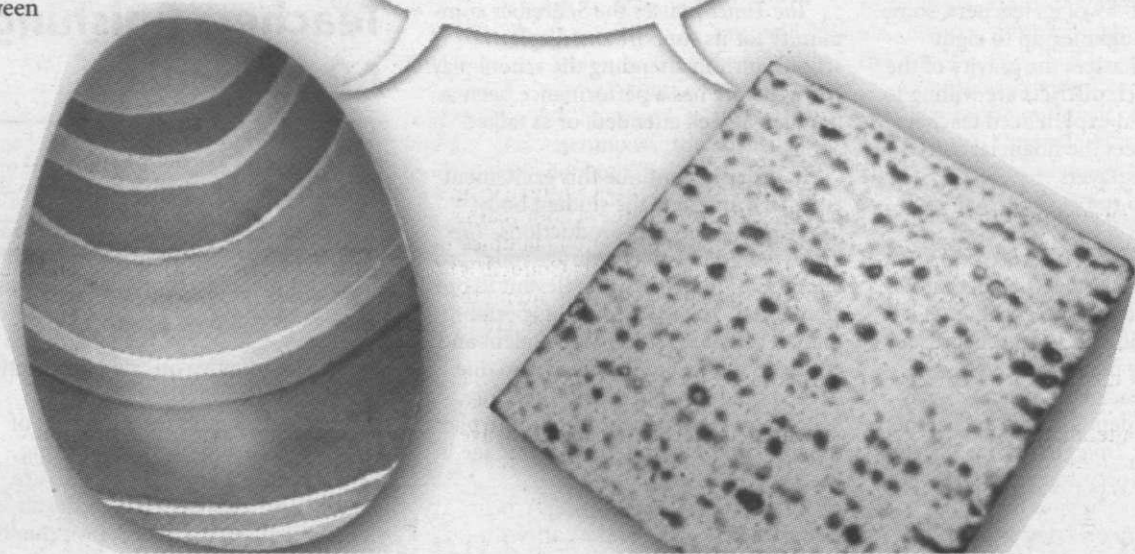
"I think two or three, or even one more day of break would have been nice. The length of our spring break should be kept more or less the same each year," said junior Sonyon Song.

Planning vacations so that they correspond to those of other school districts is another important factor. Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald himself noted that his family was planning to go out to dinner on the Monday night following Easter when he realized that he had work while they continued to be on vacation.

So time off is not necessarily a "bad" thing in terms of education. It may even be beneficial, especially to those students who want to take a hand in bettering their education and furthering their experiences, not to mention the time desperately needed to spend with family and release stress before facing exams, papers, and grades.

In future years, the school district should reconsider their scheduling decisions and take into account the importance of holidays and students' preferences and needs.

we want
more break



Chris Cottitta

Pot's allure will be blunted by legalizing recreational use

BY Michelle Gil
Contributing Writer

"What time is it?"

"It's 4:20."

Cue laughter.

You hear this all the time; it's probably not even that time of the day, but everyone knows what it's referring to. 4/20: April 20, "National Pot Day." The holiday of choice for stoners around the world.

Where did the term even originate? No, it is not the police dispatch code for marijuana—420 isn't even a police code for anything, actually. Back in 1971, a group of teens in San Rafael High School in California designated 4:20 P.M. as a time to meet up and smoke marijuana outside of their school. This group, who called themselves the "Waldos" (because they would get high next to an exterior wall of their school), coined and spread the term, and obviously, it's still quite prevalent.

Now, we've all gone to health class; we've all seen the public service announcements on television. We understand how damaging marijuana usually is. But as schools and parents and even the government scramble to find a "cure" to what is seemingly an epidemic of blazing, many believe that there's only

one way to kill the hype of National Pot Day and the drug itself: legalization.

No, I'm not suggesting that marijuana be legalized so that all teenagers can go buy copious amounts and take up to their heart's desire. There's a rational way to justify the legalization of marijuana, and although it may seem shocking to some, to others it makes a lot of sense.

"I see the negatives of legalizing pot, but it seems like the benefits could be much greater," said sophomore Sarah Matero.

If pot were to become legal, a minimum age could be implemented, just like with alcohol. If marijuana wasn't such a mysterious, untouchable substance, it's likely that its usage by minors would decline, even if that decline isn't that great. Of course, there would still be those teens who would acquire it with fake IDs or by having someone else buy it for them, but that brings me to my next point: regulation.

If the government legalized marijuana, it could be taxed and regulated. That would not only diminish the chance of pot being laced with other, more harmful substances, but would provide a welcome reprieve on government budgetary strains.

According to Jeffrey A. Miron, Profes-

sor of Economics at Harvard University, "Legalization would reduce government expenditure by \$5.3 billion at the state and local level and by \$2.4 billion at the federal level...Marijuana legaliza-

As schools and parents and even the governments scramble to find a 'cure' to what is seemingly an epidemic of blazing, many believe that there's only one way to kill the hype of National Pot Day and the drug itself: legalization.

tion would generate tax revenue of \$2.4 billion annually if marijuana were taxed like all other goods and \$6.2 billion annually if marijuana were taxed at rates comparable to those on alcohol and tobacco." That money could go to funding for schools in need, as well as towards other necessary causes in America.

If pot was decriminalized in the U.S., prison overcrowding could be reduced. The FBI has said that in 2004

alone, there were 789,061 drug arrests for marijuana. Since 1982, there has been an increase in the number of inmates in American prisons by 160%, which has been greatly accredited to drug violations. In the federal prison system, approximately one out of every six inmates is in jail for marijuana-based charges.

Also, while in fifteen states, you can get a life sentence for nonviolent marijuana charges, the average United States prison sentence for convicted murderers is only six years, and seven and a half for sex offenders. So, why does our government allow rapists and murderers back into society, when those caught for smoking a joint are left to spend their lives in jail?

While there will always be people staunchly opposed to making marijuana legal in America, a growing number are realizing that it could be a change for the better.

"I don't get why pot is illegal. A lot of kids wouldn't do it if it wasn't for the huge illegality of it," said sophomore Jesse Weil.

Perhaps all we need to do to make 4:20 just any other minute of the 1440-minute day, is just turn it from something unlawful into an industry that could thrive under the obvious governmental restrictions.

Editorials

Praise for next year's budget

Hundreds of thousands of teachers across the nation have been notified that their jobs are at risk for the 2010-2011 school year, as school districts pursue a wide array of cost-cutting measures including teacher layoffs. The recession's far reaching effects have reduced the amount of state funds designated for education and local property taxes.

With this harsh reality in mind, *The Schreiber Times* would like to applaud both the administration and Teachers Association for agreeing to a historic contract that will help to preserve the quality of education in this district.

On the state-wide level, approximately 15,000 teachers have been warned that their jobs are not safe for next year. The nearby Lindenhurst school district has planned to lay off 59 of its teachers, some of whom have taught for up to eight years. This emphasizes the gravity of the situation, in which districts are willing to part with able and experienced teachers in an effort to meet the financial constraints of the taxpayers.

Not having to resort to such an extreme measure will help keep class sizes relatively stable. It is *The Schreiber Times'* unwavering stance that larger class sizes have an adverse effect on learning, as it makes it more difficult to conduct discussions and receive personalized attention. The new teacher contract will pay tremendous dividends in this area alone.

The Schreiber Times lauds the Teachers Association for accepting a zero percent increase on base salary—a move that is the first of its kind on Long Island. This move underscores the altruistic nature of this collective group of educators who are dedicated to their profession, coworkers, and students. The entire district deserves credit for serving as an exemplary model to its students for exhibiting professionalism, ingenuity, and prudence.

However, *The Schreiber Times* would like to stress that the work is not over yet. Teacher job losses are still a very real possibility, despite the new contract. *The Times* implores voters to approve the proposed budget for next year's school year, which reflects a 1.97 percent increase from this year's. Otherwise, the district would have to operate under a contingency budget.

This means that over a million dollars in programs and services would be eliminated, resulting in larger classes and fewer extracurricular activities. Overall, the quality of education would drop. In order to avert this crisis, citizens should vote yes to ensure that students are afforded opportunities to challenge themselves and get involved in their community.

School spirit in attending *Grease*

The Schreiber Times would like to commend all who were involved in the Performing Arts Department's produc-

tion of *Grease* performed on April 15 through April 17. With sold-out performances on both Friday and Saturday nights, this production was enjoyed by students, parents and other members of the community.

The play attracted many people throughout Port Washington as this play, unlike its previous productions, is popular and well-known; almost everyone remembers John Travolta as Danny Zuko and Olivia Newton-John as Sandy Olssen in the classic 1978 movie.

The talent of the actors, actresses, and musicians was noteworthy in this production; their ability to imitate the high school romances, or lack thereof, was especially comical, adding to the humor of the production.

With an event page on Facebook as well as the ticket sales in the lobby during the week before the production, *Grease* became the word amongst the student body and staff during the weekend of its production.

The Times praises the Schreiber community for its support and display of school spirit in attending the school play. Never before has a performance been as popular, as well attended, or as talked about.

In order to continue this excitement and spirit amongst the student body in regards to the play productions, *The Times* would like to encourage more productions of plays that are relevant to our generation. The success of this performance, as much as due to the talent and efforts of the cast and crew, is also due to the popularity of *Grease*. Therefore, Schreiber would benefit from more plays that pertain to the interests of our age in the future.

Thanks to the Performing Arts Department as well as the entire student body for making *Grease* the word: demonstrating spirit in Schreiber and creating an enjoyable environment for this fantastic production.

Disappointing end to senior survey

With the loss of social worker Ms. Michelle Weiden's position this year, the highly significant Natural Helpers program will most likely dissolve. Due to the loss of this program, the Senior Relationship Violence Survey will also no longer continue which is normally run by senior Natural Helpers.

The Schreiber Times staff believes that eliminating this program is a huge mistake because it teaches students information that they will need as they enter into college and the real world.

Through this survey, participating seniors are tested about different truths and myths involving relationship violence, and they are then questioned about personal experiences. In addition, the seniors learn about the nature of relationships at Schreiber.

This survey is truly important because it explicitly clarifies many matters which are unclear for seniors. In fact, many seniors were not able to distinguish between some of the truths and myths until after the survey. This survey deals with

topics such as substance abuse and peer pressure – things that will unfortunately, but definitely come up in the students' future lives.

After the survey, the trained Natural Helpers talk to the students in small classroom settings about the results of the survey and about healthy relationships. These talks and the program overall are helpful to the students who participate, and it has received positive feedback over the years.

It has even been acknowledged by organizations outside the school, and it has been recognized by the Town of North Hempstead for being the first program of its kind. It is a unique peer-led program that teaches both the student instructors as well as the students participating in the survey skills that they can use for the rest of their lives.

Schreiber's extent of social and psychological help for students will definitely suffer due to the loss of Ms. Weiden who plays many roles in the school community. This senior survey is one of the many programs that will consequently be eliminated. Therefore, it is extremely disappointing that such a key experience for the seniors will no longer be able to continue.

Teachers finishing AP curricula

Dear AP teachers,

It is April 30. In three days AP exams will be starting. If you have not by this point completed the curriculum, please recognize that it is too late for you to do so. It is time to accept the fact of this matter and to move on and constructively use your classroom time.

Next week marks the inception of a two week period of endless testing, hallways filled with students who are so stressed that the anxiety in the air is almost tangible, and classrooms missing half of their students.

At this year's AP assembly, students enrolled in the AP curriculum were informed by Dr. Fitzgerald that they are in fact legally allowed to not attend classes

on the day that they are taking an AP exam.

This would be a lovely option for students to take advantage of if they are sitting through four exhaustive hours of testing a day. However, this wonderful policy is completely null and void if teachers decide to cram the last of their curricula into classes during the AP week.

Please consider the following: if students are about to sit through an exam or have just completed an exam, how receptive are they likely to be in a class where teachers are still cramming material? Just as students are always instructed to learn and study test material over an extended period of time, how effective can these last minute review sessions be during the school day?

If you have not completed a unit or reviewed as completely as you might have wished to because of snow days or whatever the case may be, then that is it.

Rushing to complete lessons, assigning chapters to read and old AP exams to complete last minute will not help your students; rather, it will hinder them. Overwhelming students with abundant amounts of homework and reading these two weeks will only serve to stress them out further, and teachers' own stress levels are already likely to be heightened by the tension these next few days.

Everyone simply needs to calm down. You have done all you can, and our minds are brimming with facts and formulas and techniques and strategies and theories.

It is fine to give finals, because we will already be studying anyway. But please don't try to stuff more information into class periods during the week, because students would like to take advantage of the option of free mornings and afternoons at this very taxing time.

Thanks,
The Schreiber Times

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on May 6. 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.

Auto Tech classes provide training for life and jobs

Hands-on lessons give students abilities beyond algebra and grammar

by Ethan Berkowitz
Contributing Writer

Have you ever wanted to learn how to change tires, complete oil changes, check brakes, clean motor engines, or even restore an old muscle car back to its former glory? Well, thanks to the technology department, several automotive electives teach students how to work with cars.

Students learn everything from basic car maintenance (everybody needs to learn how to change oil) to non-conventional, advanced machinery in more modern cars. The Automotive Technology and Maintenance classes, taught by Mr. Neil Miller and Mr. Don Schaefer, are the best suited electives for learning about cars.

For those who enjoy working with cars, or are considering becoming an engineer or a mechanic, "Auto Tech" as it is affectionally called by students, represents an attractive, albeit greasier than normal, academic avenue.

Not only do students learn in Auto Tech classes, the teachers do as well.

"I read non-stop. I attend seminars, visit auto tech shows and schools all the time," said Mr. Miller. "We are one of the most popular electives and I have to stay educated."

Auto Tech is geared towards those who want to learn about cars, those who love cars, or see themselves having a career in automotive engineering or maintenance. In Auto Tech, students learn not only how vehicles function, but how to fix them when they malfunction.

"This is not a trade course," said Mr. Miller. "We gear it towards making people better consumers."

Automotive Technology 1 offers a combination of learning automotive concepts and applying them to vehicles.

Students are not only able to learn the important automotive theories and concepts used by professionals, but also apply their working ideas and engage in real case situations. In Automotive Technology 1, students learn basic concepts with regard to maintenance and servicing vehicles.

After learning more about these fundamental concepts, students are able to work with actual cars in order to test their skills.

"We use a lot of 'Snap-On' company tools," said sophomore Michael Procarro, a student in Mr. Miller's Auto Tech 1 class. "Hammers, car lifts, engine lifts, and there's this snap-on thing that you connect to the car and it shows how everything is supposed to be on the car, which helps us fix problems more easily."

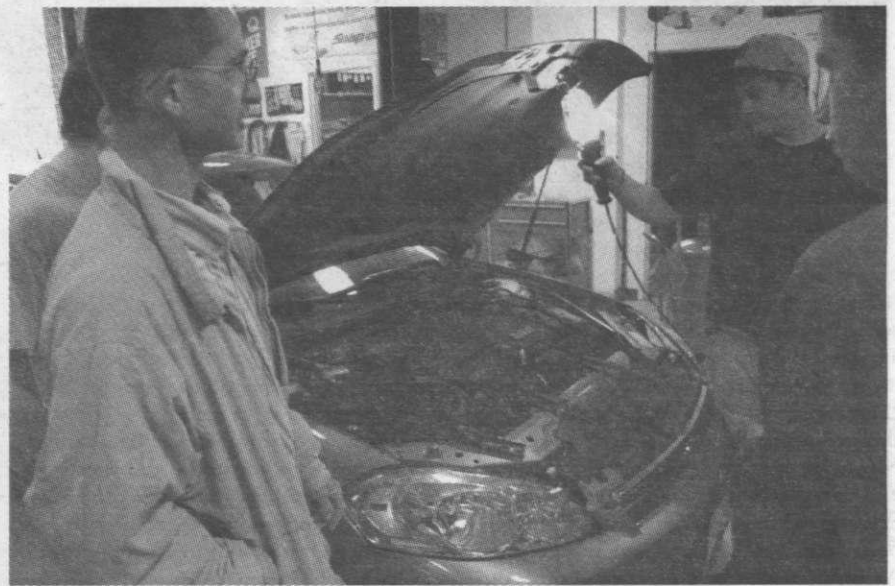
Another class offered for sophomores, juniors, and seniors alike is Auto Maintenance. Similar to the automotive technology classes, Auto Maintenance emphasizes learning preventative vehicle care. In order to test their new skills, students work on cars brought in by others.

"We do service on the cars of faculty, staff, members of the community who have no link to the school, anyone," Mr. Miller said.

Automotive Technology 2 builds on the concepts learned in Automotive Technology 1. Having already learned the basics of automotive machinery, students learn more intermediate level techniques when handling cars. Aside from maintenance, students will have the added privilege of learning how to restore an older car to perfect form.

"When we make a car run that did not run before," Mr. Miller said, "It's really satisfying."

For those who do not know anything about the inside of a car,



Kevin Granger

Mr. Miller, an Auto Tech teacher, shows students the intricacies of the internal combustion engine. Auto Shop offers an attractive mix of real life hands on experience and technical educational opportunities.

it may be odd to learn what the most satisfying car related task is: "brake work," according to Mr. Miller. "We do everything by the manufacturer's specifications and doing brake work is generally the most satisfying type of work of all," he said.

Automotive Technology 3, offered only for seniors, takes things to the next level. Students are taught even more advanced skills and concepts.

As part of this final Auto Tech class, students get to participate in various competitions. By completing this final class, along with the preceding Auto classes, students are put in the best possible position to make a career out of their knowledge if they choose.

The current senior's enrolled in the Auto Tech 3 class participated in

events such as the National Automotive Technology Competitions. Winners of this countrywide contest can receive major prizes such as scholarships, gift certificates, authentic car merchandise, and other unique items and offers.

This year, several classes went to the city to see the New York International Auto Show in New York City. Every major vehicle brand was on show for the world to see, and by taking Auto Tech, each student was treated to the unique experience as well.

For the many students considering taking Auto Tech next year, the primary benefit would be getting knowledge with real world applications. After taking Auto Tech, many students can do everything from cleaning an engine to repairing the intricate electronics within a favorite car.

School-wide language use raises questions of propriety

by Laura Werle
Features Editor

We can all remember when the first kid in elementary school mysteriously said, "Guess what, I know the S-word!"

Whether this word was "shut up" or another, more profane option, the entrance of expletives into student vocabulary is a timeless incident. What started as whispers on the playground have become common words in the halls of Schreiber.

As student and teachers walk through the halls, sounds, sights, and smells assault their brains. Of these many sensations, one sound can often stand out: the sound of students, and sometimes staff, uttering profanities or "curse words."

Although language is often called dynamic and evolving, one thing that never seems to change is the use of expletives. While some people view the use of curse words as negative and immature, others see nothing wrong with it, or even see them as a colorful addition to otherwise mundane conversations. However, many students and teachers agree that using curse words in school is inappropriate under any circumstances.

Conversely, an identifiable minority thinks that the use of profanity is inconsequential, or that it can be funny.

"I like it when teachers curse," said freshman Neda Khan. "It's really fine with me."

Cursing by teachers can also be seen as a device to control the attention of

"I can see why students do it. We watch movies, go to stores. Actors, employees, many use that language. It's natural that people use such common words," said Mr. Gary Silverstein.

wayward students or classes.

"When teachers curse, students listen and it gets their attention. And keeps it," said Khan.

Most teachers disapprove of students using profanity in class. It is often seen as an issue of both respect and propriety.

"It's terrible when a teacher is cursing at students. It is unprofessional and

inappropriate," said Ms. Lisa Tecusan, a math teacher in Schreiber. "They, the teachers, should be leading by example."

"It's inappropriate in class and in the hallway," said social studies teacher Mr. Gary Silverstein.

Teachers are not the only ones who see issues if their colleagues curse during class. Although many students find themselves laughing, sometimes uncomfortably, at profane teachers, others are against teachers cursing in school.

"I think it's disrespectful. They are lowering themselves to please the students and lacking in maturity," said senior Meghan Byrnes. "I don't like excessive cursing, it's just disgusting."

When students curse, however, many teachers and students have contrary responses.

"I think that students should just be aware of who is around them if they are cursing in the halls," Ms. Tecusan said.

Even students who are very opposed to teachers cursing find it unremarkable when students use profane words in school.

"I have no problem with kids cursing, in or out of school," Byrnes said.

Despite students and teachers objections or acceptance of cursing, there are certain rules against it. Although there is no official list of "bad words," that

the administration adheres to, general rules tend to cover any eventualities.

According to the student handbook, students are supposed to conduct themselves in an "appropriate and civil manner."

In a more precise part of the student code, it is dictated that students should not use language that is "profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive."

While these rules are stipulated for student conduct, it is less clear concerning rules that mandate how teachers and staff may act.

The handbook's general rules apply to all staff, students, and visitors to the school, but a majority of the multipage handbook is made up of rules for the students.

No matter what the rules, it seems that most of the enforcement is centered on self-regulation. It is generally considered the responsibility of students and staff to moderate their behavior. And while some teachers see cursing as unacceptable, they do not think of it as deliberate insubordination.

"I can see why students do it," Mr. Silverstein said. "We watch movies, go to stores. Actors, employees, many use that language. It's natural that people use such common words."

Grease

*It's raining on show night,
yet the community pours
into Schreiber*

It is one of those classics that seems to charm every time. The endearing love story set at a typical high school, the dynamic characters. Despite the obvious generational gap, *Grease* has remained one of the most entertaining productions of our time.

The Department of Performing Arts' take on the story was no exception. One would think that after hearing the same songs over and over again, they would seem banal, but there was tons of enthusiasm from both the cast and audience. In fact, the auditorium was completely filled with students eager to hear the tunes of the 50s.

From the very beginning, the entire cast did an excellent job of inviting the audience into Rydell High. As the principal of Rydell, junior Annabelle May perfectly depicted the uptight, overwhelmed adult on the first day of school. She was extremely comical, especially when Kenickie (senior Nick Gardella) and his gang interrupted her shrill speech. Part of what made May so convincing, though, was her wardrobe. Though simple, her wig and glasses completed the frumpy look.

May's character, however, was not the only one that really evoked the sentiments of the era. Each and every actor was perfect in portraying a certain stereotype, like senior Maria Martinolich, for instance. She conveyed the super enthusiastic student body president and head cheerleader quite well. Her pep was palpable as she ran around the stage, almost freakishly happy.

Some of the best casting, though, was Gardella and senior Chelsea Morano as Betty Rizzo. The two added amazing personality to the show. With his tight leather pants and accompanying jacket, Gardella was truly the tough guy. He came across as strong and intimidating, but also a little confused, just as Kenickie should be.

And as Betty Rizzo, Morano was also quite talented. One would not want to cross paths with this Pink Lady, who without a doubt was as hard as nails. Accordingly, the interactions between the two provided for great entertainment. Their arguments and conflicts were so melodramatic that one could not help but laugh.

As in most musical productions, the acting was not the only feature to be noticed. The musical numbers were also fantastic, as the cast belted out every song with great passion. The actors became really involved during the numbers,

which ensured that the songs did not seem disconnected from the dramatic dialogue.

One of the opening numbers, "Summer Nights," was done extremely well. It was perfectly staged, with the ladies gathered in one corner and the men in another. As they congregated around the lunch table, the song truly sounded like musical gossip.

Sandy Olsson (senior Molly Fried) sang beautifully of her summer love, who was ironically only a few feet to her left, on the other side of the stage. Her words, though, were contagious, exciting the catty and infamous verse, "tell me more, tell me more."

Doyle still came

across as very tough. He was even funny, especially running around in his track uniform.

Of the other musical numbers, "Greased Lightning" was the biggest crowd pleaser. In this song, the orchestra did an especially great job of complementing the actors, as the saxophones and guitar added to the energy and excitement on stage. The choreography was perfect, and Gardella's flips were not unnoticed. He added unique pizzazz to the character of Kenickie.

Kenickie's complement, Betty Rizzo, was also persuasive during her

antics after inhaling cigarette smoke were spot-on, as she coughed dramatically and rushed into the bathroom. Her outfits screamed innocent church-girl, as did her actions.

The chemistry between Sandy

As it should have been, the guys sang their version of the tune in a gruffer manner. Danny Zuko (Tommy Doyle) downplayed the romance until the very end, when the two harmonized and realized that they would be attending school together. Doyle was great at concealing his emotions throughout the scene and making sure that his crew did not see his more romantic side.

Zuko struggles with this balance throughout the play, but Doyle made sure that one side of Danny did not overpower the other. While he played a nicer Zuko,

solo,

"Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee." She was mocking and sarcastic and really seemed to hurt Sandy. With that said, Fried did an excellent job at conveying the naïve side of Sandy. Her





Kevin Granger

During the opening scene of *Grease*, Danny Zuko and his cohorts cause a commotion at the assembly, upsetting the principal of Rydell High, along with her nerdy sycophants.

ality to the stage. Singing "Those Magic Changes," he led the other members of the cast, bringing the different melodies together during the number.

Frenchie (Cory Morano)

Sandy sings the more melancholy tune, "Raining on Prom Night." Fried was fabulous during this number, really conveying Sandy's heartbreak and emotion. Her voice carried beautifully, across a wide range of notes.

Inside Rydell, at the actual prom, the cast was far more upbeat. Paying tribute to the hairstyles and dresses of the 50s, the Pink Ladies hit the dance floor and certainly impressed the crowd with their moves. During the competition sponsored by Johnny Casino (senior Jonny Schechner), the students paired up, twirling and spinning one another, while, most importantly, showing off their "hand-jives." The spirit during this number was nearly contagious and the cast truly looked the part, clad in their respective gowns.

In this scene, the ladies' dresses matched their personalities perfectly. Sandy showed up in a white, loose, lacy dress, akin to her innocent act, while Betty Rizzo, the other extreme, chose a tighter, more risqué, green dress. While the costumes may not be as recognized as the singing, this coordination did not go unnoticed and ultimately added to the professionalism of the show.

As did the staging and set design of *Grease*. Even though it was relatively simple, the set was transformed for each scene. The red convertible was a nice touch as well, adding another sense of realism to the show. The fact of the matter is, however, that the acting was the main focus of the show. As it should have been, the setting was merely the background; it did not play as large a role as the actual actors themselves.

The show really comes together in the end with the final number as Danny and Sandy along with the entire cast sang "We Go Together." Again, that same energy was seen on the stage, and the entire scene mirrored the ending that was made famous by John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

Holding Fried in the air, Doyle helped make the ending exciting and true to the original work—as did Fried's transformation. Coming out in all black with bright red lipstick, innocent, shy Sandy was nowhere in sight. A new, more mature Sandy had arrived, borrowing some of the edginess of the hilarious Betty Rizzo.

Without a doubt, *Grease* was one of the Department of Performing Arts' more successful and appealing productions. The name of the show itself seemed to draw individuals to the theater, but putting on a more unique show is worth considering for future productions. While the music and acting in *Grease* created an amazing combination, it might be nice to see a lesser known show on the Schreiber Stage. The two main shows this year, *Grease* and *Guys and Dolls*, were very run-of-the-mill. A more modern musical could be a nice change.

Regardless, *Grease* was extremely entertaining, an occasion worth celebrating, especially for the seniors as it was their last show.

"The actual shows were not only personally satisfying because it was a great production to go out on, but it was also so amazing that we got such positive feedback," said senior Cory Morano. "I know I do not speak for myself when I say that we, as seniors, have all been waiting for a sold-out show since our first time on the stage."

Senior Molly Fried was also thrilled with the show and its success. "*Grease* was an amazing experience to be a part of," said Fried. "We got to be in a show all about friendship and growing up in high school, which could not have been more perfect."

Written by Ali Nierenberg

and Rizzo was hilarious, as the two completely clashed. It was amazing to watch Rizzo imitate Sandy. Holding a bottle of liquor and a hair-brush, her act really got to the core of her innocent new friend.

While he was one of the more minor characters, Doody (Jesse Weil) was responsible for some of the more humorous moments in the show. From the very beginning, Weil brought a ton of person-

ality to the stage. Singing "Those Magic Changes," he led the other members of the cast, bringing the different melodies together during the number.

Laughs aside, there were some more serious parts of the production. After a moment of heartbreak with Danny,

3 Weirdest custodial memories

Of rodents, fire extinguishers, flying bunker fish, and a corps of custodians

by Brian T. Kennedy

Assistant Features Editor

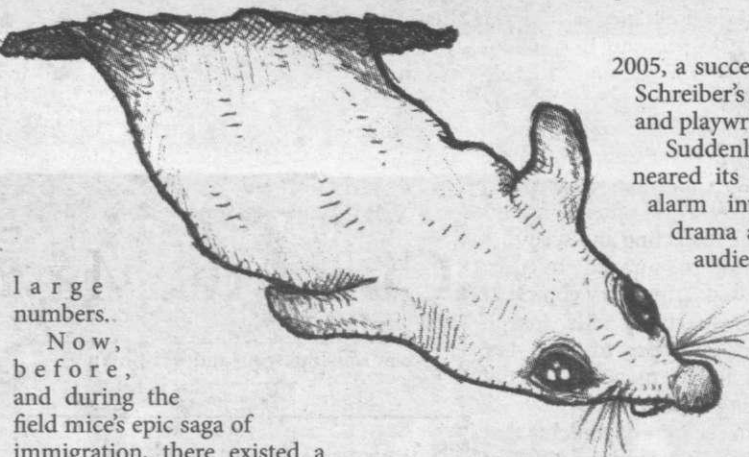
The Viking Mouse

A long time ago, when Schreiber was mostly aged red brick, several people conspired to create a new structure for the school. While the builders had motivations rooted in expanding the educational capacities of the brick building—noble, good motivations—they would unwittingly create something far more notorious than the construction of lighter colored red brick present today.

This project would create a phenomenon known, until now, only to the Schreiber custodial staff.

When a new building is constructed, as the new red brick building was, earth is disturbed to dig the foundations. The earth that was moved, in this case, was not a dormant lifeless wasteland; in fact, it was vibrant grassland, filled with animals, specifically the *Microtus Pennsylvanicus*, otherwise known as the common field mouse.

Once the field mouse habitat was disturbed by taxpayer money, the resilient creatures that are field mice did not disappear under the weight of the new concrete foundations. Instead the field mice moved, entering the old red brick building, in



2005, a successful night for Schreiber's aspiring actors and playwrights.

Suddenly, as the play neared its climax, a fire alarm interrupted the drama and threw the audience into a

panicked frenzy. While the piercing blare sent the crowd racing

Gintautas Savukynas

out of the auditorium, Mr. Novonty rushed to his station to see where the alarm had originated. When he arrived, he saw that the alarm was coming from, out of all the flammable places in Schreiber, the portables that now house the robotics classes.

Mr. Novonty ran outside to the portable, which was oddly smokeless.

"I opened the door and the room was completely covered with foam from a fire extinguisher," Mr. Novonty said. "The windows, the doors, the ceilings, the floors; everything." As Mr. Novonty entered the foam-filled portable, the fire department stormed up Campus Drive to fight the expected fire.

"There were ambulances, fire trucks, and lot of confused people," said Mr. Novonty. "The fire department didn't leave until we cleared up that the foam was the source of the alarm, which took a long time." A supreme irony.

But, even after everything was cleaned up, the mystery of the foam-filled portable lingered, leaving observers to initially say "What?" especially when it was revealed that it wasn't an overzealous amateur firefighter who smothered the smoke detectors. According to Mr. Novonty, the unexpected intermission was caused by a saboteur; someone had broken into the portable and then deliberately expelled

the contents of the fire extinguisher.

Today, as the night of the foam-filled portable drifts farther back into distant memory, the perpetrator is still unknown.

Decaying Fish and Community Pride

Port Washington is a peninsula surrounded by water, and in this water, fish swim. Because of this expected occurrence, Port Washington has had a long history of seafarers. The greater community, however, often forgets our nautical heritage, as we face a present day of purely recreational boating and fishing. This apathy was rattled several years ago by a group of unknown operators who struck out to turn Schreiber into a waterless aquarium of historical proportions.

We can assume that this was the impetus, for that could be the only logical motive that someone could have for hiding dead fish all over the school.

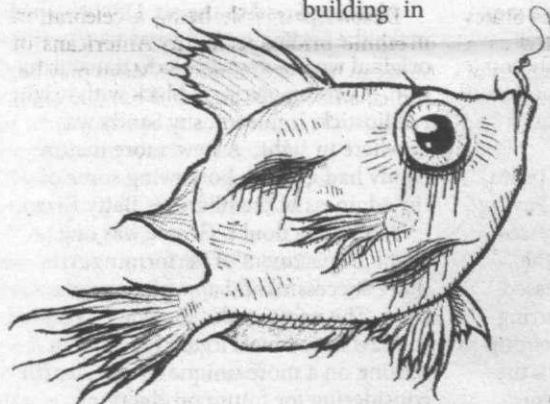
Sneaking into the building before school began, students hid fish throughout the school. As a result of a conspicuous lack of water throughout Schreiber, the hidden fish began to decompose and rot, overwhelming students with their pungent odor. The smell of their decay, hastened by the late spring temperatures, spread throughout the building.

Then during the height of "the great stink," masked culprits ran through the hallway behind the cafeteria throwing bunker, a really ugly-looking local fish, into the lunchroom.

But where were the fish?

"Everywhere!" said Chief Custodian Mr. Dave Albury. "They were hidden in ceiling tiles and lockers all around the school. It took five days to find the last hidden fish!"

While the fish throwers were never revealed, their intent was obvious. In the end, the school's collective nostrils took a hit during those five days, establishing a truly pungent precedent for weirdness.



Gintautas Savukynas

Foam Filled Portable

"It was really full," said custodian Mr. Patrick Novonty. It was a packed house in early

Fashion

by Laila Iravani

Staff Writer

When it comes to hair, it seems as though men's haircuts and hairstyles are always on the backburner. It's the women who sport their luscious locks on the cover of *Vogue* and share their hair secrets with their close girlfriends.

However, men's hair is constantly evolving, bringing forth new and different hair styles: the messy skater look, for lack of better words, and the clean swoop. And despite the multitude of stylish, innovative looks available for men, most guys get the same basic haircut every appointment.

NuBest Hair Salon, located in Manhasset, is known for its chic ambiance and the fashion forward clientele that it attracts. Arlene D'Alessandro, a hair stylist at NuBest, has had over twenty five years of experience in the field and specializes in curly locks, as well as men's hair.

According to D'Alessandro, there are hundreds of viable men's haircuts; it just

depends on the client. Slicked back hair may be in, but if the client wants a shaggy do, D'Alessandro and other stylists are more than happy to oblige.

A new and popular style is the messy, tousled look that has become known as a "skater" chic. D'Alessandro recalls a time when a client did a complete 180, ultimately deciding to go with the look he had despised before.

"He came in, in a tuxedo for his senior prom, his hair all messy. He asked me to slick his hair back so that it'd look clean, but I knew he'd be able to rock the skater look. After giving him the [skater] cut, he absolutely loved it," D'Alessandro said. "It depends, everyone's different!"

Yes, just like women, men can get new and interesting haircuts. Instead of layers and angles (don't worry guys, you don't need to know what they are), men can get different shapes or lengths to vary their hair styles. And although some styles do require the use of hair products, like gel or styling "mud," there are many cuts that are easy to keep up.

However, guys, don't just let your stylist do what they want with your hair. Talk to them and give them an idea of what you want. Hair stylists are the professionals, so it is best to ask their advice and come to an agreement about what would be best.

"I have female clients who let me do whatever I want with their hair, making the cut 'easier' on me, and I also have male clients who are very picky about what they like, which would ultimately make the cut 'more difficult,'" D'Alessandro said.

Celebrities are always on the forefront of fashion and hair and so are a good place to look for inspiration. Needless to say, young male actors are constantly setting new trends as far as hair styles. Actors like Zac Efron and Robert Pattinson have reached new heights of fame among teenagers everywhere, their hair styles imitated among boys and men. It is safe to say that Efron's swoop of hair has become fairly rampant in pop culture, and that it is his signature cut.

It's not hard to find other celebrities or people in the public eye who follow suit.

Boys' hair: yes, it can be styled

Nineteen year old Tim Urban, of *American Idol*, has been repeatedly referred to as having "Zac Efron hair" on the internet and sometimes on television shows such as *TMZ* or *Access Hollywood*.

Robert Pattinson wooed teen girls in the multi-million dollar movie series *Twilight*, and with that, brought about a hair revolution. Pattinson admitted in multiple interviews that his fresh out of bed look is in fact fresh out of bed. The actor rarely washes his hair, and almost never puts product in it. After the first film came out, and word of Pattinson's hair spread, a wave of actors and musicians began sporting the tousled look.

No matter what the look, men's haircuts are not as daunting as they may seem. The usual horror of guys coming to school the Monday after a haircut is unnecessary. If you all simply talk to your hair cutters, explore some options in one of the many magazines available (look while you wait for your appointment!), or look to notable "hair-celebrities," all guys can sport stylish and easy hair cuts for life.

Teacher encouragement to get involved takes many forms

BY Kristin Yu

Staff Writer

Junior Jai Sajnani walked out of the recent school production of Grease, surprised by the intricacy of the performance. Although he might have attended otherwise, Sajnani capitalized upon the opportunity for extra credit by going to the show. His Spanish teacher, Ms. Evelin Joseph gave her class the option to attend the show and write a paper about it in Spanish.

While the job qualifications of teachers do not mandate that they encourage students to participate in school activities outside of class, that is precisely the task a select group of teachers has undertaken. There are many Schreiber teachers who serve as active advocates of student involvement in the Schreiber community beyond the classroom. Teachers give students an incentive to participate in activities that range from school productions to local competitions.

Ms. Joseph, for example, has been known to offer extra-credit opportunities to her students for their participation in school-sponsored activities such as the recent production of Grease. In addition to attending the event, students are asked to diligently observe and explain their observations in Spanish, thus fulfilling the dual purpose of engaging in school functions and expanding their knowledge of the language.

"By doing this, students can feel as if they are a part of the community and classroom," said Ms. Joseph, "They learn how to express themselves in Spanish and it's a great opportunity for extra credit."

Efforts like this on the part of teachers

have contributed to the rise of student participation in Schreiber events. Such was the case at the impressive turnout at the school production of Grease.

"I've seen how much school productions have evolved since middle school, but would not have made the time to see such a show had my eyes not been forcibly opened by my Spanish teacher," Sajnani said. "A school assignment also forced me to pay close attention and carefully examine the acting and script."

Students, also encouraged by Ms. Joseph, participated in a poetry contest at Hofstra University recently. Ms. Joseph herself attended in order to lend her support. It was found to be an overall enjoyable, learning experience.

"It was nice to see tons of students that were interested in poetry even in a different language," said junior Sonyon Song, a participant in the competition. "It's not every day that you get to be recognized for your passion for a foreign language."

Art teacher Ms. Mary Lynn Conte-Lawe is also familiar with the concept of advocating student participation in school and community functions. Ms. Conte-Lawe is a regular attendee of school performances and events such as Shakespeare Day and the various concerts and productions put on by the Schreiber community.

She goes in order to support her students and colleagues, as well as to involve her aunt, a senior citizen, in the school community. She also encourages her students to get involved, especially freshmen. In fact, she has personally escorted students to school activities and introduced them to club advisors.

"I believe this is important because I see Schreiber as a whole culture beyond

the classroom that needs support and positive influence," said Ms. Conte-Lawe. "After all, the school culture is something that students must actively create."

In addition, Ms. Conte-Lawe deliberately assigns her students tasks that require interaction within the Port Washington community, such as visits to various galleries, artist studios, or museums within Nassau County.

"I encourage everyone to learn outside

of the classroom," said Ms. Conte-Lawe. "I love to travel and I relate my experiences to my students so they see beyond preconceptions and realize the connectedness we have to nature, the past, and other cultures."

Teachers such as Ms. Joseph and Ms. Conte-Lawe serve to prove that learning is not limited to the classroom through their efforts to engage and involve students in the Schreiber and local community.

Cinco de Mayo celebrations

BY Kaia de Bruin and Kristin Yu

Staff Writers

With Passover and Easter behind us, it seems that the next big holiday, for students at least, is the last day of school. This, however, is wrong. Cinco de Mayo, a holiday which occurs on May 5, is an observation of the Mexican army's 1862 victory over French troops at the Battle of Puebla. Led by General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín, the Mexican army emerged victorious over the better-trained, twice as large French army, and succeeded in delaying its siege on Mexico City.

Although the holiday is not widely celebrated in Mexico, as it is not a federally designated commemoration, regional celebrations can be found in the state of Puebla, and encompass the sharing of food, music, and dancing.

Surprisingly, Cinco de Mayo is observed more widely in the United States than in Mexico, where it is hailed as a celebration of the culture and struggles of Mexican-Americans. Celebrations held in America tend to involve educational

festivities on the historical significance of the holiday, traditional Mexican symbols and figureheads, and emphasize certain aspects of Mexican culture, such as that of mariachi bands and folkloric dance.

While Cinco de Mayo is not widely observed in the Schreiber community, local businesses have made plans in anticipation of this day in commemoration of Mexican heritage and ethnic pride. Mi Ranchito Bar and Grill, located on Manorhaven Boulevard, is in the process of planning special discounts in honor of Cinco de Mayo according to several employees. Numerous other Mexican restaurants around Nassau County are also offering dining discounts in honor of the holiday.

Although festivities were canceled last year due to the outbreak of swine flu, the 14th Annual Cinco de Mayo Festival is on course to run as planned on May 2nd in East Harlem.

Despite primarily being a celebration of ethnic pride specific to Americans of Mexican heritage, Cinco de Mayo may be, and is, a fun multi-national holiday open to all.

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Faculty Feature

Mr. Jim Servin

by Blake Mergler

Opinions Editor

A new face has recently surfaced walking amongst the English hallways, Mr. Jim Servin, the current student teacher for Ms. Schutzman's English classes. After receiving a Bachelor's degree with a major in English from Bowdoin College and being a journalist for 24 years, Mr. Servin has entered the hallways as part of his training to be an English teacher.

Growing up in Massachusetts, Mr. Servin was always interested in pop culture as well as classic literature. He moved to New York after his college education to pursue journalism and had his first job at GQ. Over time, he was an executive editor for *Nylon* and *BlackBook*, a contributing editor for *Harper's Bazaar*, and a writer for the *New York Times* and *Martha Stewart Living*. Throughout the experiences at these different journals, he had the opportunity to meet several celebrities such as Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, and Naomi Campbell.

"Campbell was one of the nicest models I've met. I've written about her a couple of times, and unlike the reputation she's gotten in the press having a bad temper, I've always found her to be friendly and professional," said Mr. Servin.

He has also interviewed the music group MGMT. After speaking to the group while they were on tour in Spain, Mr. Servin met them in New York City during a rooftop party, before attending their concert.

Other experiences include his travels

while reporting pieces for magazines. Working at *Harper's Bazaar*, he went to Italy once a year. He also went on the Queen Elizabeth II from NY to England to research spa treatments on ships.

After these travels and exciting experiences, Servin decided he wanted to switch careers. During his work in magazines, he always kept the English major side of him alive through annually attending Shakespeare in the Park and reading classic literature.

"Journalism is a wonderful field to be in to see and experience the world, but I felt eventually that I wanted more out of life," said Mr. Servin. "I wanted to grow, and for me, that was to become an English teacher."

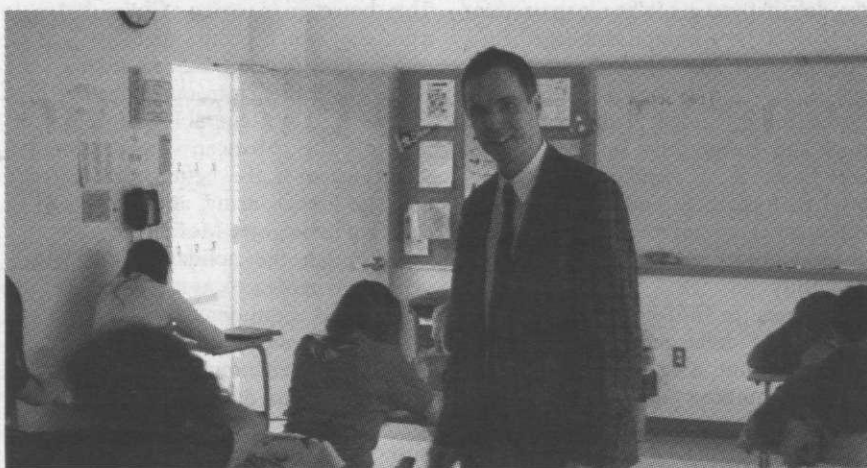
Having visited Schreiber a year ago to

observe, he came back to student teach. He chose this high school for his preparatory work due to his connection with librarian Ms. Kate Herz, his close friend from college.

"When teaching us how to write poems, Mr. Servin uses productive methods, such as handing out famous poems and analyzing their styles," said junior Jenna Schneider, a student in Mr. Servin's Creative Writing class.

While he student teaches Freshman English and Creative Writing each day, he continues to write for *House Beautiful* and other interior design magazines.

"Schreiber is a beautiful school as the faculty and students are really talented," said Mr. Servin. "It is truly a pleasure to be here."



Kevin Granger

A student teacher in the English Department, Mr. Jim Servin has a background in professional journalism. While working for many widely circulated magazines, Mr. Servin has interviewed numerous A-list celebrities.

Prom plans begin early

by Aimee Stern and Sarah Greene

Staff Writers

While upperclassmen are consumed with final examinations and A.P. testing, another event seems to occupy many junior and senior minds, and that is prom. With both junior and senior prom less than two months away, students have already started making preparations to ensure that their prom and after prom experience will be a night to remember.

Unless a student already has a boyfriend or girlfriend, many restrict themselves to another member of their usual social circle. Others, however, are brave enough to cross seemingly concrete social boundaries and take someone of a different crowd. However, finding a date is not a necessity. Many people choose to go alone to both junior and senior prom.

In addition to finding that perfect dress and corsage, before-prom photos and after-prom events are also something that need to be planned months in advance. Reservations must be made and financial decisions have to be settled.

An immense amount of planning has gone into both the junior and senior proms this year. The Junior Class Club and assistant principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald have run countless fundraisers in order to raise enough money to make the event as memorable as possible. Senior prom has undergone even further preparation, primarily by the Gambol committee of the Home School Association.

Since the beginning of the school year, parents as well as teachers have planned out every detail of the night, such as table decorations, raffle prizes, and bleacher seats for those who wish to watch the students' red carpet entrance. The Gambol is once again held at Castle Gould at the Sands Point Preserve, a tradition that has graced Schreiber for years.

"Parents have been planning the Gambol for months," said senior Sam Schneider. "With all the hard work put in, I'm sure the night will be a success."

Students have also been carefully preparing for the special night, planning out details ahead of time pertaining to attire, pre-prom pictures, and after-prom. For juniors, after-prom may consist of a jaunt to the city or a get-together at a classmate's house, and some may even splurge for a ride in a limo or party-bus.

Many seniors, on the other hand, plan to make the post-prom events last for an entire weekend. With the worries of high school behind them, seniors often escape to a summer or Hamptons house with a smaller group of close friends. Whether ending the night with an after-prom party or merely a casual dance with a date, many students have already finalized their post-prom plans.

When considering the high costs, many students fret over the expenses associated with the event. A ticket to junior prom costs \$70, and a ticket for senior prom is \$100. Despite such high sums, students manage to pay for the event in a variety of ways. Many Students cut a few of the expensive extras from their agenda, saving for their tickets and outfit instead.

"I'm definitely trying to be more economical with my plans this year," said junior Jenna Schneider. "I think we can still have fun even if we do something more low-key."

Outdoor eateries open for warmer weather

by Emily Sanders

Staff Writer

Springtime has arrived, the trees have burst into bud and leaf, and the air is warming up. Many restaurants, as a result, begin to provide outdoor seating to bring in more business. Port Washington's nautical atmosphere makes it a perfect spot for restaurants to extend their menu into the open air.

Most Schreiber students, it seems, thoroughly embrace the outdoor setting. Many find it to be more enjoyable and exciting than sitting inside a typical indoor space.

"I love eating outside," said sophomore Vanessa Signorini. "Instead of being cooped inside the restaurant where it can be very noisy, an outdoor atmosphere provides a more unusual eating experience, as well as a great view."

"I think eating outdoors is much more fun than eating indoors, so I usually try to go to restaurants that have an outside eating area. It's almost like having a picnic, but it's even better because you aren't sitting on the ground, and you're eating restaurant food," says freshman Ariana Dipreta.

Some students, however, feel that they can't generalize and say they enjoy outdoor eateries or not.

"It really depends on the restaurant," says sophomore Gabriele Davidoff. "If the food is good, and the scenery is good outside, then I'd prefer eating outside. If the ambiance is better inside, though, I'd prefer to eat indoors."

Senior Alexandra Buonadonna, an

occasional patron of the seaside restaurant Louie's, tends to disagree. "I really prefer eating outdoors at Louie's," she said. "Although the inside of the restaurant is nice, it is often packed and extremely noisy. The outdoor seating, however, is much quieter and makes for a more pleasant dine."

Either way, all or most of the outdoor eateries in Port Washington seem to have something in common: the water. Some restaurants, like the Italian restaurant Sisina, have a view of the water, while others like Louie's have seating on a dock directly over the water. Bad Bob's, a barbeque joint in Manorhaven, offers seating on a wooden platform over the water, and gives patrons the chance to eat outside. Mi Ranchito, an exception to the uniform water theme, offers an enjoyable Mexican-style ambiance indoors as well as a festively themed patio for outdoor dining.

Although these restaurants are close or on the water, they each have a different feel. While the outdoor portions of Sisina and Louie's are both continuations of the inside area, Bad Bob's offers a less formal, more "picnic-ey" option. In fact, other than the recently closed branch of Bad Bob's on Main Street, the eatery does not have an indoor option. Like the flowers of spring, the remaining Bad Bob's is a seasonal establishment that is only open during the spring and summer, when it is comfortable to eat at its outdoor tables.

La Motta's, which opens exclusively during the summer, is an outdoor hot-spot over the water at which patrons can order drinks and food while listening to bands

play live music. The Main Street Bakery has a quaint little table outside the store, emanating a French-style bakery. Many citizens of Port Washington go out of their way to visit such restaurants because they have such a comfortable ambience.

Some students, however, have an aversion to eating outdoors. "I hate eating outside," says sophomore Carolyn Nevins. "It's often cold, especially because many restaurants have outdoor seating close to the water, which makes it windier. It's really hard to eat when your napkin is being blown everywhere. Also, bugs sometimes fly or crawl into your food. I just find that eating inside is more pleasant and comfortable."

Whether students enjoy eating inside or outside, there are occasional opportunities which allow them to have a little of both. The Mediterranean Marketplace, a more casual version of its neighboring restaurant, Ayhan's Shish-Kabob, offers an innovative seating arrangement which provides a great view without the perceived discomfort of eating outdoors.

The restaurant has candle-lit tables surrounded by a glass wall, which allows diners to have a view of the bay and streets below. Restaurants such as this are hard to find, but are accommodating to all, no matter what the weather or your seating preference.

In the end, many patrons enjoy their meals with a side of outdoors, and Port Washington, with its diverse selection of open air eating options presents an appetizing spread for the outdoors inclined.

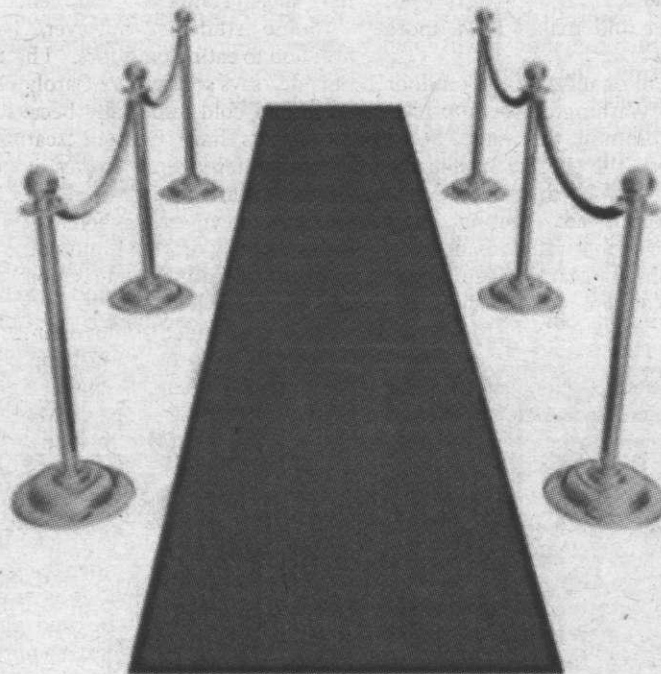
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arts & entertainment

Answering every fan's prayer, *Glee* returns to television

BY Bethia Kwak

Staff Writer

After a four month hiatus, fellow gleeks turned on their televisions for the return of their beloved show, *Glee*. The show skyrocketed in popularity after its premiere in May 2009.

After a dramatic episode that ended the first half of the season, fans were left wondering what would happen next. New Directions, the name of the glee club, had won sectionals and was now headed for regionals. The outcome of this was very predictable, due to the fact that the media loves happy endings.

The return of *Glee* did not disappoint. The episode started with members of the Glee club thinking they were suddenly "popular" and "cool," because they had won sectionals. Quick to be proven wrong, Rachel (Lea Michele), Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer), and Mercedes Jones (Amber Riley) find their faces covered in blue slushies, courtesy of the football team.

This is one of the main reasons why *Glee* may be so popular today. It doesn't paint a fake picture for the audience that "losers" can suddenly rise to "the top of the food chain." The show is meant to be realistic, and the glee club will always be looked down upon.

A common critique of the show is the actual members of the club. Critics argue that it is degrading that "popular students," such as cheerleaders and football players, had to join the glee club to make it remotely "cool." But as mentioned before, the show is meant to depict true high school networking. The reality is, people wouldn't tune into the show if the characters weren't worth taking a second look at.

In the returning episode, Schuester and Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch), the coach of the cheerleading squad, butt heads more than ever before. The news is announced that New Directions must win the regional competition in order to stay a club in the school. Hilarity ensues, as Sue tries to sabotage and destroy the glee club. While the bickering can be redundant, these arguments are always entertaining, with many witty remarks from the two.

Some of the best material in the entire show consists of Sylvester's dialogue. Her remarks are so outrageous, and Lynch delivers them so brilliantly, making the character of Sue Sylvester one of the major driving forces of the show.

A major plot twist featured in these past few episodes has been Rachel Berry hitting it off with the lead singer of Vocal Adrenaline (played by Jonathan Groff), New Directions' biggest rival. While the personality of Rachel Berry is extremely irritating, because she is always going off on tangents and acts as if the world is revolving around her, this plot line puts Rachel in a different light. During the beginning of the season and even the episode, she seemed quite annoying and condescending towards everyone else. Now that she struggles to maintain this romantic involvement with the "enemy," the viewers see her as more vulnerable. It's almost like a breath of fresh air after being smothered by Rachel's matter-of-fact attitude.

The next episode is quite an exciting one, featuring only music from the world-famous singer Madonna. It is meant to be about female empowerment after the women in the show feel unappreciated.

After confiding in one another, Kurt and Mercedes join the Cheerios,



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The girls of *Glee* take to the stage, demonstrating the musical excellence of Madonna, with their rendition of "Express Yourself." *Glee* has increased its ratings exponentially and has captured the ears of Schreiber students by featuring popular music artists in its songs.

Sue's cheerleading squad. They do this because Schuester constantly gives the lead vocals to Rachel and Finn. This has been detrimental to the show because the writers have not been giving a lot of screen time to integral members of the glee club, focusing lately instead too much on the guidance counselor and Schuester's relationship and one of the cheerleaders, Santana Lopez (Naya Rivera). *Glee* would greatly benefit from allowing other cast members to show their talent.

The issue of sex is a main theme in the Madonna episode. In a hilarious montage, three couples, Rachel and Jesse, Santana and Finn, and Schuester and Emma sing "Like a Virgin," by Madonna while getting ready in their respective rooms. After this big musical number and important scene, the truth about what happened that night is revealed. Finn had sex with Santana, but the scene was tragic because their union was meaningless; he felt nothing his first time, and he can't take that back now. Rachel, on the other hand, decided to wait, and Emma took ownership of her body when she said she didn't wanna sleep with Schuester and then ran out of his apartment with no shoes on.

This incredible episode ends with a shocking revelation: Jesse St. James (the lead vocalist in Vocal Adrenaline) joins New Directions, claiming that he has quit his other school's glee club. He tells the members he had to do this because of his love for Rachel.

Obviously, this seems like a complete lie to viewers. It seems almost blatantly

obvious that his main motive is to sabotage New Directions, so Vocal Adrenaline has a clear shot of winning.

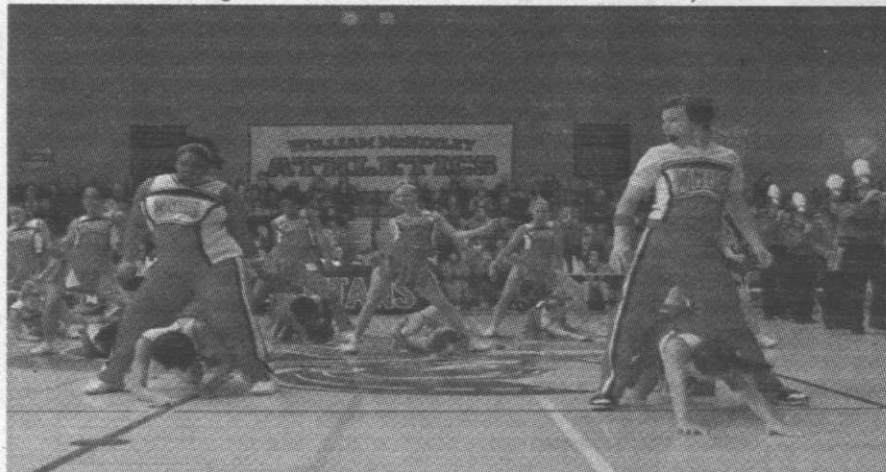
"There were many pleasant surprises in the return episodes as well as many new characters that I will most likely grow to love. I feel that many of the viewers' questions will be answered in the coming episodes as there are many new questions that are likely to spring up," said sophomore Daniela Di Caro.

Another common criticism that has been brought about *Glee* is the nature of the songs. Are they necessary? Reviewers argue the music is only mediocre and take away from the seriousness of the show.

But *Glee* is meant to be a comedy with a little bit of a realistic twist, not a drama. The whole purpose of the show is to demonstrate to viewers that music can be fun and enjoyable. It is essentially a show that caters to all.

"I understand why many critics find the songs unnecessary, but for me, they add to the likeability of the show. It's always exciting to see the cast cover a song that I know," said sophomore Alexis Fessatidis.

The new season is well under way with many new surprises. The motive of Jesse pursuing Rachel will develop, as will what exactly is going to happen between Will and Emma. The audience can only hope Rachel falls back into Finn's arms. Sue will continue finding ways to destroy the club, and Gleeks know only more controversy will continue to pop up throughout the season.



www.tvguide.com

Mercedes Jones (Amber Riley) and Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) bring their tremendous voices to the cheerleading squad at McKinley High School, after being recruited by Sue Sylvester.

Not all of network's reality shows are worthy of a "Bravo"

Several new and returning reality shows have recently made their debuts on the popular network, Bravo

BY Arjan Saron

Contributing Writer

This season, Bravo TV is offering an abundance of reality shows catering to a varied group of viewers. Covering many subjects across the board, Bravo hopes to attract many different groups of people by providing new and interesting reality programs of all different genres. While the network is bringing back old favorites with new twists, it is also introducing new programs. Despite the similar feel amongst them all, some of the reality programs seem to be too far-fetched, and merely consist of an hour of useless gossip.

Millionaire Matchmaker follows Patti Stanger in her attempt to find her millionaire clients true love. Although the notion of a millionaire finding their beau through a reality TV show may seem unrealistic, Bravo does a fantastic job of keeping it interesting at all times. Patti's lines provide opinionated entertainment, and although the show sometimes suffers from slow development, it can be an enjoyable diversion. Like all reality shows, it is painfully scripted, but does a great job of grabbing viewers' attention and interest. It also does a good job of investing the viewer into the millionaire's

love lives while the viewer's spirits fluctuate with Patti's success and frustration.

Real Housewives of New York City seems to mimic the *Millionaire Matchmaker* in its focus on wealth and glamour. The show follows the lives of a group of women living in New York City. And although Bravo advertises the series as revealing the hectic, burdensome lives of the city women, it becomes a travesty of a wretched life. Why should I care how these women manage their abundance of wealth and social time and how they deal with their minute, overblown problems? Even when Bethenny recalls her sick father not wanting to talk to her, or when she finds out that she is pregnant, the plots are stereotypical reality stories, that are completely unbelievable and will cause viewers to roll their eyes in disgust.

Switching gears completely, Bravo provides viewers with *Top Chef Masters*—a cooking competition between some of the world's top chefs, hosted by food critic Kelly Choi. Choi is famous for having opened many restaurants, and even writing his own cooking books. Every Wednesday at 10 p.m., she and the Critic's Table come together to judge a new group of chefs, all hoping to advance to the next round in the competition.

The contestants are both compelling



www.bravotv.com

Contestants on *Top Chef Masters*, one of Bravo's better programs, try to put together the perfect meal for a first date.

speakers and cooking maestros. Many are already world-renowned chefs, and the show does a good job of proving this to the viewer. Rather than simply taking a few amateurs, they take people who are already successful, and try and find the best of the best. Watching the show, the viewer is introduced to a full breadth of recipes and styles, allowing for distinctive experiences with each chef, leading to a fast paced and varied adventure. Although Choi lacks a vivid personali-

ty, she is a decent host, and allows the more engaging features of the show to take over. The judging panel also does its job suitably.

Bravo has provided entertaining programming in the past, and this year looks to be no different. Although *Top Chef Masters* leads the pack, *Millionaire Matchmaker* is no slouch either. Of course the same boring reality feel is still there, but Bravo does a surprisingly good job of adding a little spice to some of its programs.

Ugly Betty makes a beautiful exit from cable

BY Ali Nierenberg

A&E Editor

Four seasons ago, a slightly pudgy, short young woman appeared on television for the first time. Clad in her Guadalupe poncho and red-framed glasses, she managed to charm audiences and somehow survive in the cutthroat fashion world that is Mode. Recently, though, this young woman took her bow, leaving both Mode and television forever.

While the season finale of *Ugly Betty* celebrated Betty Suarez's (America Ferrera) dramatic transformation, it also focused on all of the ways in which she remained the same. The quirky personality that was seen in her vibrant blue and yellow poncho was still there, only this time disguised by patent-leather pumps and tweed skirts.

With that said, Betty has most certainly matured and changed over the years. With her new sense of fashion came a new sense of confidence that allowed her to resolve many issues, which has been one of the main focuses of the program as Betty works to help others deal with their emotional and professional conflicts. It is because of her accessibility and therapist-like appeal that Betty was really able to bond with characters like Daniel (Eric Mabius) and Claire Meade (Judith

Light). She was a confidant for Mode's staff, one who everyone was sad to see go.

Fortunately, with her departure, audiences received much closure. The finale did not take on an often typical, suspenseful form. Instead, it was merely an hour for everything to come together and end, of course, in the best way possible. As Hilda (Ana Ortiz) and Bobby (Adam Rodriguez) purchased an apartment and Justin (Mark Indelicato) made peace with his sexuality, the audience could not help but smile for the Suarez family. Throughout seasons past, they have weathered quite a storm, dealing with illness, death, and physical loss. It was nice to finally see the family in a place of comfort.

The finale was even more satisfying, though, as old grudges were let go. Two of the most boisterous personalities on the show, Claire Meade and Wilhelmina Slater (Vanessa Williams) have feuded, so it seems, since the beginning of time. While this feuding was not unnecessary, especially when one considers murder plots and infidelity, it began to seem very drawn out. Seeing Wilhelmina defend Claire and help her deal with her son was a really great way for this war to end.

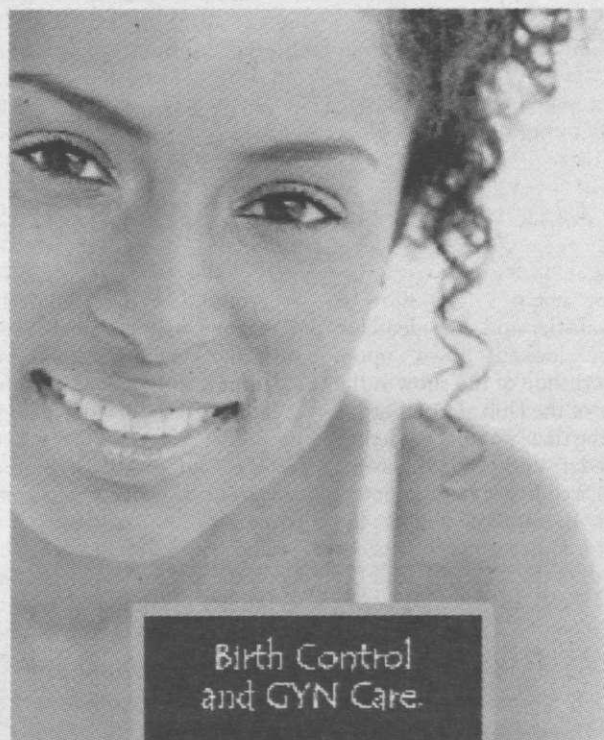
Even though the finale provided for an hour of great television, it was most certainly not flawless. Its biggest flaw, I would say, came about with the relationship between Betty and Daniel Meade. Daniel has always been a sort of older brother to Betty: He gets in trouble, she bails him out. Additionally, he helped her move up in the ranks at Mode Magazine. To see their relationship move in a more romantic direction, in the finale, was creepy. It went against everything that was established in previous seasons and ruined the platonic, excellent relationship the two already had.

All issues aside, though, there will most certainly be a void on ABC now that *Ugly Betty* is off the air. While countless medical dramas exist, along with high-school soap-operas, *Ugly Betty* is extremely unique in its plotlines and messages.



www.abc.com

While Betty's external transformation is clear, her personality hasn't changed.



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Hot Tub Time Machine truly is a blast from the past

Retro laugh-fest goofs its way into the hearts of comedy connoisseurs

BY Morgan Quigley

Assistant A&E Editor

Hot Tub Time Machine could quite possibly be the best movie title I have ever heard. And the movie did live up to the name. It was coarse, funny, full of vulgarities, and very original.

The movie centers around four friends, Adam, Jacob, Nick, and Lou (John Cusack, Clark Duke, Craig Robinson, Rob Corddry, respectively), who are tired of their boring lives and decide to go into an orange-watered hot tub. After a night of drinking, they find out they have been sent back in time to 1986 without any recollection of how they got there. The film carries on from there, chronicling



www.ew.com

Hot Tub Time Machine's box office success relied heavily on its vulgar humor, recognizable cast, and empty plot that actually benefitted the movie.

their adventure to and from the 1980s.

Paralleling *The Hangover*, the film begins when four friends, partying at a ski resort, wake up the next morning to find out that they are very lost and need to retrace their steps. While *Hot Tub Time Machine* was hilarious, it did not pose any threat to the comedic brilliance of *The Hangover*, especially when considering its plot.

Hot Tub Time Machine has a paper-thin story line; however, it may in fact work to the film's advantage. The absurdity of the film and its overall lack of coherence makes it a movie simply to laugh at. Complex plots and stories may not be a part of the equation.

The goal of this movie was to put four familiar faces together in order to attract viewers, which they did very

"If you understand all the '80s references thrown in throughout the entire hundred minutes, it is a very enjoyable film," said junior Will Levine.

successfully. The four main characters are recognizable from movies and television shows; however, this celebrity factor was not enough to make a solid film. My biggest complaint about the movie is that there is a big chunk in the middle of the film during which all of the men are whining and fighting. It is just non-stop complaining from all of them about some "butterfly effect." At that point I was ready to leave.



www.imdb.com

This scene portrays Nick (Craig Robinson) after the impromptu time travel, desperately trying to figure out what year he is in.

While most comedies go down-hill from there, *Hot Tub Time Machine*, fortunately, got back on track, churning out more laughs. It did not try and emphasize the complaining or bring up an important moral issue. Instead, it regained its focus as a comedy and nothing more.

The acting in the film was what should be expected. Brilliant performances are not really typical of immature comedies, and there was some poor casting. Cusack was not the right actor for his role. He ultimately comes across as scripted, when that should not have been the case. While Cusack's performance may have been underwhelming, the interaction between the four main men creates a funny and

action-packed experience.

"If you understand all the '80s references thrown in throughout the entire hundred minutes, it is a very enjoyable film," said junior Will Levine.

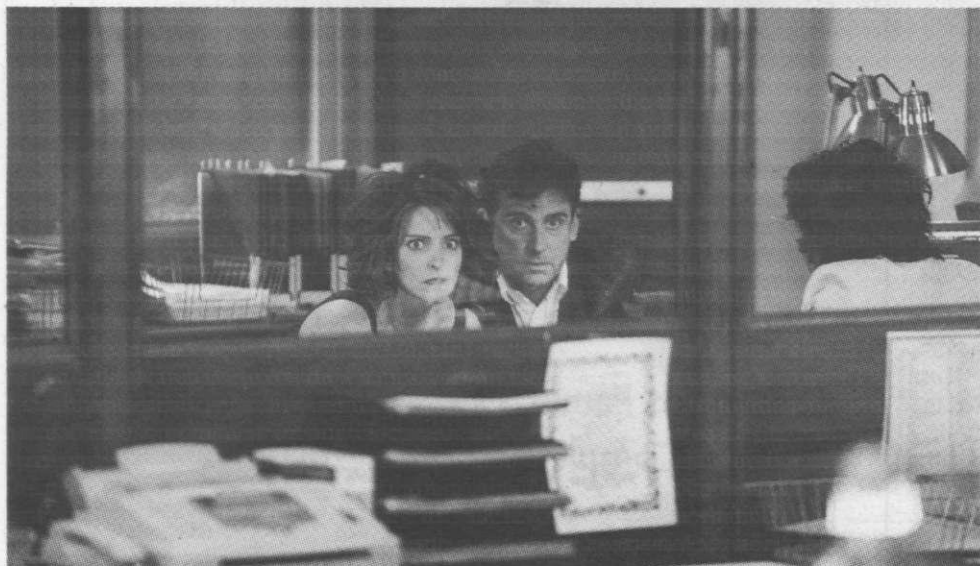
If you do not like this genre of film, or you did not like *The Hangover*, which I am not sure is possible, this movie will not change your opinion about foolish comedies. However, if you are a fan of these impossible and nonsensical plot lines, I suggest you see it. The movie keeps you laughing almost throughout, and if you can stand to sit through a 15 minute period of bickering, then it is definitely worth your time.

What *Date Night* lacks in dialogue, it makes up for in comedy and action

BY Victor Dos Santos

Staff Writer

In the recent string of romantic comedies to hit theaters, few have been good. The latest rom-com film to make it to the big screen, *Date Night*, proved to break this trend and really emphasized the "comedy" aspect of romantic comedy.



www.allmoviephoto.com

Phil Foster (Steve Carell) and Claire Foster (Tina Fey) make a very shocking discovery at a police station in which they thought that they had found sanctuary.

Date Night was directed by *Night at the Museum* director Shawn Levy and features well-known star comics Steve Carell and Tina Fey.

The movie begins with Carell and Fey playing a couple named Claire and Phil Foster who decide to go to a new restaurant in Manhattan. When they discover they can't get a table because they need a reservation, they decide to snatch

another couple's table.

Their night of fun soon ends when two corrupt cops arrive and the Fosters find themselves in a case of mistaken identity. The night continues with many big-named cameos making appearances, such as James Franco, Mila Kunis, Ray Liotta, Mark Wahlberg, and Kristen Wiig.

While this kind of screenplay writing has been executed well before, this was

just, plain and simple, a very poorly written film. The only way this movie survived was with the improvisational acting done by Carell and Fey. The two play the ultimate dynamic duo in this romantic comedy.

Every scene in which the two are on screen, is as if they belong together. If it weren't for them, the movie might have been a total disaster. They had perfect chemistry and their improvisation is what actually made the movie funny, besides a few cameos.

The cameos, especially Wahlberg as the always shirtless ex-military friend of Claire's, provide a much needed spark to the otherwise bland comedy. Franco and Kunis were also hilarious as the couple that Carell and Fey are mistaken for.

The most notable on-screen

performances were done by the lead duo, Carell and Fey, when they were dancing in a strip club. The way it played out could not have been done with better results by anyone other than this talented pair.

Carell and Fey are just so insane together, and the dialogue they share with each other in the film is just so strange that it's hard not to laugh at it.

The action in this film was also quite a bit of fun, especially for a romantic comedy. There were guns and car chases, all while blending with the perfect comedic timing of Carell and Fey. There were some fun chase sequences and the bad guys seemed pretty menacing. Who can beat Liotta as Joe Miletto, the tough gangster who nobody wants to mess with?

So if someone were to watch this and not be into the whole romantic comedy thing, the action would definitely give them something to look at. There are some fun scenes in this movie, the most notable being the car chase, which will make you laugh and be at the edge of your seat wondering if something is going to blow up.

The film's impossible plot jumps are only brought together by the sheer likability of Steve Carell and Tina Fey. Watch it with an audience of complete strangers or someone special; it's guaranteed that you will laugh at least once. It's got enough of everything to make *Date Night* a fun date night.

MGMT drastically alters its approach as it rocks the pop world

BY Brett Fishbin
Assistant A&E Editor

Much like Pearl Jam's 1993 work *Vs.*, MGMT is taking a defiant anti-commercial step, with their newest album, *Congratulations*. The overly sarcastic band has made a point not to release any singles from the album, or even produce a single music video. Frontman Andrew VanWyngarden states, "I hope I die before I get sold" towards the end of the title track, "Congratulations."

This statement makes it quite clear that the once underground band has no intentions to sell out and become another top 20 alternative rock band. *Congratulations* serves as a radical departure from their poppier debut album, sounding angrier and more sincere. One thing that does not change is the fact that the album is poppy enough to dance to.

"It's definitely going to shock people," VanWyngarden told *Spin*. "In a weird way, it's like a soul record." This declaration is largely true, because all of the lyrics seem to have meaning behind them, which cannot be said for most pop-rock groups. In a twelve-minute song called "Siberian Breaks," the general theme concerns the Arctic Circle. The group promised that *Congratulations* would be a more complete album, which is why they have decided to not release any singles. Much like Green Day's *American Idiot*, the album should

be listened to as a whole, rather than just one song.

The opening track called, "It's Working," serves as a suitable first track, providing a catchy rhythm, building up to a psychedelic climax, and then a bongo solo. Although there are a flurry of ideas expressed in the song, it somehow works and is an excellent first track.

Another song that seems to stand out is the interesting "Flash Delirium." Although it does not really have a chorus, it is very diverse in that it has many different paces and feelings. This song, especially, shows the musical talent of MGMT.

Much like "It's Working," it is not structured like a typical pop-rock song and explores many different techniques. By taking this path, MGMT produces a concept album, which could either be revolutionary or too wrapped up in its ideology.

iPad lives up to very high expectations

BY Brett Fishbin
Assistant A&E Editor

The electronic book market recently received a huge boost from the highly anticipated release of the Apple iPad. Unlike its competitors though, the iPad also functions as an MP3 player, a mobile video player, a photo viewer, a gaming device, and a mobile computer with internet browsing, email, and word processing capabilities. Based off of the popularly designed iPod Touch, the iPad has quickly affected the tablet market selling over 300,000 in its first day and over one million in total. Although it has so many functions, the most hype seems to be the application, iBooks.

Much like the Kindle, iBooks is an app that has the capability of buying and reading books on the fly. Most of the *New York Times* bestsellers are sold at a reasonable price of \$9.99. This price matches the prices of the Amazon Kindle. In addition, there are approximately 30,000 public domain books available for free. The app also boasts a three-dimensional bookshelf design that elegantly displays all of your books. iBooks is a very strong addition to the app store and will absolutely threaten Kindle's sales. The layout is very well done as well, perhaps enticing readers to purchase to "fill their shelves."

The features that are included with the iPod Touch are all included with the iPad but some are restructured for the larger screen. One notable change is the layout of the standard iPod function. Unlike the iPod Touch, the iPad uses a design similar to iTunes. Although the new layout is fitting for the device, it seems as if Apple is making an attempt to provide a mobile computer. This could not be further from reality, seeing as the operating system is much closer to an iPod than a computer, and the capabilities are very limited

compared to that of a laptop, or desktop computer.

Another popular feature that has been brought to the iPad is the mobile app store. This feature allows users to download all sorts of applications without the need to connect to iTunes. This is not a new feature, but many of the apps have been redesigned just for the iPad. These apps have been highly praised, as they take advantage of the luxurious space in which many more functions are possible. This is definitely one of the brightest spots for the product, because the possibilities are almost endless when it comes to people creating apps. With so much space available, many functions and uses can be achieved.

Apple released the product with two major types being available in different sizes (memory). The two major options are WiFi only, and WiFi + 3G. The WiFi model works just like the iPod Touch, as applications that utilize the internet will need a wireless connection. The later, but more expensive model will be able to function with the iPhones 3G cell phone network, but will require a monthly payment. The basic WiFi model is priced at \$499 (16 GB), and the basic WiFi + 3G model is priced at \$629 (16 GB as well). An option to increase the memory is available, but of course, will require further payment.

The iPad has already received a great amount of critical acclaim, and has been praised for its generously sized screen, shockingly fast speed, and light weight. The graphics have also been described as breathtaking. Even though you will need to shell out some dough to purchase the extravagant product, you will most likely be satisfied with your investment because of its greatness.



MGMT front man Andrew VanWyngarden and lead guitarist Ben Martin Goldwasser play a hit song in New York City from their brand new alternative album, *Congratulations*.

It is quite impressive though, to see that a band in the iTunes era would take this sort of chance. Although it may not be a smart move financially, in the long run the band will be satisfied with their decision.

The most ambitious track is "Siberian Breaks." Just over twelve minutes long, a song length which has all but disappeared in recent music, the track starts in a breezy, chill environment, giving off a 1970s vibe. Soon afterwards, the tempo is radically shifted to a quicker pace, and in just two minutes, it sounds like separate songs.

The pattern continues throughout with a keyboard solo, and finally a chorus at about eight minutes in. If you are a fan

of Ke\$ha or Justin Bieber, this is not a song for you, but if you are interested in something new and different, buy this song right away.

The folksy sounding "Congratulations" is the perfect last song for an album that was truly all over the place. It fits into this album so perfectly, and will likely anger fans looking for a sequel of their debut.

This is not an album that will thrill the ears on their first listen, but after a few reps, it will likely become a favorite for any music fan. Although untraditional, MGMT produces a brilliant second CD, taking many risks but is rewarded in the process.

Classic Album: Caravan: In the Land of Grey and Pink



BY Kerim Kivrak
Staff Writer

Any classic rock purist will describe the '70s as a rock 'n roll golden age; a time when the quality of music, not economic viability, was the deciding factor in what was popular, iconic, and eventually, legendary. In reality, every era of every genre is plagued with some degree of commercialism, and 1970s rock is no exception. Among the many less commercial bands to be caught in the massive shadows of the '70s was Caravan, a relatively unknown progressive rock band, fusing psychedelic rock and elements of jazz.

Caravan reached the pinnacle of its popularity and critical acclaim with the 1971 release of *In the Land of Grey and*

Pink. What distinguishes the album from the quintessential 70s progressive rock album is that it emphasizes its acoustic sound for most of the first side, straying from the electronic mood and synthesizers that epitomize prog rock. It is clear from the start that the band's lyrics are very symbolic, and are not as they appear. The majority of the first track, "Golf Girl," is entirely incoherent, but expectations were not too high to begin with, considering that the first lyrics are the following: "Standing on a golf course dressed in PVC." "Golf Girl" is the liveliest and most memorable track on the first side, which keeps a steady, mellower tone for the next three tracks. The title track is most notable for its seamlessly integrated piano solo.

The second side of the album brings about a drastic change in its overall tone. This seems much less off-setting in the album's original vinyl form where the listener would have a brief pause when turning the record over. The exceptional vocals that give the first side much of its identity are much less heavily accentuated, and the second side focuses more on the electric and more technically impressive aspects of progressive rock.

In the Land of Grey and Pink embodied several different styles that Caravan would explore in greater depth throughout their career. It is a perfect way to get into the genre and an essential album for any self-proclaimed progressive rock fan.

» Where Are They Now? »

After crossing Schreiber's finish line, three female runners pursue different interests

BY Reid Mergler
Sports Editor

Olivia Maldonado

Close to home, Maldonado continues to be a three-season athlete at Manhattanville.

Running out of Schreiber's boundaries, alumna Olivia Maldonado continues her cross country and track career at Manhattanville College. During high school, Maldonado ran as captain of all three running teams during her senior year. Under the coaching of Ms. Robin Cooper, Ms. Virginia McMahon, and Mr. Kevin Ocker, she improved in the 5K, 3000m and 1500m race. With this strong base, she hopes to improve her times throughout her collegiate years.

When she joined Manhattanville's teams, she was motivated to keep in shape and meet new people. With a less competitive regimen and more laid-back atmosphere, a Division III team has been ideal for Maldonado.

During the fall, she participated on the Division III Cross Country team where the season differed from the Schreiber girls varsity cross country team. Practices were held at 7:00 a.m. as opposed to 3:30 p.m. and the team is much smaller than Schreiber's 20-person team.

"I miss being part of such a large team at Schreiber which includes my coaches and teammates," said Maldonado. "Manhattanville's team has less than twenty boys and girls combined, which is a drastic change. Even though I get along well with my teammates, it has been hard getting used to such a small program."

In addition, while high school coaches usually expect all athletes to follow the same program, collegiate coaches often modify workouts based on a runner's ability. According to Maldonado, the college coaches also "trust their athletes to do

what they are supposed to without constant supervision."

Although she has not made any significant changes to her running, she has many aspirations for the spring season at Manhattanville.

"I have many goals set for the season, which include improving my time in the 800 meter race and attempting a longer distance race, such as the 1500 meter," said Maldonado.

To achieve these goals, she remains inspired by her peers who help pave the track ahead.

"My inspirations in college are my friends and teammates who encourage me to stay on track with my school work and spend time doing productive, worthwhile activities, such as community service. I look up to upperclassmen as well," said Maldonado.

Rose Ellen Diffley

Relying on her endurance built during multiple running seasons, Diffley plays rugby at Boston College.

Drifting off the cross country courses, alumna Rose Ellen Diffley is a part of Boston College's rugby club team. Similar to Maldonado, Diffley captained Schreiber's running teams for three seasons. However, as she applied to college, for academic and social reasons, she did not continue her running career.

One beneficial aspect of rugby is that there was no experience needed to join. Furthermore, it is not too overwhelming for Diffley since practices are a couple of times a week and games are on occasional weekends. As a dedicated student, Diffley is able to balance the sport with other clubs and spending time with friends. However, she does love the team and the game.

"The team is close and everyone en-

courages each other," said Diffley. "It is also great to have an athletic outlet from the stress of classes. At Schreiber, running was the best way to escape from the annoyances of high school and this provides a similar escape."

Although track and rugby are completely different sports, Diffley believes that her track and cross country career helps her on her BC team. Her tremendous endurance and a proclivity to run lessen the mental and physical strain of playing an eighty minute game.

"I definitely have the stamina to play a game and I do not mind the running preparation as much as my teammates do," said Diffley.

A major improvement for Diffley this year was her participation on the "A" side during her last game which is similar to varsity.

"I am happy that I was able to play for the 'A' side, as I was able to demonstrate my accomplishments," said Diffley.

Diffley's father constantly inspires her to fulfill her dreams.

"I think my inspiration has always been my dad, who always supported my athletic decisions," said Diffley. "Even if he had his doubts at first, he always would be there for me."

This inspiration, as well as a drive to run, has pushed Diffley to the next level in her career. Stepping up from her Schreiber 5K and steeplechase races, she is taking part in a marathon next year through the Campus School Charity.

This school is a K-12 school within the Lynch Education School of BC that specializes in educating children with severe mental and physical disabilities. To raise money for the school's needs, the Campus School has a marathon team, which has a training regimen and accepts donations from members.

"Although I play rugby, I am still a runner, and this gives me an opportunity to run at the next level, while raising money for a good cause," said Diffley.

Artemis Sapountzi

Going from track and soccer to sailing, Sapountzi takes up new interests at Tufts University.

As a sophomore at Tufts University, 2008 alumna Artemis Sapountzi has had a multifaceted career as a college athlete. At Schreiber, she was captain of the girls spring track team and focused on the 400 meter race during her senior year. In addition, she was a key member of the varsity soccer team.

Afterwards, she ran off the Schreiber track to Mount Holyoke, where she was an integral part of the track team. Sapountzi's second-year transfer to Tufts opened up a new port in sailing.

She had never sailed before, but when she attended tryouts, she was accepted onto the crew and sailing teams. This change was tremendous as it requires a great deal of effort.

"I decided to attend tryouts on a whim and before I knew it, I stuck with the team. It's very time consuming," said Sapountzi.

The team practices four days a week for about five hours a day. Regattas typically take place on both Saturday and Sunday during the fall and spring season. To add to the rigor and prestige, sailing is the only Division I team at Tufts University.

As part of the Tufts University Jumbos, Sapountzi recently won the Northeastern Tech Invite on April 24 with a total score of 34.

Another interesting aspect about the team is that there is no coach. It is purely a 65-member crew that coaches itself. With this teamwork and dedication, Sapountzi enjoys the sport.

"My inspiration is the work my teammates do," said Sapountzi. "You learn something new everyday that you sail with a different person."

Senior Kelly Shon sinks first career hole-in-one

BY Rohit Khullar
Assistant Sports Editor

Coming off an uncharacteristic bogey on the first hole at the Sands Point Golf Club, senior Kelly Shon quickly grabbed her 9-iron and stepped up to the tee on the second hole in her match against Glen Cove. Frustrated with her performance on the previous hole, Shon simply swung, going straight after the flag.

The ball landed a yard in front of the hole, took a second bounce, spun backwards, and disappeared from sight. The hole-in-one was the first of Shon's illustrious career, which will continue next year at Princeton University.

Shon, who is serving as a co-captain this year, ended up shooting an even par 36, en route to a varsity golf team win over Glen Cove on April 26. The team as a whole shot a 202, besting Glen Cove by over 70 strokes.

Despite the theatrics of a hole-in-one, the team remains even-keeled in its pursuit of a county title; last year, the Vikings finished second to Farmingdale in the county.

After six matches, the team is well on

its way to accomplishing its pre-season objective. The Vikings remain undefeated, as of press time, and have not lost a match since 2008.

The team started off the season without Shon and two-year starter Jerry Lange. Nevertheless, the Vikings managed to defeat Wheatley in its opening match of the season at Wheatley Hills, where senior Andrew Seo and sophomore Colin Davies filled in.

Both Shon and Lange were in the starting lineup in the team's second match, held on April 12, which the team won after defeating its Oyster Bay counterparts by over 60 strokes.

The return of these two starters proved to be important in the team's matchup against conference rivals Plainview; Shon shot a one over par 37 while Lange shot a 38.

The team now looks ahead to the second half of its season and the county championship at Bethpage State Park Golf Course on May 25 and 26.

Coach Ms. Kathy Doughty has also scheduled two scrimmages for her team against Friends Academy, another leading program on Long Island. These matchups

PORT VIKINGS GOLF						
PORT	204	208	209	202	192	202
OPPONENT	219	271	222	222	243	274
	WHEATLEY	OYSTER BAY	PLAINVIEW	WHEATLEY	OYSTER BAY	GLEN COVE
OUTCOME	W	W	W	W	W	W

Chris Yap

will prove useful as the Vikings prepare to compete at the highest level in May.

"Friends Academy, who we will scrimmage twice this year, will definitely serve as a good comparison for the competition we will be going up against at the county

championship," said co-captain senior Ross Balaban.

After shooting their lowest score of the year in their penultimate match against Oyster Bay, a combined 192 strokes, the team is well on its way.

Calling the Shots: The final descent part I

Recapping the past, chasing the future: how to finish strong in Port

by Harrison Remler
Senior Sports Editor

I can't believe it. I am beginning the final home stretch toward graduation. Four years went by as fast as the opening quarter of the tragic Herricks playoff game.

(God knows where our offense was in that quarter. If only we could get three more minutes of that game, I guarantee victory.)

This month's column begins my slow descent toward a life without *The Schreiber Times*. I say "slow" because nothing is more brutal than an eight week vacation-less stretch of high school when all you want to do is go outside on a beautiful day. NBA teams complain about back to back away games in far away cities; high school students complain about this.

So I thought I'd leave Schreiber with the needed advice, secrets, unknowns and answers to all Port sports.

I want to give a guide to succeeding in the Port world of sports. Not like any of you would ever know, but I am an athlete myself. Newspaper policies state that I cannot be quoted while on staff, but I was a starter on the varsity basketball team this year and I pitch for the baseball team.

All in all, I have lived, breathed, and written Port sports for my whole life. What all started in my driveway has given me some experiences and friendships that I will cherish for years. But life as a Port athlete has not always been glorious.

You gotta work. You have to let it go, and not let people get to you. The first step is to enjoy it all. Cherish every moment you spend playing sports when it all does not matter.

When Mr. Steve Shackel, who is still one of the best coaches I ever had, yells and screams at you in Weber during a basketball game, listen to him. Don't go home and cry to mom and dad and whine over missed shots.

The outcomes of games don't matter until the varsity level. Everywhere else is about player development. Thinking you

are talented after pitching a shutout on B3 baseball means nothing. The long run is what matters: hanging up banners and leaving a legacy.

Don't let "them" get to you. The politics are all over youth sports in America. I never pitched in Little League. Father coaches always stuck me in the outfield. If it wasn't for the ice cream my dad served

"The politics are all over youth sports in America. I never pitched in Little League. Father coaches always stuck me in the outfield. If it wasn't for the ice cream my dad served me after games, I would have quit baseball years ago."

me after games, I would have quit baseball years ago.

They weren't the fathers who were evaluating college highlight videos. I didn't see any fathers taking my 60 yard dash at top prospect camps or examining my high school transcript.

Look, enjoy your glory and bask in a meaningless 12 and under trophy if you want to. It doesn't matter how you were then—it matters how you finish in the twelfth grade.

There was a point this basketball season after a satisfying twenty point loss to Hempstead when I realized something special. I say "satisfying" because we were shorthanded and played well, and, for those of you who have endured losing seasons full of blowouts, there are some good twenty point losses.

The bus was quiet and only three of the five seniors made the trip back from the game. Two seniors were missing for breaking team rules. One had made the "c" team in CYO and now is regarded as

one of the top scorers in the county.

The other one was a guard who went under the radar and always consistently made big shots when they were needed. And then, there was me, the opinionated, hard-working, but less talented player who prided himself on the extra pass and the final joke.

None of us were the focal points of the St. Peter's CYO team which almost took home the Long Island Championship in fifth grade.

I turned to the two other teammates and said, "Who would have ever thought us three would be the last three seniors?"

And they all turned back and said, "We did it."

It's hard to grasp the density of that story, but it's not the kids that excel when they are younger who always pan out. Girls, parties, the arts and Facebook are always distracting forces for the high school athlete.

Don't let a bad coach ruin an experience. Same with an immature teammate. Sports introduced me to my best friends. The same kids that I couldn't deal with years ago had suddenly turned into kids I couldn't go a day without. I now talk with kids whom I could never approach before, and speak to them on a daily basis.

A speaker once told me, "90 percent of high school coaches don't have a clue." But, they devote hours to the game and are patient enough to deal with the daily lunacies of high school teens. Give 'em credit.

Just enjoy the game and play without pressure, escaping the occasional chaos of athletics. Coaches are evaluating you from the minute you step in as a freshman to your final game as a senior.

Every time I stepped on the court or pitching mound, I played for two reasons: one, my family. Always remember your family as they will always love you no matter if you win or lose. Two, I thought of every kid who didn't have the chance, who waited on the bench as the coach just didn't give them the opportunity to play.

Penn Relay Recap

by Max Kraus and Dan Miller
Staff Writers

For the 116th time in history, runners representing states and countries around the world competed in the Penn Relays at the University of Pennsylvania. Regarded as one of the most revered track meets in American history, the event is "the most attended track meet in the world with the exception of the Olympic Games and World Championships," according to the Penn Relays office.

Senior Marco Bertolotti was invited to run at the Penn Relays. In the high school boys' mile run championship, Bertolotti finished 11th against runners from several states.

Additionally, two girls relay teams competed at the meet. The 4 x 100 meter relay team, consisting of seniors Eliza Feldman, Janayia Thomas, and Steph Mejia, and junior Maria Araya, ran in 53.56 seconds.

Thomas ran in the 4 x 400 meter relay as well with senior Meghan Byrnes, and juniors Bridgette McDermott and Cara Tortoriello. The team ran a season best of 4:20.34. In addition, the team also relished the experience of running among international athletes.

"Running with teams from Germany, Trinidad, Jamaica and states across the nation was quite the experience," said junior Cara Tortoriello.

Running superstar Usain Bolt of Jamaica also competed at the Relays. Jamaican fans from around the tri-state came to support their country's hero. Bolt, who is the world record holder in the 100 and 200 meter races, ran the anchor leg in the 4x100 USA vs. the World Race.

As the Penn Relays attracted more than 110,000 people for the third year in a row, running there was very beneficial for the Lady Vikings.

"Going to the Penn Relays was an experience for the team to race against elite competition," said McDermott. "We were able to see where we place among teams across the country. It was really exhilarating to run in a huge stadium in front of so many people."

Lady Vikings cruising toward conference championship

by Dan Miranda
Staff Writer

Currently in first place in Conference III, the girls varsity lacrosse team boasts a 9-0 record (7-0 in conference). Defeating rivals including Locust Valley, Lynbrook, and Seaford, the girls have clearly been advancing on the field. With its undefeated record, the team aspires to win Conference III this spring.

"Winning our conference is the team's goal, and if we keep winning, we have potential to achieve it," said sophomore Christina Commons.

As a second-year varsity member, Commons leads the team in her number of assists. Yet Commons is not solely a passer; she had a career-high nine goals at a 15-8 victory against Lynbrook on April 12.

In addition, two juniors, co-captains and cousins Alexa and Jackie Proccaro, have contributed over sixty percent of the goal scoring for the team. On April 21, A. Proccaro led with eight goals in the 17-9 victory against New Hyde Park.

"Jackie and Alexa's experience help them lead by example," said freshman Brenna Betsch. "Their input is always ap-

preciated."

Driving the determination in practice is head coach Raquel Piraino, who is a gym teacher at Weber. As a former Hofstra lacrosse player, the coach brings knowledge to the game.

"Coach Piraino knows how to push us individually and as a team, especially to get that victory," said sophomore Gianna Gallo.

Assistant Coach Ms. Mary Romano also adds to the team's victories with her confidence and morale.

"Both coaches are great and they have a lot of confidence in us," said junior Lily Thrope. "They really know what they are doing and they arrange the drills at practice around what we need to work on."

New members also add to the team's potential. In addition, freshman Lauren Desimone recently had 1 goal and 1 assist at the April 21 game. Freshmen Betsch, Christina Corbo, and Desimone have earned the respect of their teammates for their continuous effort.

"There is definitely a lot of potential for the new members of the team. They each improve every day and work very hard," said Commons.

These underclassmen also insure a

successful future for the team with the skill buildup.

"The freshmen bring new skills to the team," said Thrope. "They help us to build the program for the future."

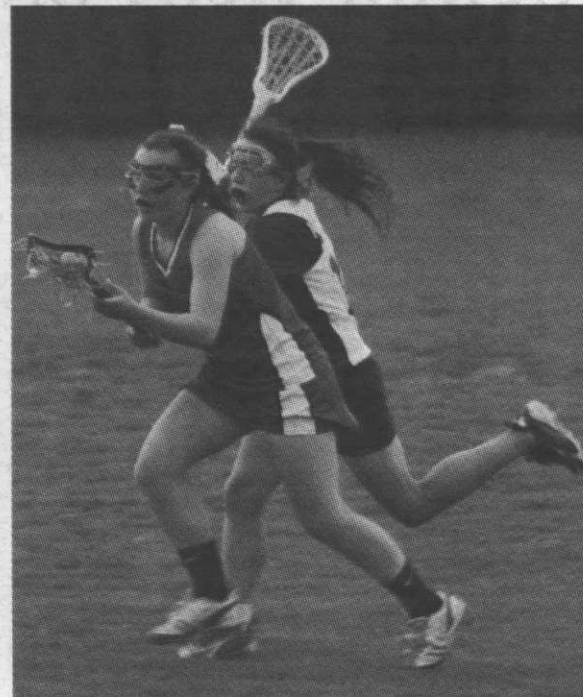
Four seniors balance out the team's number of underclassmen.

Seniors Ali Feldman, Sarah Lee, Caroline Millo, and Annikki Santala are leaders during their last high school athletic season.

"The upperclassmen lead the team and provide help when needed," Desimone said.

With an undefeated record, the team continues to train for their upcoming games in May against Floral Park, Friends Academy, and Long Beach.

"With our ultimate goal to make the playoffs, we take it one game at a time and hope for the best," said Thrope.



Courtesy of Brenna Betsch

Leading the team in assists, sophomore Christy Commons attacks the New Hyde Park defense. Commons is leading the undefeated Lady Vikings as they look toward the final games of conference play.

Coaches' steps leave footprints on Schreiber fields

Athletes consider the influence and impact of their coaches

BY **Harrison Remler**
Senior Sports Editor

Awaiting the team bus and sitting in his full baseball uniform, junior Andrew Arnstein found himself in a heated debate envisioning a different touch to the championship ending of the 2009 New York Yankee season.

"Give Manny Acta the same roster and he wins the World Series," said Arnstein.

A defensive minded first baseman for the Vikings, Arnstein spends as much time watching professional baseball as he does taking ground balls at the corner spot.

Waiting to leave for practice, he led a discussion among the varsity baseball players.

"The difference between high school and professional coaches is that there are no incentives on the high school level. As a professional, you make more money for making the playoffs," said junior Al Ades.

The question is, how much impact does a coach have on a game and a team?

The Schreiber Times Sports Editor of 2007-2008, Lane Mergler, once devoted 850 words to how much impact a coach has on a game in the professional world of sports.

Today, students continue to question how much a high school coach can influence a team.

"I think you have to look at it sport by sport. For some sports, such as football, soccer, and baseball, it really does matter and a coach has a major impact," said senior Jerry Lange, who is on the varsity golf

team.

It's not even game days that reflect a coach's efforts. How a coach controls a team at practice is important at the high school level.

Many of the Vikings feel that execution of the set plays taught at practice is that most influential aspect.

"The coach must be a leader and likeable. They must be able to lead practices and instruct how to execute on set plays.

"I think the coach has a lot of influence," said senior point guard Jason Desimone. "I feel you have to be comfortable with the coach. I like a coach who has less structure and lets you play, but you have to adjust to a certain coach's personality and style."

Execution on set plays in soccer makes a difference," said junior Paul Tasnady, who plays for the varsity soccer team.

When it comes to game time, it is hard to evaluate a coach's impact on the game.

"As a baseball coach, when it comes to gameday, I have little control over the game. It all depends on my starting pitcher and how he throws," said junior varsity baseball coach Mr. Phil Spotteck.

"Dealing with younger players is sometimes tough, but teaching at the eight grade level helps prepare them for the future."

Varsity softball coach and assistant varsity basketball coach Mr. Eric Sutz deals with young athletes and feels that he makes a tremendous impact on the players.

"You have to be patient and realize that this is the first time many student athletes have competed at a competitive level," said Coach Sutz. "To be honest, I think that there is a big influence from a coach's standpoint at the high school level. Playing a certain scheme and adjusting to your players is key."

Coach Sutz is a firm believer that in order to coach a sport, you have to love playing it yourself.

"Someone coaches because it is their passion," he said.

Playing an individual sport as well as a team sport, senior Ross Balaban believes that coaches can only do so much at the high school level.

"Coaches only provide players with the direction. You look at professionals who do it because it is their job. Coaches at the younger levels can solely show you the fundamentals," said Balaban.

In some sports, when a coach matches the drive of his athletes, success is guaranteed.

"Running hurts. Having a coach who pushes us and prepares us to peak at the right points of the season helps. A good coach instills a work ethic in his runners. We compete against some teams where their coaches have put them through rigor-

ous workouts too early in the season," said senior Eddie Grove.

Senior point guard Jason Desimone has had his fair share of basketball coaches. Playing in fast paced offenses where he was the focal point or a pass first guard, he has experienced the impact of a coach on the high school basketball player.

"I think the coach has a lot of influence. I feel you have to be comfortable with the coach. I like a coach who has less structure and lets you play, but you have to adjust to a certain coach's personality and style," said Desimone.

Controlling mistakes is a big issue at the high school level. Kids fourteen or fifteen years of age are trusted in big game situations.

Sometimes, in their first intense competitive setting, high school athletes will make mistakes.

"Sometimes coaches put too much pressure on players. They need to let us play," said sophomore Aaron Feinberg.

While they sit smiling on the blue benches donated by the HSA, these athletes have a lot to say. Luckily, Coach Spotteck's decisions won't be as life changing as Grady Little taking out Pedro in the 2003 playoffs.

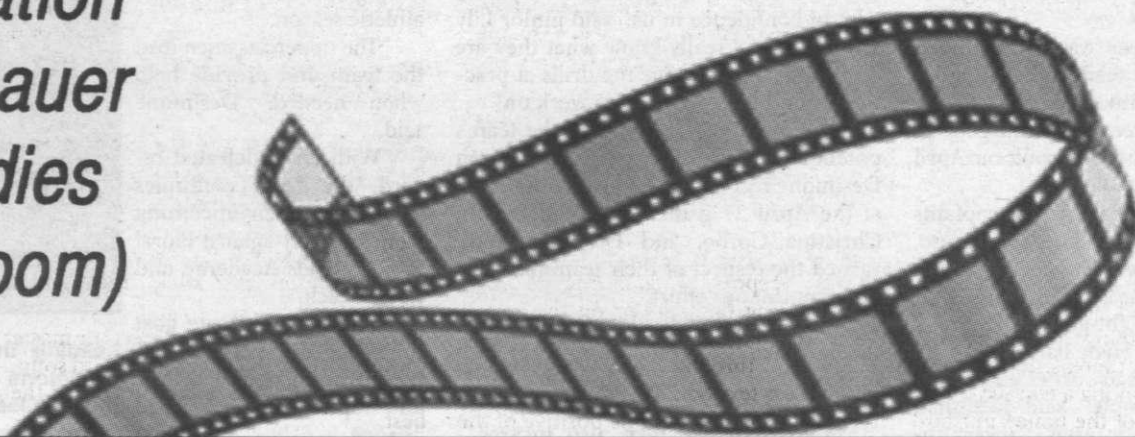
But whatever it is, every second on the sidelines matters. High school athletes are looking for a role model and someone who can change them because that one lesson on the court can make a true impact for the future.

STUDENT OUTREACH PRESENTS SCHREIBER'S FIRST EVER

Student Film Festival

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

*Submit your films
for consideration
to Mr. Muhlbauer
(Social Studies
Resource Room)*



Athletes of the Month

Alexa Froccaro

David Podlofsky

BY Rohit Khullar
Assistant Editor

On the tennis court and the lacrosse field, junior Alexa Froccaro is an integral part of the Lady Vikings. Having been a part of several varsity successes since her freshman year, Froccaro has also had many personal achievements.

This year, the girls lacrosse team is in the middle of an unprecedented season, currently undefeated with a record of 7-0.

The team has had several key wins early in the season, including against Locust Valley, one of the top-of-the-table teams of Conference III.

"The team is still relatively young, so we have been playing with one another for a while and are finally starting to play extremely well together and are meshing as a unit. I think that since last season, everyone's skills have gotten better and we are more determined in that we always expect to win," said Froccaro.

Froccaro began playing both lacrosse and tennis in first grade. She has been a member of one of the doubles teams on varsity tennis all three years of her high school career.

In her freshman and sophomore years, Froccaro was partnered with her cousin, junior Jackie Froccaro, and received the All Division and All Conference distinctions. This past year, with senior partner Emily Szulman, Froccaro received the All Conference distinction.

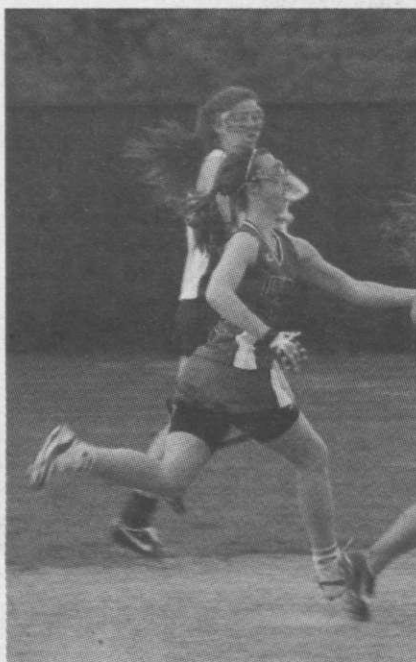
Froccaro received similar awards in lacrosse. In her freshman year, she won All County Honorable Mention. Last year, she finished the season All County and team MVP.

This lacrosse season, Froccaro is among

several of the team's scoring leaders and has had multi-point performances, including three games with over ten points. On April 19, she was listed as *Newsday's* Big Ten "Player of the Week."

One person who contributes to Froccaro's success is her cousin Jackie Froccaro. J. Froccaro also plays for the varsity tennis and lacrosse teams at Schreiber.

"I've been playing with Jackie from the beginning and we really bring out the best in each other. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses and feed off of each other constantly," said Froccaro.



Brenna Betsch

As a two-sport athlete since first grade, junior Alexa Froccaro has earned several awards for her skills.

BY Graham Potters
Senior Sports Editor

Senior David Podlofsky has been playing baseball since he was five years old. This year, he is captain as a third-year member of the varsity team.

"I'm very proud to be a captain of the team, and I enjoy taking on the responsibilities that come with being captain," said Podlofsky. "There are both on-field and off the field responsibilities. Whether it is helping a teammate with his swing in practice or keeping the team's focus during games, I enjoy the challenges that being captain brings."

Podlofsky is also very appreciative of the support and veteran advice that he receives from his coach.

"Playing for Coach Holzer has been a great experience," said Podlofsky. "He makes sure our team gives 100 percent effort all the time. His knowledge of the game has definitely been beneficial."

Podlofsky cites strong chemistry as a reason for the team's success and has made many lasting friendships with his teammates.

"Of the teams that I have played on, this team probably has the best chemistry," said Podlofsky. "We all get along both on and off the field and enjoy each other. I have done my best to ensure that our team chemistry would be better than it was the last two years."

This season, Podlofsky is setting high goals for himself and his team.

"I worked hard in the offseason to improve upon all areas of my game," said Podlofsky. "My personal goals are to make All County for the second time. I believe in my ability and hard work to reach my

goals."

Podlofsky is helping to command the team after last year's loss of many senior players and is looking to make the most of his last year of playing organized baseball, as he does not plan to continue playing in college.

"Our team has changed a lot over the past few years due to the loss of a lot of players," said Podlofsky. "Even so, we did have high expectations for this year's team. We got off to a very good start this year, but have suffered a couple of tough losses. From here on in, we expect to go on a winning streak as the playoffs near."



Lifetouch

During his third year on the varsity baseball team, senior captain David Podlofsky aspires to make All County.

Captain's Corner: Dan Bernstein, smirking through success

BY Harrison Remler
Senior Sports Editor

Harrison Remler: Look at you. First, you are the Athlete of the Month and now you are featured in the Captain's Corner. Do you feel special?

Dan Bernstein: Being in the Captain's Corner with the all famous Harrison Remler is an honor. But on a serious note it was an honor being featured as Athlete of the Month and it is a great opportunity to represent the squad in this Captain's Corner.

HR: So you don't feel "special?"

DB: Nope, not really.

HR: What does make you feel special, Daniel?

DB: Draining threes, making music, cooking a nice meal.

HR: Alright, let's get this interview going already. Where is there more self-satisfaction, cooking a delicious meal or spiking a ball into the Massapequa court and winning the point?

DB: I actually just finished grilling honey mustard chicken and took a picture of it and it was very satisfying. While the meal was juicy and tender there is an indescribable feeling when spiking a winning point that beats the taste of the honey mustard chicken.

HR: So will you cook for rival Plainview-JFK after you beat them in the playoffs?

DB: Yes, I will cook for them whatever we want but if we lose, they should not come near the barbeque.

HR: Somehow we have gone from basketball star to volleyball stud and now we are in the midst of grilling honey mustard chicken. Dan, what are we doing with our lives?

DB: It's grilling season just as much as it is volleyball season. Beautiful weather, second semester senior and finalizing college plans.

HR: You were injury prone in your first three years at Schreiber. How in the world did you make it through three seasons, football, basketball, and currently volleyball without getting injured yet (knock on wood)?

DB: I prepared myself better and hydrated, iced, and stretched. I sometimes "babied" an injury in the past, but this year I learned how to play through injuries.

HR: While you were injured, there were infamous reports of you hitting the Blackberry during timeouts or on the bench. What are all these about?

DB: Well, I think that was two years ago when I was texting a Portette from across the gym. So, that was one positive of the injury. But, now I have realized that there

is much more to life.

HR: Where in God's name did you develop a three point shot?

DB: I have to give props to my dad, Larry Bernstein, and Rob Epstein's "Five R's" of shooting.

HR: So, it was a family effort?

DB: It was a manifestation of all my training and the fact that I saved some shots from junior year.

HR: If you and Shaan Rahi played one final game of "One on One" on a neutral site, what would be the outcome? [Rahi and Dan went point for point in the first round of the Nassau County Playoffs. Both players led their teams with 25 points but Rahi's foul shots iced the upset victory for Herricks. Herricks came into Port's gym and embarrassed them both on the court and in the stands.]

DB: A lot of props to the big guy, Shaan Rahi, but I think my notorious inside-out game will outweigh his soft floater.

HR: What can we Facebook hungry followers expect from Trick Shots Volume II?

DB: You can expect an American masterpiece with crazy editing and a solid soundtrack as the Stein brothers will be at their best.

HR: Are you a better musician, athlete or cook?

DB: I am actually a pretty solid lifeguard. But, all three are passions of mine.

HR: Some call you goofy or uncoordinated. How can I trust you on the top of a lifeguard stand watching over young children?

DB: I guess those who target me as uncoordinated are entitled to their opinion. For those doubters about my lifeguard skills, just ask the Red Cross.

HR: Which food best resembles your basketball coach and friend, Sean Dooley?

DB: My dear coach and friend: Sean Dooley. Coach is like a sweet, saffron risotto; you have to be patient throughout the whole process, read what the defense gives you, adjust his personality, but, in the end, it is a rewarding experience and a satisfying first bite.

HR: Somehow, you made it, Dan. In seventh grade you "Tony Hawk'd" it and missed tryouts with an injury. The next year, you had personal issues. Did you always believe one day you would be the driving force behind two varsity programs chasing county titles?

DB: Just between me and you—I would've never known.

VIKING SPORTS

Vikings fight for final playoff spot

After hot start, varsity baseball struggles through conference play

BY Drew Friedman

Staff Assistant

There's an old baseball saying that pitching and defense wins ball games. If there's any truth to that adage, the varsity baseball team was destined for another conference championship this spring.

The season started with what seemed to be a clear path to the conference title. Senior Dave Podlofsky almost hit for the cycle in an opening win against Roslyn and the team cruised to a non-league victory over Great Neck North.

Conference play began with Farmingdale, as the Vikings won both games, 7-3 and 4-3, respectively.

"It felt good to see everyone playing well and it felt like we could definitely win a third conference championship in a row," said senior outfielder Robby Levinger.

The tone was set in each game by consistently deep starts from seniors Everett Keller and Dylan Kane, giving the Vikings six and seven innings a start. With senior pitcher Harrison Remler sidelined due to an injury, Keller and Kane carried the Vikings in the early parts of the season.

Juniors Jake Shuckman, Al Ades, Max Mancher, and sophomore Paul Mills complete the pitching staff.

"It felt awesome (the 4-0 start) and it gave the team a great dose of confidence that we could return to the playoffs for the third year in a row and show the rest of the county that Port baseball was not a team that could be easily forgotten," said Keller.

Port's potential was recognized by Gregg Sarra, *Newsday* reporter and Long Island baseball guru. After ranking Port ninth in the Big Schools poll on Long Island, Sarra mentioned the squad in his 2010 Nassau County baseball preview on MSGVarsity.com. Sarra noted Port to be "continuing its metamorphosis into a very good baseball school, led by Everett Keller and shortstop David Podlofsky."

"Sweeping Farmingdale was a real confidence booster for us and we got two

much needed victories. We came out of that series thinking that we had a good chance of making the playoffs," said sophomore Danny Kaminsky.

However, the Vikings fell off course after dropping two crucial games to rival Plainview JFK.

Behind Manhattan College-bound senior pitcher Kevin Bonanni's complete game and Chris Druckman's sixth inning bunt, the Vikings lost the home game of the home and away series, 4-1. Port only scored two runs, losing 3-2 in the second game of the series. Rob Rothman pitched a two-hitter for Plainview, striking out eight.

"We are playing better teams with better pitching than we did the last two years. So far we have had our ups and downs," said senior third baseman Ethan Sander.

First-year head coach Matt Holzer shared the sentiment in his assessment of the Plainview series.

"The competition is much better this year. Very few teams we faced last year had two quality pitchers like Farmingdale and Plainview have," said Coach Holzer. "Games will be decided by which team makes the fewest mistakes and is able to execute the little things like getting a bunt or hitting with two strikes."

For the Vikings, much of the struggles have come at the plate.

"The bats went cold and the hits stopped dropping because our hitters were getting nervous at the plate, which is still hurting us at this point in the season," said junior relief pitcher Al Ades. "We need to start scoring more runs in the later parts of games."

The Vikings continued their stretch against the top half of the conference with a two-game series against Syosset and the opening game against Herricks. Port was unable to walk away with a victory from the three game stretch. Kane took the loss for the Vikings at Syosset, as the team faltered in the late innings. Returning All-County shortstop Mitch Hollander led Syosset with two hits and a stolen base.

"We played very well against Plain-



Lifetouch

Senior Ethan Sander executes a bunt against Farmingdale. A closely knit team, the Vikings have used "small ball" tactics throughout the season.

view, our league rivals, but we ended up losing two close games," said Keller. "I think after these two losses we mentally slowed down and therefore weren't able to stay focused and concentrate on playing our best baseball. Over the last five games we've fallen into a vicious cycle of losing where we haven't been able to bring our defense, pitching, and hitting together in the games, and therefore haven't been able to perform at the level we know we can."

Entering the series, winless in conference play, the Braves are now somewhat back into contention for the second playoff spot of Nassau Conference AA-II. The Nassau County Baseball Coaches Association decided to use two conferences in Class AA this season. Continuing with the use of ability-based groupings, 10 teams compete in Conference AA-I. Each team is guaranteed a playoff spot, no matter their final record. Conference AA-II, which the Vikings compete in, has two playoff berths. Carey, Calhoun, MacArthur, and Mephram are favored in the top conference.

"I think it is unfair how some teams can play throughout conference play without pressure. For us every game matters," said junior second baseman Danny Kaminsky.

To date, Plainview is in first place of Conference II-AA. The Vikings sit in seventh place with a conference record of 2-5.

"Now that we have lost some games

and our playoff hopes are virtually nonexistent, the team's confidence is down and it is hard to continue to know that we won't be able to play in the playoffs and win the conference championship," said Kaminsky.

But with games left to play, other Vikings are trying to make the most out of the final part of their season.

"The past few games have been a bit shaky for us. But we are definitely still a team to beat in our conference. As Coach Holzer says, we are able to beat anybody when we play our best," said Mills.

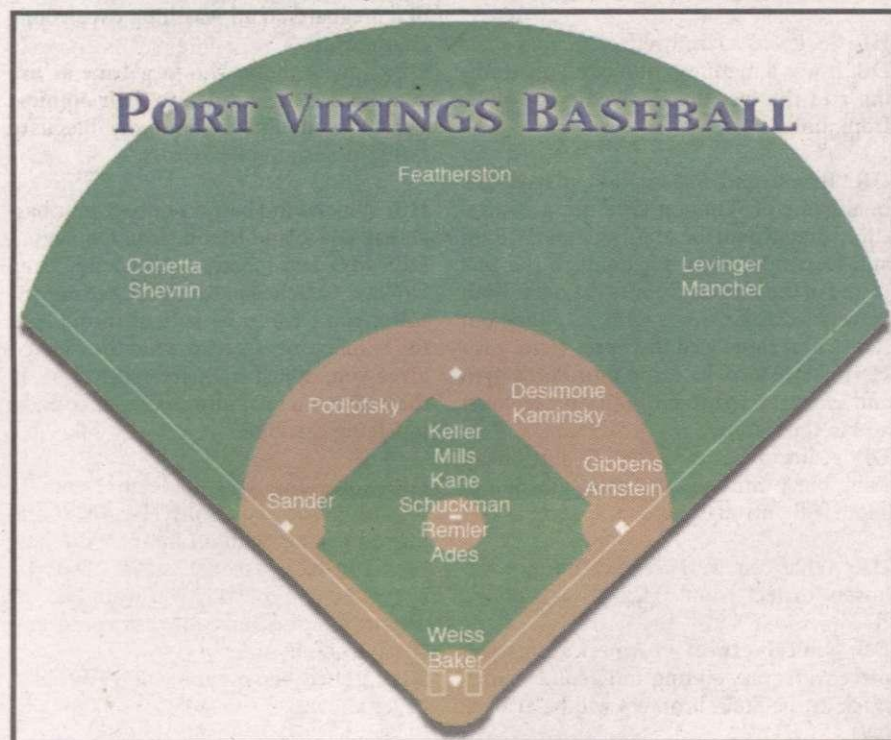
Mills highlighted a visit to MCU Park, formerly known as KeySpan Park. MCU is the home of the Brooklyn Cyclones, a minor league affiliate of the New York Mets, who compete in the New York-Penn League. The Vikings recently faced Manhasset in a non-league game as they finished the game with a 12-3 victory. Mills hit a home run over the left field wall and pitched the final two innings of relief.

"To play an almost flawless game there was pretty cool. We did everything right, we got good pitching, we hit the ball well and we did not make an error," said Coach Holzer.

After a few rough stretches behind them, the Vikings are focusing on getting back to playing their brand of baseball.

"We need to keep focus and take it one game at a time," said Levinger.

For the Vikings it's about putting the pieces together at the right time.



Chris Yap