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# THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LX No. 9 May 2010

SILLY  
WINKS



THE FADTASTIC MR. VIKING



Iron Man 2

-A&E-



Budget Passes

-News-

National Issues

-Opinions-

Calling The Shots

-Sports-



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Sophomore Daniel Dougherty-Samowitz took this photograph for his Digital Photography class. Taken in Delray Beach, Florida, this picture uses light and shadow, particularly through the reflections on the water, to examine natural beauty.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Coffee House

This year's Coffee House, which will possibly be the last for the school, was hosted by the Student Outreach club to enable students to showcase their individual talents for charitable causes. More than 50 people were in attendance for the performances, which were held in the choir room on May 19.

The group was able to raise \$250 in total, which was donated to Homes For Our Troops, a charity active in 31 states that builds homes for severely injured veterans and their families to help them maintain their lifestyles.

At the event, there were 16 acts in all, in which more than 20 students were involved. The night had a casual atmosphere, with the performers openly interacting with the audience, both prior and during the acts. Some performers, such as senior Nick Gardella and sophomore Jesse Weil, bantered with the audience and with each other when it was their turn to entertain.

Originally, the club intended to host a student film festival, but an insufficient number of entries prompted the change to the classic Coffee House format.

The talents that were displayed were mainly musical and predominantly singing, piano, and guitar acts, but there were also two short films presented by seniors Dylan Snyder and Dylan Swain. In addition, there was a tap dancing

act featuring senior Alizé Margulis, accompanied by her sister, Weber student Chloe Margulis on the violin. There were also several original songs featured, including one by junior Ava Anderson that she had played for the school during Spirit Week.

Despite its popularity, this might be the last time Coffee House is held. The club is primarily led by seniors, and without their leadership the following year, the club will most likely not be continued.

"With the elimination of Coffee House and subsequently, the Pops Concert, individual performers no longer have as many venues in which to show off their talents," said junior Tommy Doyle, who was one of the performers that night.

~ Matt Heiden

### Students participate in fashion show

This year's Lord & Taylor Annual Prom Dress Fashion Show in Manhasset recently featured nine English as a Second Language students as models.

The store contacted Ms. Debbie Servat, a teacher in the business department, to ask if any students were interested in participating.

"I thought it was a great opportunity for our seniors to model prom gowns for Lord and Taylor in Manhasset," said Ms. Servat.

She contacted Ms. Nancy Keegan, who teaches in the ESL department to select

students to participate and asked Ms. Keegan to accompany them to the show.

The nine girls who took part in the show received complimentary hair styling and makeup in order to help them get ready for the event.

"My favorite part of the day was getting my hair done. They made us feel like stars, and that was the best part of the event," said senior Vilma Alvarado, who modeled in the show.

The girls' families and friends were invited, and many of them decided to come and show their support for the nine girls.

"It was really exciting when everyone was looking at us and everyone seemed to be really happy. Our family and friends were there, and it was a really good opportunity," said Alvarado.

Although they did not get to keep the fashions they modeled, the girls were entered into a contest to win a free dress. They also received discounts for merchandise, such as dresses, makeup, and shoes that they could purchase for this year's prom.

This fashion show presented a chance to the nine girls for them to participate in a unique experience, and many of them were glad to take advantage of the occasion.

"From the application of makeup to the selection of clothing and the staging of the event, Lord & Taylor did a wonderful job," said Ms. Keegan. "The girls had a once in a lifetime opportunity that was very fun. We are all so proud of them."

~Hannah Fagen

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# Despite tough economy, budget passes with 1.97% increase

## Citizens elect Hohauser, Ryan, and Sloan to 2010-2011 Board of Education

by Sahil Doshi and Leah Nash

News Editors

This year, there was a great amount of discussion and dispute regarding budget cuts with active involvement from both the Board of Education and the community.

During hard economic times, the Board was working to recognize both the needs of the school district and the community's taxpayers. This balance proved to be effective with the May 18 passage of the 1.97 percent proposed budget increase for the 2010-2011 school year by a margin of 778 votes.

"I am grateful that the community carefully balanced educational excellence and student achievement with community needs," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon. "This typifies the consistent dedication of our town to education."

With the approval of the \$127,093,245 budget, only the already-accepted cuts will be implemented. These include cuts in several faculty members across the district, clubs, and the free summer Drivers Education program, in addition to the town's long-running summer program, AT LAST!, which was outsourced to the Port Washington's Children Center.

With state aid decreasing over the years, the passage of the budget was essential in preventing further detrimental cuts throughout the district. This year, the district received 5.6 percent of funds from state aid and next year that number is expected to decrease to 5 percent.

"The community will not have to pay higher fees to use district facilities, which would have been an issue if the budget were defeated," said Assistant Superintendent of Business Ms. Mary Callahan. "All programs will remain in place while many other school districts are cutting programs. Port students and staff are fortunate to have had the support of the community at such a trying time."

The approval of the budget will help the school maintain its current programs with only minor changes.

"I am pleased that the budget passed because Schreiber's regular educational offerings will be preserved. This includes

all courses, the athletic program, and our extracurricular activities. In these difficult times, this is a significant victory," said Principal Mr. Jay Lewis.

In addition, this year, there was a proposition for voters to decide whether or not the district should sell two plots of land. This was passed by the community by a margin of 2,133 votes.

The Board of Education is now authorized to sell these properties for the highest offer. These are two parcels of vacant property along the easterly side of Ashwood Road and a second parcel containing a concrete tunnel supporting the bed of Sands Point Road. The money received from these sales will enable the Board to reallocate funds to needed areas.

"I think the community can also feel comfortable that their property values will be maintained because of the positive image, which in part, is made possible through a successful school district budget vote," said Ms. Callahan.

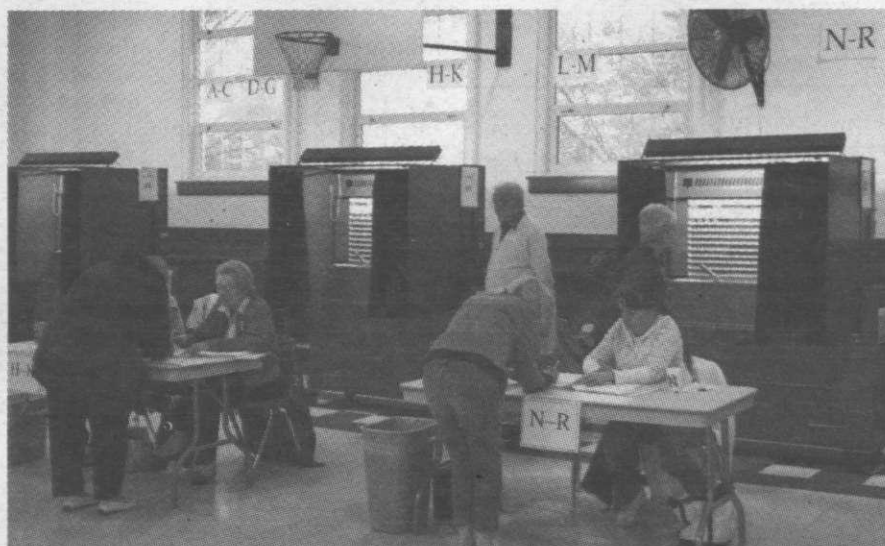
Furthermore, elections were held for the positions on the Board. Four candidates, incumbents Mr. William Hohauser and Ms. Karen Sloan, Mr. Joseph Mirzoeff, and Mr. Robert Ryan vied for the three available positions. Ms. Jean-Marie Posner, whose term ends this year, did not seek reelection.

After the results were tallied, Mr. Ryan garnered the most support with 3,137 votes, followed by Ms. Sloan with 3,057 votes. Since Mr. Ryan and Ms. Sloan had the two highest vote totals, they earned full three-year terms, which will expire in 2013.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hohauser finished in third with 2,818 votes. His term will end next year because he will be filling the seat vacated by Ms. Sue Sturman, who won back in 2008. Nevertheless, Mr. Hohauser looks forward to serving on the Board once again.

"I think we have to make greater efforts to be more transparent and open," said Mr. Hohauser. "Often, the community does not understand why we have taken a certain position, and this should be changed, if at all possible. That is something I will work towards during my term."

"We are fortunate in Port to have dedicated members of the Board and



Kevin Granger

Even with the rainy weather, voting locations such as this one at Weber Middle School were busy throughout the day. Turnout at the polls improved slightly from last year, with an increase from 4,774 to 4,982 community members voting on the budget.

good citizens who either run for multiple terms or come to fill positions. The stability of our school district speaks to the commitment of Board members and the understanding that our schools are extremely important to the community's future," said Mr. Lewis.

Prior to the announcement of the results, the Weber Middle School All Purpose Room was filled with great anticipation. However, many seemed confident in the community's dedication to education.

"I certainly hope that the voters in Port Washington understand the importance and support the schools by voting in favor of a very reasonable budget. This will show once again that education is important and that Port Washington values education," said Port Washington Teachers Association President Ms. Christine Vasilev in the moments preceding the election results.

Despite ongoing financial difficulties and the rainy weather that day, the Board members and administration were optimistic about the outcome.

"I'm amazed that so many people came to vote despite the rain, traffic,

and busyness in their lives," said Board member Ms. Jean-Marie Posner. "The voter turnout has been very positive and people are determined to make a change in the community."

Overall, the turnout of 4,982 voters was only slightly improved from the 4,774 voters from last year, making it an average turnout.

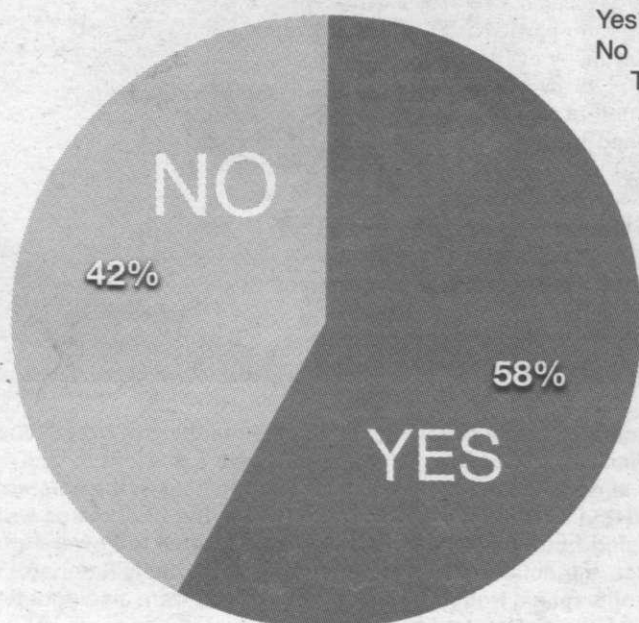
"I hope voter turnout only increases over time. On a percentage basis, fewer people vote in the United States than in virtually every other democratic country," said Mr. Hohauser.

There was a slight delay before the release of the budget decision due to a voting machine jam at John J. Daly Elementary School. However, this setback did not affect the counting of the votes and the ultimate outcome of the election.

"I was not particularly surprised with the vote in favor of the budget," said Mr. Lewis. "I believe that the district really made an effort to keep the budget and tax increases down. In addition, the teachers willing to take a zero percent raise this year helped the community to realize that the teachers are sympathetic to the economic situation that we are in."

## Results of Budget Vote and Board of Education Elections

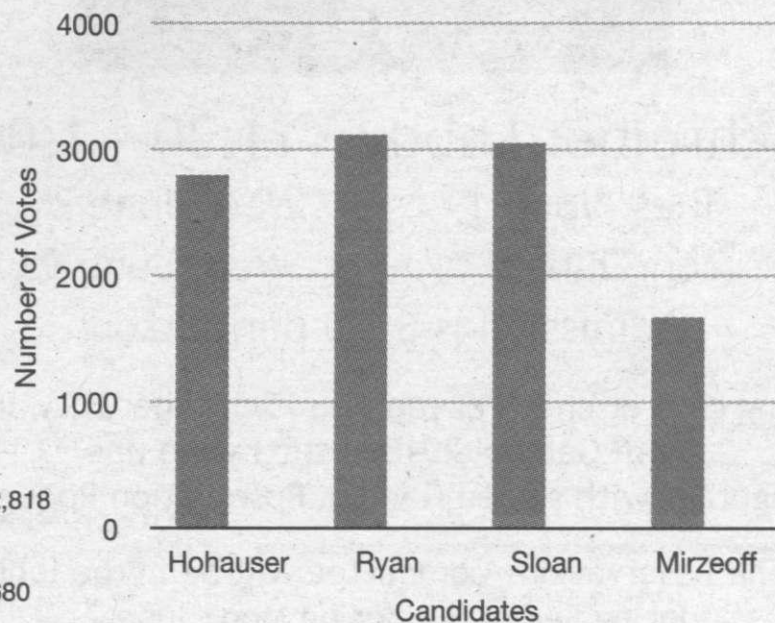
### Budget Votes



### Vote Totals:

Yes - 2,880  
No - 2,102  
Total: 4,982 votes

### Board of Education Votes



### Election Results:

William Hohauser - 2,818  
Robert Ryan - 3,137  
Karen Sloan - 3,057  
Joseph Mirzoeff - 1,680



# Asbestos contaminates equipment and creates health risks

## Dangerous conditions force gym teachers to adapt curriculum for students' safety

by Max Kraus

Staff Writer

In early February, the maintenance staff unexpectedly discovered thin fibrous crystals on equipment from the closet adjacent to the boys' locker room in the gym. At first, the staff was unsure what the substance was; however, after testing, they determined it was asbestos and the area was immediately cornered off to prevent this dangerous chemical's spread. The air in the gym was also tested to make sure students were not in danger of inhaling this harmful compound, which has been found to cause malignant lung cancer as well as mesothelioma and asbestosis.

"The building is inspected for asbestos every six months," said Director of Facilities and Operations Mr. Jim Ristano. "A private company and a consultant overlooks the removal of the dangerous material."

When Mr. Ristano and his crew found the asbestos, they immediately cornered off the contaminated area, and then called a company to manage the dangerous substance. There was only a week left before students returned from break. As a result, the room was cleaned and the equipment was removed as quickly as possible.

"Our number one priority is to keep staff and students safe," said Mr. Ristano. "We wanted to get the asbestos out as

soon as possible."

However, Mr. Ristano believes more equipment could have been saved in the process if there was a more careful handling of the decontamination. It also takes an enormous amount of money to clean the equipment.

"If a job like this is needed again, I would do one thing differently," said Mr. Ristano. "Before the crew started confiscating the equipment, I would want a complete inventory of everything before removing it. That way we could focus on saving the more expensive equipment and making sure to save as much equipment as possible. The job started taking too long and the crew knew they would not finish in time. It made more economical sense to simply just confiscate the equipment and buy new equipment over time instead of cleaning all of it."

Although the asbestos was immediately dealt with and removed, some of the gym equipment, including softball, badminton, pickle-ball, and floor hockey equipment all needed to be confiscated.

"Asbestos is a material that simply cannot be brushed away," said Ms. Stephanie Joannon, Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics. "The confiscated equipment must either be cleaned for an inordinate amount of time or the equipment must be thrown out to prevent further spread."

In addition, when asbestos-containing materials are damaged or disturbed by

repair, remodeling or demolition activities, microscopic fibers become airborne and can be inhaled into the lungs, where they can cause significant health problems.

As a result, some gym classes during the spring semester have had to adjust their curriculums. Several classes have needed to switch to project adventure and other activities since they are unable to have their softball unit.

In addition, there will be further complications in gym activities for the following year as other equipment was contaminated as well. Many students who look forward to participating in the softball unit as an end of the semester activity were disappointed to hear that softball would no longer be played this year.

"One of the best memories I had in gym over my high school career was playing softball on the turf," said junior Johnny Conetta. "We have to learn to climb in gym rather than play softball due to the asbestos problem, and that is not a good substitute."

Many students have inquired why the softball equipment has not simply been replaced. However, the issue with the replacement does not solely involve cost, but rather insurance complications. The school must wait for the school district's insurance company to advise whether the district's policy will pay for the lost equipment.

"Unfortunately, the loss of the equipment is not covered by the insurance of the school since asbestos coverage is not included in the budget," said Ms. Joannon. "In the next few years, the budget will eventually replace all of the equipment lost in the asbestos disaster."

Because the budget will not cover all of the lost equipment at once, the staff has to decide how to allocate money for the new equipment.

"Mr. Joseph DelGais and other physical education teachers are looking to prioritize what equipment to purchase right away and what equipment to hold off on," said Ms. Joannon. "In the first few years, we are looking to replace a whole gym unit, such as softball or badminton, rather than buying equipment for several gym units. As a result of the lost equipment, we will hold off on spending money to expand gym activities such as improving the

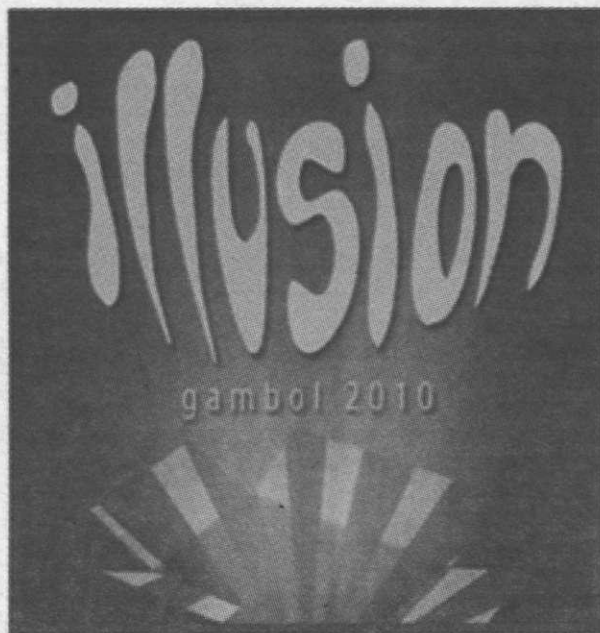
"Unfortunately, the loss of the equipment is not covered by the insurance of the school since asbestos coverage is not included in the budget," said Ms. Joannon. "In the next few years, the budget will eventually replace all of the equipment lost in the asbestos disaster."

weight room."

Even though the asbestos incident forced the gym department to eliminate a large amount of equipment and switch its curriculum, the department was able to take care of the problem in a safe and effective manner.

"Everyone should give a lot of credit to the physical education staff who worked hard to make physical education classes run smoothly, even with this bump in the road," said Ms. Joannon. "We should be thankful that the asbestos did not reach the students and the staff."

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\*The Reservations Committee will be in the lobby during Senior Supper on Mon. June 7.

## Habitat for Humanity auction



Courtesy of Regina Farinaccio

Birdhouses were auctioned off for Habitat for Humanity resulting in over \$1500. Parents, teachers, and other members of the community came out to bid on the creative houses and show their support at the auction held in the cafeteria on May 6. The students used their creativity to decorate the birdhouses with unique designs ranging from spaceships and medieval castles to flowers and fairy tale themes. Also, handmade goods were donated by Ms. Sally Reinhardt's students, and the profits raised from the sale of these goods were also donated to Habitat for Humanity.



# Student Council candidates prepare for vote

## Also on ballot is proposal to reduce members from seven to five

by Katya Barrett and Matt Heiden

Assistant News Editors

Student Council elections for the upcoming school year will be held throughout the school day today. Following the speeches, which will take place in the morning, students will have to opportunity to vote for the seven candidates of their choice.

Students will also have the opportunity to decide whether the size of the board should be changed from seven to five members.

Of the ten candidates, six, Tommy Doyle, Michael Graf, Jason Gurewitz, Jamie Koopersmith, Jai Sajnani, and Aimee Stern, are juniors. Brittany Nachamie is the only sophomore running for a position. In addition, freshmen Holly Hubsher, Evan Kerr, and Debbie Oyarzun are also running.

In order to be eligible to run, the candidates had to get over 100 signatures.

Once the students were nominated, the more popular methods of campaigning included creating Facebook support groups and putting up posters and fliers throughout the building.

Only one of the nominees this year, Sajnani, has past executive officer experience.

One of the main achievements of this year's officers was arranging for the installation of several Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the school.

However, the current candidates are somewhat divided over this expenditure.

"While I did not make any explicit promises last year, I took it as a personal goal to help bring our school into the 21st century," said Sajnani.

"Unfortunately, with over \$200,000 being cut from programs, including cuts in athletics, extracurriculars, as well as the summer Drivers Education program, this investment is something I'm strictly against," said Doyle.

Student Council is also involved with

many events, such as Battle of the Bands, and raised money for war veterans and earthquake relief in Chile. The group also works to appropriate funds for clubs that require additional funding.

"Executive officers serve the purpose of being the mediator between students and the administration. I think being an effective communicator, which I am, is very important," said Stern.

"The role of the executive officer entails listening to the students and teachers and then conveying their messages in a way that can hopefully lead to change," said Gurewitz.

Many nominees have stressed similar aims, such as increasing the number of chairs in the cafeteria, or changing the rules of first period sign-in. Others, however, have more singular goals.

"What I would really like to do is to make the changes that matter most to the student body, such as fighting for more parking spots for seniors," said Koopersmith.

"One minor change that I feel is important is making sure the clocks work in classrooms. I know, from both others and from my own experience, that in many classes, the clocks are dysfunctional," said Kerr.

"I would like to have the Commons open all day so people have more options on where to hang out, instead of just the library or the cafeteria," said Nachamie.

Other nominees, specifically the underclassmen, seemed focused on establishing changes in the cafeteria.

"One change I am trying to get is for the cafeteria to label the nutritional information of the food," said Oyarzun.

"Getting the good ice cream bars back in the vending machines is another concern that I have heard about," said Hubsher.

Another part of some of the nominees' campaign is to emphasize the dedication that they have shown to Student Council and improving the school community.

"I have been involved in almost every meeting of Student Council this year and have given personal input as well as making decisions on behalf of the entire student body," said Graf.

# Student Board of Education Committee formed

by Leah Nash

News Editor

To give students more of a voice and get more students actively involved with matters concerning the district, a committee of students is currently being formed to provide students an opportunity to join together and have a say at Board of Education meetings. Juniors Tommy Doyle and Laura Werle are collaborating with Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald to organize this group of students that will ultimately attend and participate at Board meetings.

"The primary benefit for the student population is simple," said Doyle. "We are giving the student body the voice that they've deserved but have never had. With this kind of representation, we can finally have a sort of checks and balances system in a district that desperately needs it. Whenever something is proposed or is of some controversy, we now have a solidified group of students there to argue against or in favor of the item in question."

Dr. Fitzgerald had idea to increase student input in the Board but this is the first year his idea will be put into action.

"We are putting into practice what is taught in class about government and politics. Students will be able to experience firsthand the true nature of local politics," said Dr. Fitzgerald.

Doyle and Werle worked closely with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon on creating these positions for students. After the positions were established, discussions began with Dr. Fitzgerald on increasing participation. Many students, including juniors Al Ades, Alison Ehrlich, Sara Giraldo, Jamie Koopersmith, Richard Lee, Kyra Schor, and a few others, will get involved.

"Speaking at Board meetings can be very intimidating for students, and I think a group of students going to the meetings will give them greater confidence. Having a bevy of students in complete agreement could be very powerful and a tremendous force," said Dr. Fitzgerald.

About ten to fifteen students are now involved with the organization. A group of students was selected, and anyone interested is also welcome. By having a diverse assembly, the committee will incorporate opinions from all different types of students and will truly represent the entire student body.

"The importance of getting together this group of students is to make sure that anybody can speak up or have somebody else speak for them at the meetings," said Werle. "By organizing this group, we are giving kids who can't get to 'Stud Co' meetings or don't feel represented a chance to be heard. Also, as anybody can come to these meetings, it is more inclusive than organizations like Student Council."

This group will officially be put into practice next year. Dr. Fitzgerald envisions the students meeting together before each Board meeting to discuss their viewpoints and come to a consensus on the issues to present to the Board.

"Students attending Board meetings with their peers and friends will make the meetings more enjoyable for the students. It is a nice feeling that I could help bring students together to have these real-world experiences before college," said Dr. Fitzgerald.



Kevin Granger

Top row from left: junior Jai Sajnani, junior Jason Gurewitz, freshman Evan Kerr, and junior Tommy Doyle. Bottom row from left: junior Almee Stern, freshman Holly Hubsher, junior Jamie Koopersmith, junior Michael Graf, and freshman Debbie Oyarzun. Sophomore Brittany Nachamie is not pictured.

# Guidance Department holds first job fair for students

by Sahil Doshi and Dainn Woo

News Editor and Staff Writer

The Guidance department offered the first job fair was offered to help students easily find contacts for summer employment. Held on the evening of May 13, the fair gave students the opportunity to get interviewed by different local organizations.

These openings included working at a contracting firm, the Port Washington Children's Center, a medical office, gift stores, the Dolphin Bookshop, and a real estate agency. Each student participated in a one-on-one 10-minute interview with a representative.

"That night, the students' feedback was very positive," said District Director of Guidance Mr. Hank Hardy. "They thought it was convenient that this forum was provided by the school. In addition, the businesses gave very nice feedback, and they were extremely impressed with the quality of the candidates."

Before the job interviews, the interested students were required to attend a brief meeting on interview etiquette, where they were given tips on how to present and prepare themselves to meet potential employers.

The idea originated from a discussion between the Guidance department and the Chamber of Commerce. At first, they canvassed all the businesses that were hiring over the summer and asked interested ones to send descriptions of the positions.

Once several businesses committed, sign-up sheets were posted that gave students the chance to make their own selections. In total, 10 students had the chance to sign up for each of the six businesses. There was such a great interest by the students that the sheet filled up quickly, and many students called later, hoping for more positions.

The job market for teenagers is especially bleak, as one in four is unemployed. Prior to the recession, the unemployment rate was significantly lower at 15 percent.

"If we had 10 to 15 businesses that were able to participate, I'm sure they would have been full. Many students called later on that day and week asking if there were additional positions," said Mr. Hardy.

Regardless of whether the student received the job, each person was able to take something away from the learning experience. Students learned about the job application process, including assembling a résumé and setting up working papers.

In the following years, the Guidance department hopes to continue this program on a much larger scale. In addition to contacting even more businesses, it is interested in running the fair twice during the year, in the fall and the spring. This will help provide opportunities for students during the school year and the summer.

"Our goal is to make this fair better and expand it. It is a tremendous means of connection between students and businesses, and it gives the students an opportunity to earn money and learn real life skills," said Mr. Hardy.



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SUMMER SESSION JULY 6 - AUGUST 16

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EXAMINATION BOARD

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S.A.T. - MATH  
P.S.A.T. - CRITICAL READING/WRITING  
P.S.A.T. - MATH  
ENGLISH for ENTRANCE EXAMS  
for Special High Schools  
- S.S.A.T., TACHS  
MATH for ENTRANCE EXAMS  
for Special High Schools  
- S.S.A.T., TACHS

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T.O.E.F.L. PREP

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ENRICHMENT CLASSES IN ALL SUBJECTS

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ENGLISH 11<sup>th</sup> GRADE  
ENGLISH 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE  
ENGLISH 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH  
REMEDIAL READING COURSE  
READING SKILLS COURSE  
ENGLISH as a Second Language  
- E.S.L.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

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ECONOMICS  
U.S. HISTORY and GOVERNMENT  
GLOBAL HISTORY and GEOGRAPHY  
WORLD HISTORY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES  
SENIOR ELECTIVE  
INDEPENDENT STUDY

### MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA  
GEOMETRY  
ALGEBRA 2 and TRIGONOMETRY  
12<sup>th</sup> GRADE MATH (Pre-Calc 1, 2)  
A.P. CALCULUS (A)  
FUNDAMENTAL MATH  
BUSINESS MATH  
PRE-ALGEBRA  
MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

### SCIENCE

BIOLOGY  
LIVING ENVIRONMENT  
CHEMISTRY  
PHYSICS  
EARTH SCIENCE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
GENERAL SCIENCE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

} 30 LABS  
AVAILABLE

### OTHER SUBJECTS

FRENCH  
ITALIAN  
CHINESE  
SPANISH  
HEALTH ED (Hygiene)  
PHYSICAL ED (Gym)  
REQUIRED ART/MUSIC

AIR-  
CONDITIONED  
CLASSROOMS

AIR-  
CONDITIONED  
CLASSROOMS

**TUITION: \$525.00 PER CLASS**

**REGENTS EXAMINATIONS AVAILABLE - AUGUST 17, 18 and 19**

- Specify below the course or courses you think you will take. Final decision of courses can be made after you receive your report card in June.
- BUSES: Q12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 25/34, 26, 27, 28, 44, 48, 58, 65, 66, and QBX1.  
M.S.B.A. Bus #N-20 or 21 along Northern Boulevard from Roslyn, Manhasset and Great Neck.
- TRAINS: #7 or L.I.R.R. to Main Street Flushing Station.  
If available, Metro-Cards will be given to eligible NYC residents. Reduced fare L.I.R.R. also available.

**DRIVER EDUCATION:** Tuition \$630.00. Call for Driver Education application.  
You can take Driver Education alone, or it can be taken with one, two or three courses.

## WINDSOR SUMMER SCHOOL RESERVATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST  
HOME PHONE # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ PARENT CONTACT PHONE # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ APT. \_\_\_\_\_ TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPECTED YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_



## Point

## Counterpoint

## Is the implementation of Wi-Fi in our school beneficial?

By Jai Sajjani

Contributing Writer

The internet is a very sophisticated tool that allows educators, students, and anyone who cares to "surf" it to access unimaginable amounts of information. The ability to work online, gain experience in computing, and obtain a general knowledge of communication networks is vital to students today as they eventually move into the workforce and an increasingly high-tech society.

Forces that are pushing Wi-Fi into schools include heightened concerns for physical security, and deployment of wireless surveillance systems, the need for economical ways to extend schools' phone systems, the presence of purpose-designed Wi-Fi products, and the birth of "anytime, anywhere," on-demand instruction. Such systems can be made possible only through wireless networking.

While it would be wrong to overlook many of the more traditional subjects taken at school, computing will be as vital as math and English in the workplace of tomorrow.

University of Oregon physics professor Gregory Bothun argues that Wi-Fi in the classroom gives him another channel to get feedback from the students and for him to give them material. "This technology allows you to push content to the students," said Bothun.

Bothun asserts blocking Wi-Fi in the classroom would be like "telling students that to take a class, you have to walk into the last century." There are approximately 50 million primary and secondary school students in the United States, in more than 98,000 schools.

Increasingly, those schools' administrators want to provide Wi-Fi coverage for students and staff in order to increase productivity as well as accessibility.

Our neighboring cities, Philadelphia and New York City, have completely outfitted their schools with wireless internet. Philadelphia has the eighth largest school district in the United States, comprised of 268 schools, 166,000 students and 10,000 teachers.

If they can provide students and faculty with safe and reliable internet access, why shouldn't our

school of 1,200 students be able to accomplish the same task?

This affordable technology will also save energy and eliminate the need for costly wires and wiring fees. Wi-Fi is now seen as a conduit to extend security, communications, and learning. It enables the flexibility and freedom to access information from just about anywhere and is not a novelty. It is a necessity.

Anyone who visits the Schreiber library will notice something interesting. The computer lab is calm and serene while the study area is unusually noisy. Children are sitting around and socializing, waiting for a spot at a computer to open up.

Bringing Wi-Fi to the library would solve this problem and simultaneously alleviate the jobs of the Schreiber librarians, who are constantly pleading for silence.

"The plain fact is that employees get more done when they're able to work where they want and when they want," states a recent study by UTech Consulting, which found that notebook computer users reported an average of nearly 11 hours of additional productivity per week by using a notebook instead of a desktop.

The benefits of wireless Local Area Network technology are endless. The health risks due to radiation are at most one hundredth of that posed by our cell phones. Seeing Wi-Fi as a piece of technology will help bring our school into the twenty-first century and bring it up to level with our neighboring districts.

By Sahil Doshi and Tommy Doyle

News Editor and Contributing Writer

To our dismay, the recent passing of the school budget has brought about the introduction of Wi-Fi to certain areas of the Schreiber building. As much as it was presented to be beneficial and bring the school to the standards of the 21st century, there are detrimental consequences related to its planned implementation for next year.

It is true that today, with the growing use of technology and especially the Internet, such access would be helpful to students. But let's stop to think about how many students this will actually affect. Many students, who would have the financial resources to afford laptops to bring to school, already own their own Blackberries, iPhones, or other smartphone devices. These devices are already equipped with internet access and give students the opportunity to access the web if they need to. With such Internet access at their fingertips, the use of other sources of internet for students seems pointless. In addition, many students, and their parents, might be hesitant about bringing their expensive laptops to a high school environment.

On the flip side, there are many students who cannot afford such laptops, and especially their own, to bring to school. Consequently, only students who are financially well-off will have the liberty to do so, and the ownership of a laptop will sadly become another status symbol. In the end, this will only benefit the students who have their own

laptops and who have the permission to actually bring them to school, while the rest of the school community will be left behind. Rather than helping the situation, Wi-Fi will only further divide the student body based on financial situations.

"I think that Wi-Fi is an unnecessary expenditure," said junior Alison Ehrlich. "Also, it is

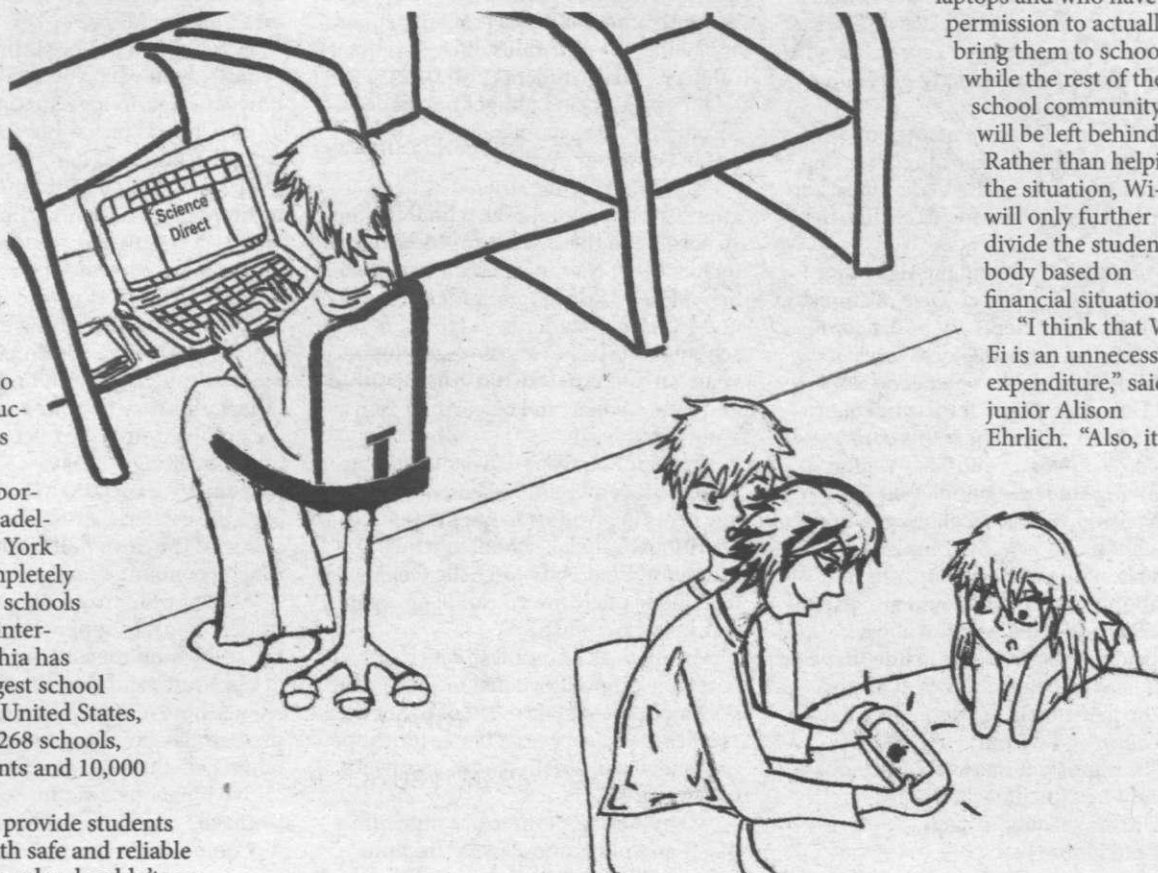
benefit kids who have money to afford laptops while harming those who cannot do so. I think the money should be used to help all students, not just a select few."

Additionally, in a time when the entire school district made sacrifices to lower the budget increase in order for it to be passed, the push for the installation of Wi-Fi internet around our school seems unreasonable. What is the purpose of spending all this time and money to install something that won't even benefit a majority of the student body? While staff positions, club units, and other programs—all aspects of the school which affect a much greater portion of the student body—are being eliminated, Wi-Fi is being introduced.

Regardless, we are hesitant about introducing Wi-Fi even if our budget situation was sound. High school is not college. While in college, Wi-Fi is important since it is one of the only ways for students to gain access to the internet; in high school, students have internet at home, and at the many computer labs located around the building. During off periods, many students relax and spend time with their friends, and the ones who work are normally studying or finishing a writing assignment. Most of the time, this work does not require the internet, and even if it does, there are different places throughout the building a student can go to, such as the library and the English and social studies resource rooms.

When Wi-Fi is introduced, there will initially only be hotspots at the library, cafeteria, and commons. As a result, students will only have access to Internet at these three locations. The cafeteria and commons are noisy, crowded, and loud places where students would not want to bring their laptops to do their schoolwork, but rather do other activities on the internet. If the Wi-Fi Internet was eventually moved to all over the school, it would then raise the question of students surfing on the internet during class time. If students can easily get away with texting their friends during class without any guilt, what makes us think that they won't do so on the internet as well? We understand that the network will be the same as the Schreiber community's, but there are still many sources of distractions that are not blocked.

It is time for the administration and student body to distinguish between need and want. While Wi-Fi appears to be a great idea and could potentially be a resource for the students, as of right now it is only an unreasonable want, and until the Port Washington community's economic condition improves, that's all it should have been. There are much more important things that the school could have focused on that would have affected a much greater percentage of the student community. Save Wi-Fi for college, or at least until economic conditions improve.



Loren Giron





# SCHREIBER STUDENTS FACE THE NATION



## Arizona immigration law causes much controversy

BY Ryan Havens

Staff Writer

In the last few weeks, a controversial illegal immigration law has been passed in Arizona. Arizona is one of the states most directly affected by illegal immigration, because it shares a long, unprotected border with Mexico.

Arguments and protests have sprung up all over America and boycotts are costing the state of Arizona millions of dollars. Many issues have been brought up about the constitutionality of the law (various groups have even likened it to the legislation of Nazi Germany), but what does it really portend?

According to the law, the police have the ability to arrest people with reasonable suspicion in order to determine if they are illegal aliens or not.

Once detained, the suspect has to verify if he or she is a legal immigrant or a citizen of the United States and receive

government confirmation, or else he or she will not be released. The law also makes it a crime for legal residents of the United States to hire illegal immigrants, shelter them, or transport them.

The Arizona law is not inherently racist, and I believe that the state legislature passed the law not because of prejudice or anti-immigration beliefs, but rather in recognition of the fact that something needs to be done concerning illegal immigration into the United States. With the limited resources that Arizona has, it was only able to pass a law that would empower its police officers.

So long as the border remains open, our nation's safety is in danger. Some people claim that the reason illegal immigrants are coming across the border is to escape the devastating drug wars, but a likely scenario is that by cutting off the drug cartels from profiting in the United States we could play a role in ending the violence in Mexico. As long as the

border is open, many different kinds of people could get into the country.

Regardless, just a week after the law was passed, in response to allegations that racial profiling would inevitably surface, an amendment was passed that would modify the effects of the law. The amendment stated that police officers were not allowed to act purely on instinct, and are not allowed to act if a person presents no evidence to accuse someone.

That is, if they encounter someone in a casual situation, such as asking for traffic directions, they are not allowed to detain the individual. Also, officers are limited to inquiring about immigration status only when the suspect is being questioned for another crime that was committed. It also lessened the harshness of fines and imprisonment.

The amendment makes the law more acceptable among Americans and now parallels can be drawn between this bill and others that have been previously passed without protest.

Obviously, Schreiber is located in New York and therefore the Arizona law will have little impact on what happens here. Even conversing with some of my peers, I found that many of them had heard about the bill, but most didn't have strong opinions.

Yet, across the United States, thousands of people are protesting the bill. It will take effect at the end of July, and activist groups are ready and waiting to back illegal immigrants in the inevitable lawsuits.

"The law could lead to racism in that it does not do anything about racial profiling. But it's understandable in terms of the safety of the homeland," said junior SonYon Song.

Additionally, the federal government has done very little to dam the flood of immigrants rushing across the border, seeing as Congress is currently more focused on improving the economy than anything else. I believe that even though the law is flawed and may cause some racial profiling, it is a law that will provoke the federal government into finally showing interest in the U.S.-Mexico border and the immigration issues it presents.

I believe that there will inevitably be some racial profiling, given the fact that it is the Mexican border and not the Canadian border. I do understand that the law has its flaws, and I think that there is a chance that Arizona may have been better off without passing it in the first place. Still, if by passing the Arizona law, new roads are opened towards securing the loose borders, I would call it a success.

## UVA incident brings dismay

BY Sophia Jaffe

Assistant Opinions Editor

The recent tragedy involving two lacrosse players from the University of Virginia cannot be ignored.

The highly publicized murder of 22-year old Yeardeley Love by her 22-year old boyfriend, Geroge Huguey, sends the message that relationship abuse can happen to anyone anywhere, and we can never be too safe in taking measures to prevent such actions.

For the past four years, Natural Helpers has been distributing surveys in order to gain further insight into relationship violence at the high school

advisor and social worker Ms. Michele Weiden.

These surveys are a helpful way of informing students about the sorry truth of relationship violence within our community. However, these surveys are at risk of terminating because Ms. Weiden will retire this year.

Therefore, I strongly urge another teacher or administrator to take up the responsibility and continue these insightful surveys, which are beneficial to all students.

Cases of sexual violence, such as the UVA incident, only prove the heightened necessity of more relationship abuse education in our health classes. Within a world of *Call of Duty*, *Law and Order*, *My Bloody Valentine*, and Lil Wayne's lyrics glorifying rape, teenagers are vulnerable to a media that isn't exactly preaching peace and kindness.

It is crucial that we incorporate a more in-depth coverage of relationship violence into our health class education in order to minimize incidents like that at UVA.

Perhaps by teaching the signs that point to a potentially abusive relationship or informing students about dangerous situations to avoid, the local cases of relationship violence will decrease.

"The tragic death of the student at UVA just highlights how this could happen to anyone," said Ms. Weiden.

Giving student examples of relationship violence would open up discussion and give students more understanding of the gravity of such situations. The focus should also extend to verbal and psychological abuse. Destructive relationships in any shape or form need to be minimized at all costs.

The first step is developing a class education and encouraging discussion on this important matter. Even though it might be difficult or awkward for students to talk about such a topic, it is worse to ignore it.

**"The [relationship violence] surveys are effective because they show Schreiber students that this sort of thing does really happen here, in their own community, and not just somewhere else," said Natural Helpers advisor and social worker Ms. Michele Weiden.**

level and make seniors more aware of these dangers as they leave Schreiber and head off to the real world.

The relationship violence surveys are given out to all seniors in their social studies classes. Then, the surveys are collected; the Natural Helpers use the results to guide their presentations and initiate thoughtful group discussions.

"The surveys are effective because they show Schreiber students that this sort of thing does really happen here, in their own community, and not just somewhere else," said Natural Helpers

## Revolutionize school lunches

BY Blake Mergler

Opinions Editor

Hearing your stomach grumbling during sixth period class? Experiencing a constant crash after a sugar rush at the end of the day? Thinking about how all you want to do is go home and eat? Does this seem slightly familiar?

With school lunches that are neither appealing nor nutritious offered in the cafeteria, many students find themselves either experiencing hunger or crashes throughout the school day—and this is not in Schreiber alone.

Across the nation, there has been an effort recently to improve school lunches. According to the Institute of Medicine in its Review of National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns and Nutrient Standards, a typical high school lunch has twice the recommended value for sodium, way too much sugar and saturated fat, and a dearth of fruits and vegetables.

In response, Congress is planning to increase federal reimbursements by a few cents in an effort to ameliorate the nutritional value of school lunches. Additionally, First Lady Michelle Obama has launched Let's Move!, a campaign against childhood obesity.

As much as I find these actions respectable, I find it of equal or greater importance that we take heed of the nation's problems and support a better lunch for the students of a nation with a growing obesity rate.

If students do not receive nutritious meals and only eat excessive amounts of sugar, the foods the school provides

directly lead students to experience frequent crashes and not pay attention in class.

If a student had a healthy lunch rich with nutrients and vitamins, it is more likely that he or she would focus on schoolwork and succeed in classes. As supported in *Time Magazine's* "A Revolution in School Lunches," there is a growing movement toward offering healthier meal options in school.

Now, you might be sitting there being cynical about what you could do to improve the horrifying situation of obesity in the United States—but the thing is, I am not asking you to remedy this situation. I am simply petitioning for you to support a nutritious school lunch by whatever means suit your fancy.

For some, this may be your support for the cafeteria's efforts to improve its lunches by demonstrating that you are willing to pay an extra dollar for that piece of fruit, or a salad on the side. For others, this may be your vocal appeal to the administration to offer whole grains in the cafeteria's meals.

I am not expecting you all to go bombard the cafeteria about their lunches or spend the extra dollar daily in these rough economic times.

So, I am simply asking you, the student body, to support the initiative by the school and the nation to take caution of our health and the benefits we receive from school lunches. Be mindful of this increasingly popular movement; be aware of the benefits it could offer you.

No longer be a victim of grumbling stomachs and crashes after sugar rushes: it is time to take action.



# This is not Mastercard. Prom: not priceless

BY Reid Mergler

Sports Editor

Walking into junior prom, I was immediately overwhelmed with the extravagance of each girl's attire. Wearing all different colored dresses with a plethora of designs, the juniors looked magnificent and dressed at their best.

Some girls wore dresses I had seen when looking up and down the aisles of various department stores with my mother and sister and I flashed back to a thought I had had that day; I could not believe the prices of the dresses being sold.

Four hours in a four hundred dollar dress led me to think: does money grow on trees? Although junior prom is a gleam in every girl's eye as she pictures herself at her prettiest, it all comes at a great cost.

I could hear those girls who cannot afford to spend absurd amounts of money complaining to their mothers. I could picture those girls who spent the money that they worked hard to save to wear that one dress. Therefore, is it fair to put students through that emotional pain to look prettiest?

Thinking about the value of "the dress," I believe that it is okay to splurge once in a while on an item you truly love. So, if Schreiber junior girls decide to spend that amount of money, it would be great to give the dresses to charity after the prom.

Plenty of girls nationwide would love to wear the top designer dresses that people wore at prom. Should the dress sit on the closet hanger instead of in the arms of a girl who would love to re-wear it?

"Donating the dresses that people spend so much money on would be beneficial and a great idea," said junior Kayla Harris.

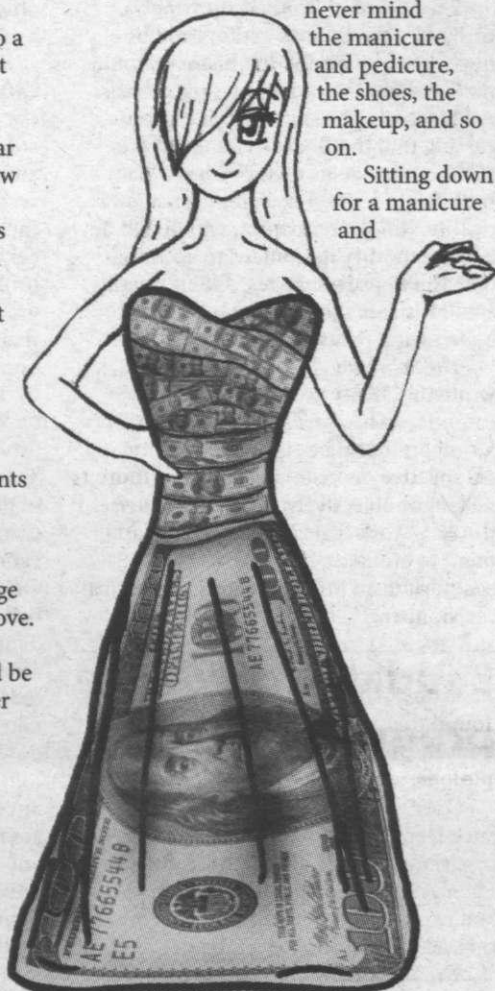
"It is just a matter of if people would be willing to donate a dress that they love."

Instead of wasting their parents' money, girls who attended prom would be doing something that is genuinely good-hearted. Additionally, this would allow for our school to give back to those less fortunate.

Yet, as I have previously stated, not everyone in our school can afford to spend so much money on a dress,

never mind the manicure and pedicure, the shoes, the makeup, and so on.

Sitting down for a manicure and



Loren Giron

pedicure the day before junior prom, I saw so many of my peers rushing in and out of the nail salon.

With waits up to two hours long, it was quite apparent that each salon in our town was bustling with business. The day of the prom, almost every hair salon was fully booked as well. I wondered about the pricey situation once again: what about my other peers who cannot spend hundreds of dollars on pampering and preparation?

On what might seem an essential aspects of every prom, I began to realize that the dollars add up with every manicure, pedicure, hair appointment, and makeover in the time-consuming preparation. Every girl is eager to look her best, yet is it a fair competition?

Recognizing this town's economic diversity, the school does give prom tickets to those who cannot afford to pay. But does the school recognize the other costs besides the \$70 ticket? Since a hair appointment alone could cost \$70, this amount of money might guarantee an entrance, but not a boost in self-esteem.

Therefore, to fix this issue, there could be a pre-prom night when mothers and teachers from Schreiber can volunteer and give manicures and pedicures to these students who cannot afford the preparation.

Additionally, each girl can be given a makeup bag depending on her complexion and features. Equalizing the playing field, so to speak for all, this "pampering" night and makeup gifts that would be run by donations from nearby stores would improve the joys of prom.

Therefore, with the singing, with the laughing, and with the dancing, every girl can hear that she looks beautiful without scorning the pink paint on another girl's toes.

# Learn after AP exams? Seriously?

BY Jon Heiden

Opinions Editor

Everyone knows that we come to school in order to learn, and we also know that in certain classes after AP tests have been taken the caliber of the learning can change. Today, I'm going to talk about some of my favorite techniques that teachers often use post-APs in order to educate their students.

I'll begin with movies. There's really nothing quite like a movie to punctuate one's day. The good thing about movies is that they can be many things to many people: an excuse to sleep for some, an excuse to talk for others. There are even some people who actually watch the movie! (Occasionally, teachers also do this cutesy thing where they put on a movie that ostensibly has some connection to the curriculum, like *21* in math class or *The Last Samurai* in social studies.)

Next there's games. Games are the most fun learning ever! I don't know why we ever learned the old way, listening and taking notes and writing, when we could have just played games instead. The good thing about games is they're really numerous, so that there's an endless rotunda of semi-fun possible: Mafia to 7-up to hangman to Contact and back again. There's even that weird species of game which has to do with school and learning—which can be fun, I guess.

Lastly, there are some teachers who buck the trend and give actual work during this, the sunset of the school year. I know this kind of contradicts what I've been saying with the sarcasm and all, but the teachers who do this really should reconsider. Having survived the grueling gauntlet of tests that is AP week, I would hope that teachers could find it in their hearts to let their students finally be free.

# Ninja's count of 1,2,3 leads students to become stress-free

BY Michelle Gil

Staff Writer

"Ow! You just hit me! No, I do not want to play again; you just hit me." Such are the words of the great Mr. Petro Macrigiane. And before you ask, yes, my friends and I did have the pleasure of playing a round with our teacher of what is our school's newest favorite game: Ninja.

What's all the hype about? Does it show the immaturity of those who play it? Or is it just a fun, harmless way to use much-needed relaxation time during these last few stressful weeks of school?

The rules of the Ninja game are quite simple: everyone stands in a circle and jumps back quickly, freezing. Then, one by one, you take turns going around in a circle and each person is allowed to make one fluid movement (it looks a bit like martial arts, hence the name). The object of the game is to hit another player's hand, at which point they are out. The last person standing is the winner.

Around Schreiber, you often see kids playing Ninja outside, in class during downtime, and even in the hallways sometimes. While not everyone plays this game, it does seem to be gaining popularity quickly.

But some people think it just show-

cases how immature teenagers can be.

"Ninja is a huge waste of time, taking up hours of time which kids can spend studying or receiving extra help," said Roberts.

As much as some protest against this popular game, Ninja may satisfy those who want to escape from the stresses of the classroom, and take part in some mindless (yet, maybe not totally harmless) fun. It is true that studying at the end of the school year is important, but maybe Ninja is a good way to cool down from all that time spent studying.

"You need to play; playing is good for you. It releases pent-up stress," said biology teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty.

At a time when finals and Regents are bearing down on us, perhaps it's best to let out some steam with Ninja. After hours of studying and memorizing facts and formulas, playing Ninja seems like a welcome reprieve.

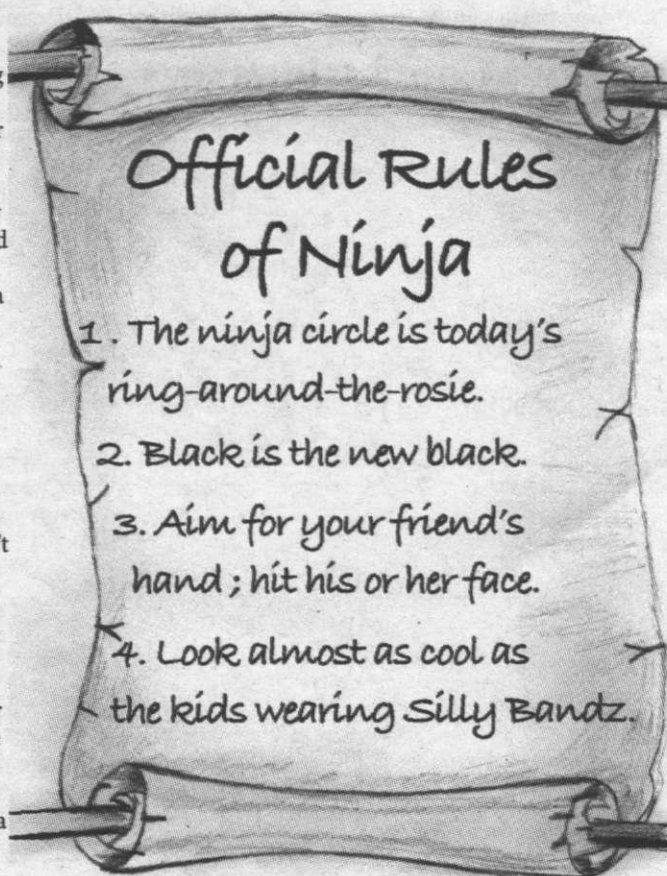
As a sophomore, my imminent future includes four Regents and four finals—the majority of which are scheduled for the same week. Whenever I'm faced with the option of playing Ninja, I jump at the chance.

It actually doesn't take up much time unless you play multiple rounds; just one round usually takes under 10 minutes. Those who are opposed to Ninja would do well to consider that it is

a better choice than spending the same amount of time on Facebook, watching TV, playing video games, or whatever else anyone does to procrastinate. At least when you play Ninja, you're up and active, interacting with your peers in a fun environment.

"I like playing Ninja because it's a great way to spend time with my friends," said sophomore Melissa Naschek. "During off periods, if I don't have any work to do, I'd rather play than just sit there doing nothing."

Let's all get in tune with our inner ninjas and embrace this carefree game with an open Ninja stance... if only for a few minutes.



Eunice Kim



# Editorials

## Protest against Arizona law

In response to increased illegal immigration in Arizona, state legislators have passed a new law that allows for stringent enforcement of immigration and opens many opportunities for policemen and law enforcement officers to racially profile or even unjustly detain individuals.

Evidently, this law allows police officers to accuse anybody "when practicable" and requires legal papers to be in the possession of immigrants at any given point in time. Because of this principle, *The Schreiber Times* feels that it is too broad and too unbalanced to allow for proper enforcement of immigration laws.

Even though the law was recently modified to prevent police officers from questioning an individual in a casual encounter, law enforcement officers could stop an individual for a variety of other reasons. This new provision does little, if anything, to circumvent the racism that would come with the law in question.

The new law violates constitutional rights in a variety of ways. First off, there is no way for an officer to confirm a person's immigration status without impeding investigations. The National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders also stated that federal law preempts state regulation of national borders, and that Arizona's new law violates the due process clause by allowing officers to detain immigrants before they're convicted. Indeed, how is it possible for a police officer to determine whether or not a suspected illegal immigrant is actually a lawful US citizen without going through a lengthy background check and an obvious violation of privacy?

Aside from the power that it gives law enforcers to stop virtually anyone they please, the new immigration law also requires too much of immigrants that re-

side in the state. *The Schreiber Times* feels that there should be no law that requires someone to constantly carry proof that he is an United States citizen. The said Arizona law is too lenient on the side of the government and police, and too harsh on the Hispanic population of Arizona, many of whom are legal citizens that actively participate in helping our country.

## Considering the actions of the TEA

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has recently adopted two disparate educational practices that lie on opposite ends of the spectrum of logic.

On one side, the TEA collaborated with the College Board to offer all public school, charter school, and home-schooled juniors the opportunity to take either the May or June SAT for free. *The Schreiber Times* praises the TEA for taking this initiative and making the most widely-used college entrance exam in Texas available to all students.

Although waivers do exist, not all families qualify. Therefore, every household in the Lone Star State can breathe a collective sigh of relief during a time of such economic uncertainty.

Far too often, students and parents are nonplussed as they hand over \$86 checks or charge \$60 on the credit card to cover the cost of exams administered by the College Board, a supposed not-for-profit organization that sells "official" study guides to its own tests and old AP multiple choice exams. It is refreshing to see that at least one group is working towards ending this financial madness and providing families much-needed relief.

As promising as the TEA's efforts are, it is just as disheartening to hear about its own Board of Education's recent decision to essentially "re-write" history. By a vote of nine to five, the Board, which oversees the second largest group of public school

students behind California, decided to revise long-standing historical truths.

To start, America is no longer a democratic republic. It is now a constitutional republic—a move which suggests that "democratic" too closely resembled Democratic Party. In addition, students will have to learn that McCarthyism was justified and that the United Nations threatens American sovereignty. Thankfully, the proposal to change the name of the "slave trade" to the "Atlantic triangular trade" was rescinded, even though it received initial approval.

*The Schreiber Times* is deeply disturbed by the Board's actions and should not be altered without any sort of basis. Additionally, the staff finds it disconcerting that the Board's change affects schools outside its own borders. With 4.7 million students, Texas holds great sway over textbook companies, which will now have to modify its content to accommodate the Board's changes. Consequently, smaller states that possess less clout could be left with Texas' final product.

*The Schreiber Times* believes that while the TEA was right in making essential tests affordable, it was wholly wrong in placing a rightward-leaning perspective on history, a subject meant to be taught objectively. *The Times* advises the New York State Education Department to emulate the TEA's financial egalitarianism but disregard its historical revisionism.

## Laudable guidance programs

Over the last few years, the Guidance Department has introduced several programs that are offered to all students. Each year, the department has improved and expanded on these programs, and this year, it introduced a job fair.

*The Schreiber Times* commends the efforts of the counselors for providing such opportunities for students that help prepare them for college and the real world. A few years ago, the mock interview program was introduced for juniors. This program gives them the opportunity to learn valuable interview tips. This

program takes a lot of effort to organize, especially with all of its adult volunteers.

This program ties directly into the job fair that was begun this year through collaboration between the department and the Chamber of Commerce. The program was an extreme success, with students quickly signing up and many more expressing their desire to participate. With this, the department is confident and hopeful to expand it in the following year, and to even hold it twice during the year. Mr. Hank Hardy, the Director of Guidance, hopes to grow this program after seeing its popular response, once again hoping to aid the students.

In addition to providing students an easy forum from which to contact different businesses, this fair helps familiarize students with both the interview process and the job application process. Many students are not aware about such things including assembling a résumé and receiving working papers. Such an opportunity is beneficial to students from all grade levels. *The Schreiber Times* believes that even more students should seize this opportunity the following year.

Finally, the department also reaches to other organizations across the community through its annual community fair. This exposes students to a wide variety of groups around the Port Washington community and opens up many different venues for students to get involved with. Once again, the department is directly bringing these opportunities to the students, providing an easy access and an assortment of choices. Students are lucky to have this brought to them and should take advantage of it even more.

Through the job fair, mock interview, and community service fair, the Guidance Department at our school is giving students a plethora of prospects, experiences, and life lessons. These events truly are a great opportunity for students, and many more students should participate and benefit from them in the future.

*Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on May 27. All new writers are welcome!*

## Drawing Conclusions



## Times Policy Statement

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

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# Ninjas invade campus, Shogun of normalcy easily defeated

## Popular game takes over students' off period activities with slaps and stealthy moves

BY Kaia de Bruin

Staff Writer

It is a universally acknowledged truth that the game Ninja is the latest big thing at the school. From the front steps to research competitions and after-prom parties, students are standing in circles, trying to hit each other's hands and still maintain their balance.

What makes this game so addicting that it has become a school-wide sensation and obsession?

The simplicity of the game holds widespread appeal. It is easily taught and can be played nearly anywhere with a relatively flat and level surface. Ninja does not require much more than a group of people and some open space.

For those who do not know, or have wondered what the rules are, here is a brief explanation: Ninja is played by standing in a tight circle and is begun by springing out into a stance, which may be either defensive or offensive. Then, one player tries to hit another on the hand in one swift motion. After this attempt, the person then cannot move until his/her next turn.

The person who is being hit is allowed to move in an effort to avoid the other's hand. Play continues around the circle, allowing each competitor the opportunity to move once. When a player's hand is touched, he or she is out, a safer result than real life ninjas where touching limbs often means a lot of inconvenient blood is spilled.

The game can become a very serious matter among competitive players, but for most it is just something fun and entertaining.

"I love the game because it is so random, and it can be played anywhere,"

said junior Aditi Shroff. "Ninja has become so popular in different schools so it is a great way to connect with people."

The ubiquitous nature of Ninja seems to be one of its greatest appeals. The game has only recently reached the peak of its popularity here, but there are YouTube videos, Yahoo! Answers questions, and other materials online about how to play Ninja. All of these videos, pictures, and stories have come from different parts of the country and much of the material is from months ago.

"Without a doubt, in a room full of strangers, someone will know the game," said Shroff.

Ninja's rise to popularity can also be attributed to the connections that it creates among its players.

"It's like a bonding experience because it's easy to play with a lot of people even if you don't know them so well," said Ninja enthusiast sophomore Elyse Belarge.

To an observer who has no experience with the game, it might look like an odd and unlikely source of fun, but students have definitely proved otherwise, to their peers and even their teachers.

Ms. GERALYN Ganzekaufer saw students playing outside of her AP Calculus BC class and had them explain the game to her. She even participated in one round. Though it didn't last long, even Ms. Ganzekaufer's short experience with the game helped her to see why it's become so popular.

"They don't need any equipment to play, and it's just something to do," said Ms. Ganzekaufer. "I think that it's harmless."

She echoed the observations of others, saying that the students who she saw playing seemed like they were from different social groups and grades.

"I think that it seems to bring people together," she said.



Kevin Granger

**A common sight: a group of students playing the popular game Ninja on the front steps of the school. Ninja has quickly become a fad in schools throughout Long Island and the rest of the United States.**

Ms. Ganzekaufer added that teachers and administrators do not have a problem with the game because no one gets hurt playing. Interestingly, she also said that most teachers and administrators did not even know that it existed.

Ninja has taken over the student body without alarming teachers or administrators, a development that seems both out of the ordinary and positive.

The lack of real athletic skill required to play Ninja also makes it easy for people with different skills or from different social groups to play together. It is hardly necessary to be a varsity athlete to play Ninja; it seems much more important to be able to laugh at oneself. Trying to balance in awkward positions can get difficult, but

in ninja, losing seems to sting less because people find it so much fun.

"Ninja is probably the perfect icebreaker game out there. It's fun, competitive and doesn't require someone to be good at sports. Plus, you get to feel like a Ninja," said senior Alexander Beall.

But will the game be more than just a fad? Though high school students tend to give up on trends pretty quickly, Ninja has lasted for a while without dying out. The reasons that it has for becoming so popular are hardly going to fade mysteriously into the menacing night, but it is possible that the game might. Meteoric rises to fame seldom maintain themselves, but Ninja seems like it might stick around for a while yet.

## Restaurant Review Where to get your "fro-yo" fix

BY Blake Mergler and Reid Mergler

Opinions Editor and Sports Editor

Let us introduce you to the new frozen delicacy, the epitome of American nutritionism, the choice of millions of teenagers: tart, non-fat, yet amazing frozen yogurt. If you have never tasted such an unusual substance, you are missing out. Luckily, there are several destinations in the Port Washington area where you can find frozen yogurt.

The American frozen yogurt fad originated in Hollywood with a chain store called Pinkberry. The word "Pinkberry" spread as fast as the news about Brad and Angelina's kids.

We had our first taste of it two summers ago in Los Angeles and prayed that something similar would arrive near Port Washington.

Ever since the summer of 2008, whenever we were near Penn Station, we would make a special pit stop at Pinkberry or Red Mango, but now, thanks to openings of various frozen yogurt establishments closer to home, we can have this delicious treat all the time.

"I liked Red Mango when it was in New York City, and now it is great to have it so close to Port Washington because my friends and I can have great frozen yogurt

without going all the way into the city," said junior Molly Ronis.

Red Mango opened a location in Wheatley Plaza, about 10 minutes from the school. High school and college students enjoy this somewhat healthy treat.

With flavors including original, which is sweet and tangy, pomegranate, which gives essential antioxidants, and tangomonium, with "a citrus-y" taste, the all-natural frozen yogurt promotes immune health and is gluten-free.

For breakfast or a nice afternoon snack, the frozen yogurt haven also offers parfaits with granola and a variety of fruits.

Although all of these details sound appealing, the dessert itself was not as great as expected. Hyped up by names like Ghirardelli dark chocolate pebbles or mandarin oranges, the yogurt alone tastes chalky and not as refreshing as Pinkberry.

Next, the seasonal white peach flavor was overly sweet when paired with the dark chocolate; despite the non-fat benefit, the sugar factor was way too high.

However, overall, trying the different toppings made it a positive and exciting experience.

With all of these toppings, the dessert can become pricey, when compared to competing places. With the addition of numerous toppings, a small five-ounce yogurt can cost up to six dollars.

"Red mango is good, but I think that it is definitely overpriced," said junior Stella Kim.

Another growing vendor of this popular dessert is E Sparks Coffeehouse in Great Neck. There, they offer a newly-created Parksberry nonfat frozen yogurt that is not as well known.

With three flavors each week, including original, chocolate, strawberry and green tea, this yogurt by itself is delicious. Unlike Red Mango, there is not an abundance of choices to put on your dessert. Even though this is a negative aspect of E Sparks, the yogurt is far superior in terms of taste and quantity.

Having tried the chocolate with various sweet toppings, as well as the original flavor with fruit, we find the yogurt's taste to fulfill both the sweet and sour factors essential to a good cup of "fro-yo."

Even though E Sparks seems expensive at first glance, the amount of yogurt given in the small portion is overly generous,

and seems more than the six ounces they claim it to be. Another plus of this location is the seating and environment. Although this place is not as chic, it has comfortable sofa chairs and small tables for a nice, relaxing night out. Since some people tend to do work on their laptops as they sip their coffee and eat their yogurt, this alcove off Middle Neck Road in Great Neck is quiet and serene.

"I really like going to E Sparks because not only is the yogurt good, but it also has a nice vibe and area to hang out while you eat your dessert," said junior Sela Grabiner.

Therefore, for its tasty treat and its relaxed environment, more people should consider this yogurt place when need of that next energy boost. As Pinkberry has not yet arrived near Port Washington, Red Mango and E Sparks both provide great frozen yogurt in the interim for those who are looking for a snack or a dessert during a night out.

### Red Mango

Address: Wheatley Plaza  
Cuisine: Fro-yo  
Atmosphere: Hip and busy  
Service: Brisk and helpful

### E Sparks Coffee

Address: 41 Great Neck Road  
Cuisine: Coffee, fro-yo, baked goods  
Atmosphere: Cozy and relaxed  
Service: Friendly and efficient





Courtesy of the PWPL

The school's facade decorated for Gambol 1994, when the theme was "Monte Carlo (Live the Legend)."

## The History of Gambol

BY Christina Vlahos

Editor-in-Chief

What initially began as an alternative to a night of debauchery and licentiousness in 1952 has, over the last 58 years, developed into one of the most treasured community traditions of Port Washington: the Gambol. Although the face of Port Washington has evolved dramatically in the last half century, one thing which has remained constant is parents and community members' commitment to the planning of the senior prom, from the designing of elaborate decorations to simply watching students walk down the red carpet.

In 1951, the Port Washington High School prom, held at a local hotel, ended dramatically; three couples ran off to get married and there was reportedly a fatal drunk driving accident. Following this episode, Port Washington parents took it upon themselves to plan and control the event to ensure their children's final high school experience would be memorable, but safe.

Thus the Gambol was born, and in 1952 the first one ever, with a "Rainbow Room" theme, was held in what is now the Weber gym. The gym was decorated with a mural of the Manhattan skyline, and was made to look like a nightclub. All 340 students in attendance were served their supper (which was prepared by parents) by fathers who had towels draped over their arms like formal waiters. The entertainment included Polish dances performed by couples in ethnic costumes, singer Rosalie Allen (a local celebrity with her own nightly "hillbilly program" on WOV station), and the Louis Arresta-led orchestra.

The Gambol didn't actually feature any gambling until 1994, when the prom theme was "Monte Carlo." Parents designed a gambling room and organized

games.

In 1996, Mr. Norman Glavas, a parent and chair of the design committee in 1996 ("Casablanca" theme) and 1998 ("New York Rocks!"), recalls that his team conducted extensive research on the culture of Morocco in particular, which involved a trip to the Persian Tea Room in Great Neck to interview belly dancers.

Whereas students are currently accustomed to paying \$100 for their tickets, the Gambol committees only started charging admission in 1964, for the "Roma di Notte" prom. The price for a ticket was \$12. The price was hiked up to \$30 in 1977, for the "A Summer Night's Dream" Gambol. Additionally, the budget in 1982 for the Gambol committee was \$17,000 and in 1996 the budget was \$30,000.

Perhaps the most integral step in the Gambol-planning process was the set design. For the "Casablanca" Gambol,

**In 1996, parents and the design committee took a trip to the Persian Tea Room in Great Neck to interview belly dancers.**

the design committee created a 40-foot wingspan airplane which was positioned above the entrance of the school, with spinning propellers, recalling the famous final scene in *Casablanca*, in which Humphrey Bogart says, "Here's looking at you, kid." In 1998, a 42-foot high replica of the Brooklyn Bridge was constructed.

In addition to financing Gambol, parents and community members have taken the responsibility for the last half century for every other aspect of it, with virtually no influence from the school administration, and each of these 58 years, they have truly made Gambol a night to remember.



Courtesy of the PWPL

Left: The "Inaugural Ball" comes to town for Gambol 1992, as the school's exterior is given a White House makeover. Right: the gymnasium gets ready to accommodate seniors for Gambol 1978: "Beyond the Stars"

## Illusion 2010

BY Laura Werle

Features Editor

As far back as memory reaches, the Gambol has always been an affair of extravagant castles, luxurious interior decorating, and a long red carpet. These annual expectations, however, come at a price.

A very large price.

The 2010 Gambol, like its predecessors, is being funded through various fundraisers spearheaded and organized by the Home and School Association (HSA).

Composed of many committees, the HSA creates links between academic and social life in the lives of students and parents. The Gambol 2010 co-chairs this year are Nancy Baldwin and Chris Pierce, parents of current seniors. They, in turn, organize a group of 20 sub-committees ranging from publicity to security to a post office liaison.

To fund the luxurious event, a multi-pronged strategy is being used. Through the sale of school apparel, senior grams, and bricks, the committee has been raising money to pay for the castle and other expenses associated with the event. Also, tickets for the bleachers that flank the red carpet on the big night sold out. Despite the standing room available for anybody who wants to watch the couples parade down the carpet, many find that buying a ticket for the bleachers is not only a more comfortable way to watch the festivities, but that it also supports the event.

During the event, serving stations and chaperoning duties will be covered by parent volunteers. Don't worry, seniors, only non-senior parents are allowed to chaperone until 11 p.m. After that, until 1 a.m., parents of seniors are permitted to take on duties alongside other volunteers. This way, students are free of any possible embarrassment from doting mothers and fathers.

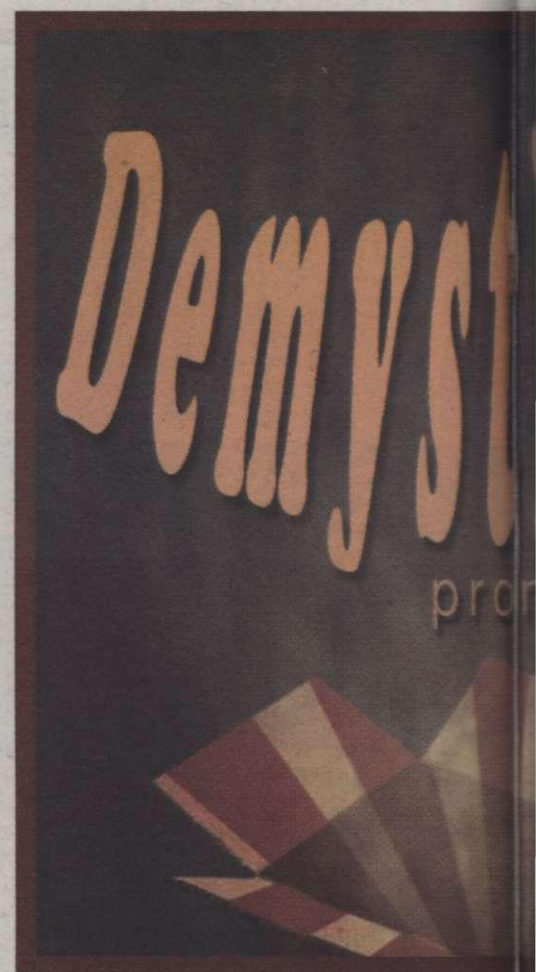
Although there are grand decorations every year, the nature of the decorations changes with the each new theme. Last year's theme, "Light the Night," featured decorations that included strobe lights, laser lights, and huge art deco couches in funky colors that matched the lasers.

This year's theme is much more mysterious: "Illusion." The tell-tale top hat and smokey red color have all seniors guessing what this year's decorations will include.

"Gambol Set Design Committee Chair Howard Schwartz developed the Gambol 2010 theme 'Illusion' with a lot of input from all the senior parents," said Ms. Pierce. "Everyone had great ideas and this year's theme reflects that. 'Illusion' evokes a sense of the unknown, allowing the creation of visions of fantasy, dreams, imagination, and tricks of light and perception that will transform Castle Gould into a space uniquely designed for the Schreiber Class of 2010."

Decorations, however, are only part of the multi-faceted prom evening. Before the graduates even arrive at the castle in the Sands Point Preserve, the procession of limousines and stretched Hummers must reach the door. A notoriously long wait, the bedecked party-goers must hand in cards with their names on them in pairs. This way, when couples walk down the red carpet, their names can be read aloud as their images parade across a JumboTron visible to all.

Once the limos have been parked and the obligatory pictures taken by professional photographers, the guests can enter the castle and take in the decorations, enjoy the music, gamble, dance, and spend time with their classmates together for the last time.





# Fashion

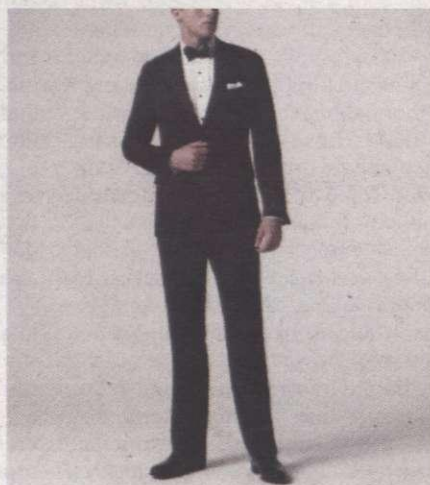
BY Ryohei Ozaki

Copy/Managing Editor

It's not news that the girls get all the spotlight on prom night—and with good reason. Some spend weeks picking out just the right hue of blue, the perfect shoes, and the impeccably matched accessories.

It seems easy to be the guy.

For many, "prom shopping" consists



**Top:** A tuxedo from Polo Ralph Lauren with a slim silhouette. The well-fitted jacket and pants add style to an otherwise plain outfit.

**Bottom:** A madras bowtie from J. Press. If paired with a white shirt with a "wing collar," traditionally worn with bowties, it can incorporate a playful touch to your look.

## Red Carpet styles for guys and girls

of a simple visit to the tux rental store. While there are limitations to how much variation you can achieve in a traditional tux, it might be worth it to take some extra steps to look even nicer for your date. Don't you think she deserves that?

In a tux, the main sources of color are the tie and waistcoat. It's traditional to match the color of these items to your date's dress. Some degree of matching can definitely add to a paired look—too much, and it's tacky. When do you know you've crossed the line? When you look in the mirror and you're wearing a bright orange or neon green bowtie (yes, I've witnessed both firsthand, for those skeptics). Keep it simple, keep it classy. Matching your tie (and it's up to you to decide between a necktie and a bowtie) can be a simple detail that certainly won't be overwhelming.

Speaking of ties, I have a personal bias toward bowties, perhaps because you don't get to wear them that often. A freshly ironed, crisp white shirt with a solid or patterned bow to finish it off can look great, and it's not as hard to pull off as many may think. It may take a little getting used to, but it's certainly worth it. Slimmer bowties look sleeker and simpler. Don't go crazy with funky colors or patterns. Just don't. A dark, black tux with matching waistcoat, white shirt, and a bright, madras plaid bowtie is a simple yet foolproof outfit.

The last thing you want when you're walking down the red carpet is to have enough fabric to fashion another tuxedo from sagging around your feet. It is a phenomenon all-too-common to see guys with improperly-tailored pants, which might seem like a minute detail but can actually be very conspicuous. Try and look for thinner, slender pants for a more stylish silhouette. The same goes for the jacket as well. A slimmer trim will fit, feel, and look much better than a wider one, which can look awkward.

I will only say one thing about white

or brightly-colored tuxedos. Never, ever, wear one. Thank you in advance on behalf of the class of 2010.

Finally, don't forget to have fun. If you're going to get your outfit, just keep in mind that looking great doesn't take a lot of effort, so why not try?

As for the ladies, there are certain helpful hints to follow. Keep your individuality when choosing a dress. When trying on dresses, know which colors complement your complexion and your overall figure, but don't just play it safe. After all, you're going to be on the red carpet.

If you prefer a solid-colored dress, opt for one that offers more than just color. Weaving, layering, draping, and ruching a fabric can give a simple dress more life and personality. But don't go overboard. Simple can be elegant, if done the right way.

If solids don't give you enough excitement, try a patterned dress. Bright florals and gradients look best when incorporated in moderation to add a bit of flair. The design of the dress should balance the statement made by the pattern, and therefore should embody minimalism.

Lastly, keep it classy. You can look great without...exposing yourself. You're going to prom, not out clubbing.



www.daveandjohnny.com

**If you're considering a patterned dress, floral fabrics, if chosen wisely, can be the perfect choice for a warm, summer night. But remember, you're not a walking botanical garden. Everything in moderation.**

### "Prom"mentary

To a senior girl, finding the perfect prom dress is a necessity. Girls are very excited in the beginning of their search for the dress, but after a few failed attempts the excitement wears away and the stress kicks in. In my case, like many other girls, Long Island just didn't have the selection I wanted, so I had to expand to New York City to find a dress. After trying on the 50th dress I felt like ripping my hair out and just crying.

Let's not forget about the mothers who either say every dress looks great just to get you out of the store and the ones who don't give you the satisfaction you were looking for. Looking in the mirror of the dressing room you think the dress is beautiful, but the second you walk out and see your mom's disappointing reaction the dress becomes ugly. You start to scream at her, and she has successfully ruined your dress hunt for the day. Dress shopping may sound easy and fun but don't let it fool you, it is nothing but a pain and hassle after the first 10 unsuccessful stores. I will admit that once you find the dress you return to your happy state, and it is all worth it, but until then all I have to say is good luck.

The hair is another fiasco waiting to happen. Getting the appointment is easier said than done. Hair salons book up fast for prom, so don't be surprised if your hair dresser is busy when you need her. You need the perfect timing for hair because you want your hair to stay perfect for pictures so you can't go too early, but then you don't want to be late for pictures so you have to establish what the right time is for you. And don't forget about the makeup, because your makeup has to look fresh and not worn off.

After the appointment is booked you begin to Google Image search celebrity hairstyles. Up-dos, curls, low buns—the choices are endless, but if you don't pick the right style it could mess up the whole look. Often, you bring the picture in and the hair dresser does her best but it never quite comes out the same. You blame it on him or her but in reality did you ever think that maybe you just don't look like a celebrity?

Normally, I admire people who take action early, but, in the case of prom dates, I despise them. After the first person asks someone to prom in November, which in my opinion is abnormally early, the senior class goes into a frenzy searching for prom dates. The guy can't be too short because then pictures will look awkward and you can't get those heels you've been dying to buy especially for prom. Believe it or not, guys want to look good in pictures too, so they need to choose a girl they think they'd look good with. Honestly, a date is merely someone you take pictures with and then you can both go your separate ways after you walk down the red carpet. You're not going to marry the person, so why does it matter who you go with?

A senior girl needs to look like a movie star in pictures, so she will go to all lengths to make sure that happens. She will get the fake tan, but I'm just warning girls now, please don't turn orange because that's definitely not appealing in pictures. She also is convinced she needs to lose weight, no matter how skinny she is. If you go to a gym starting about a month or two before prom you will see senior girls there who have never gone to the gym in their lives because they have to get in shape and look good in the dress. They stop eating fries and ice cream and begin eating fruit and vegetables for an hour worth of pictures that really don't make a difference in the big scheme of things.

Aside from the emotional toll prom takes on a second semester senior, it also puts a big hole in your parents' wallets. The ticket alone costs \$100 and if your prom date is from out of town or is older you'll have to pay double; lucky you. The cost doesn't stop there. There's the hair, nails, makeup, dress, limo, and for some, the after-prom plans.

I want to make it clear that prom is a once in a lifetime event, and it is the last time the grade is all together. Prom shouldn't be taken lightly and I'm not saying to come dressed in jeans and a white Hanes shirt; people just need to realize that prom isn't the biggest deal in the world. If the person you want to go with doesn't ask you or you don't find the perfect dress, you will be okay, and if you have the right mentality you will still have a great time. No one really cares what you wear or how your hair looks. It's all about having a good time with your friends and classmates. We have such high expectations for prom, so how can it possibly live up to the hype? You can spend an hour worrying about prom or five months—either way you are going to have fun, so why waste all your time worrying when you could be relaxing and enjoying the perks of being a second semester senior.

~Jackie Werner



# School budget can't afford decreased student awareness

## Lack of student knowledge apparent despite recent high stakes budget vote

BY Allison Ehrlich and Daniel Bialer

Staff Writers

"I don't know anything about the budget. How would it affect me?" said freshman Victor Dos Santos, voicing a surprisingly common sentiment among students of all grade levels.

On May 18, the 1.97 percent increase for the 2010-2011 school budget was passed during a town-wide election. Also, William Hohauser, Robert Ryan, and Karen Sloane were elected to the school board.

Despite this annual election, the student body remains blissfully unaware of the dramatic changes that may ensue as a result of the alterations made in the budget and the school board.

The average student is unaware of the profound effect that a simple 1.97 percent increase can have on the student body. Many are also unaware of the decisions the newly elected officials may make.

The school budget, to clarify, is the amount of money that will be allocated for use during the coming school year. It sections off money for teacher and staff salaries, school maintenance, and programs. The budget is formed

through the collaborative efforts of the Board, the superintendent, and assistant superintendents. Input from the community is also taken into account. The Board hears this input at its meetings every other Tuesday at 8 p.m. Once the budget is fully formed, it is adopted and put up to community vote.

If the budget fails during this vote, it would have to have been altered and voted on for a second time. Upon a second failure, the school will go into contingency, which results in severe limits on spending.

In 2005, two failed school budgets led to a district-wide contingency. As a result, free drivers' education during the school day and clubs for elementary school students were cut. In addition, the district was limited in personnel hiring capabilities, so class sizes increased. The district is continuing to deal with the after effects of the contingency of the 2005-2006. However, to many reading this article, this is likely a new concept.

Some feel that the general ignorance about the school budget is the result of ineffective communication about the budget to the students.

"I don't think students are fully informed about the purpose of the budget

or what it includes and therefore cannot connect to how it affects or impacts them directly," said social studies teacher Ms. Renee McClean.

Many individuals believe that by providing more accessible information, the school district would allow students to better comprehend the results of the school budget and verdicts of the school board.

"I think it is important that students know more about the decisions that the Board makes because it pertains to us, but they should make the information more accessible to Schreiber students," said sophomore Renee Cohen.

Other members of the school community feel that even with access to information about the school budget, students would still avoid learning about it.

"We should inform students more, but I am not sure that it would matter that much to them," said Assistant Principal Dr. Fitzgerald. "I don't know how much I would have known at age 15."

Some students simply do not care about the workings of the school budget or the Board, as they believe that it has little relevance to their lives.

"It doesn't go towards anything useful, so why should I care?" said junior Maddy Kessler.

Although many students do not know, a select few have made an effort to learn about the school budget and school board.

"We do have a group of students who attend the school board meetings, ten to fifteen students who are really involved and really understand," Dr. Fitzgerald said. "Most kids know we need things, that money is tight, and that the teachers have a contract; however, apart from that if they can't see the direct personal effect

they aren't concerned."

Until a lack in the school budget is made obvious, students remain oblivious of the effects that a failed budget could have on their education and comfort throughout the school day.

"When students realize that they cannot make photocopies, that there are too many students in their classes, and that there are not enough chairs in the cafeteria, they finally care about the budget, but by this time it's too late," said junior Samantha Palmer.

In addition to the select group that is aware of the school budget process and Board decisions, a percentage of students do understand what the school budget is, and how it could affect them.

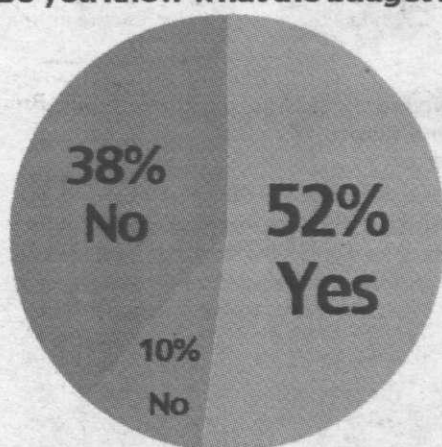
"Some of my friends know about the budget but I don't think that the average student cares about these types of issues," said senior Connie Kim.

If students express interest in becoming more involved, the school is capable of providing more opportunities to do so. There has been an increase in the number of students attending meetings due to a concentrated effort of administration and a small group of active students.

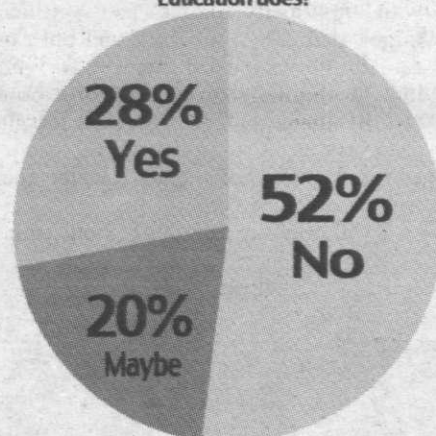
Additionally, students are always welcome to speak in the community comments section at the bimonthly Tuesday night board meetings.

On the whole students are hardly represented in the voting pool, and yet they are the individuals who are most affected by the school board decisions. This year the effort of a small handful of individuals has provided a voice for the students; however, the majority of students remain unaware of the way the budget affects their lives. With school work, proms, and standardized tests, students can easily forget about the school budget and school board elections; however, students have the opportunity to learn about these decisions and the effect they may have on their education in the years to come.

Do you know what the budget is?



Do you know what the Board of Education does?



# The search for a "green" front lawn: a contradiction conquered

BY Brian Kennedy

Assistant Features Editor

The green lawn of suburban fame may not be so green after all. Widespread use of pesticides and herbicides to control the natural aesthetic wavering of lawns has resulted in the dominance of an artificial environment with a decidedly negative environmental impact.

Following the post-war chemical industry explosion, nitrogen and phosphorus-based fertilizers derived from wartime munitions innovation catalyzed a "green revolution" in agriculture. Crop yields skyrocketed throughout the developed world as a result of chemical agents used to combat agricultural problems, and the front yard was changed forever.

Chemicals, from weed killers to fertilizers to pesticides, became widely available to consumers seeking easier ways to manage their property. This ultimately resulted in the preponderance of usage that exists today. An end result that is a little more significant than lawns without crab grass.

"The big issue is, people, both individuals and commercial applicators,

don't put down the recommended amount of chemicals," said Mr. Jim Lamberti, owner of Bayles Garden Center and Nursery and Organic Solutions ([www.organicsolutionsinc.com](http://www.organicsolutionsinc.com)).

As a result, the natural biological composition of the soil is destroyed, scorched by excessive application of chemicals, resulting in soil that, except for the green grass or plants at its upper layer, is all but dead.

This lifelessness creates an increasing need within the chemically crippled environment for more chemicals in order to sustain its intended appearance or function, leading to a positive feedback cycle known as the "chemical treadmill."

This perpetually increasing scale of chemical usage makes our lawn, the bit of nature that many Port Washington suburban residents are most familiar with, a definitively unnatural environment.

In addition to the direct environmental impact of chemical products, chemical-based lawn care practices have well-known external environmental effects.

Increased rates of cancer and other illnesses have all been positively correlated with increased environmental penetration of chemicals. Contamination of entire aquifers, a significant issue in Long Island

especially, is a common symptom of excessive chemical usage.

Plant and animal species have suffered as well, if not the most, from chemical intrusions into delicate ecosystems. Many species that are not the intended target of a chemical product turn out to be victims nonetheless, through direct interaction or indirect environmental consequences such as lowered pH levels in soil.

It is in communities like Port Washington, with polluted aquifers and damaged ecosystems, where these aggregated effects of chemical usage in the quest for the perfect front lawn are readily observable. At the same time, however, Port Washington and other communities are also where a cultural and economic shift away from the chemical heavy past is occurring.

"You eat organically in order to eat healthy; our goal organically is to bring the plants and the soil to their full health," said Mr. Lamberti. "We are advocating a change in thinking about plant health."

This change in thinking focuses around what Organic Solutions Inc., a subsidiary of Bayles Garden Center, calls, "supercharged liquid compost," otherwise known as compost tea. An organic alternative to chemical pesticides, the

compost tea represents a sustainable form of lawn care. Made up of a mix of soluble nutrients, beneficial bacteria, fungi, and nematodes obtained from a compost heap, a proper spraying of compost tea restores the ecological properties of soil through a reintroduction of the microbiology contained within it.

Properly treated soil "protects plant surfaces with organisms which occupy infection sites that prevent disease-causing organisms from finding the plant, and aid plant growth, as a result of improving the availability of plant soluble nutrients and minerals through soil microbial activity," said Mr. Lamberti.

As a result, the soil and the system as a whole become independent of the dangerous chemical treadmill, utilizing a holistic ecological approach to maintain that pleasing level of uniformity to which homeowners aspire.

This resultant independence has important ramifications for homeowners and Port Washington residents grappling with environmentally friendly solutions for lawn and garden care. Further community-based information on the consequences of chemical usage and organic alternatives to chemical use is available at [www.grassrootsinfo.com](http://www.grassrootsinfo.com).



# Mermaids and penguins and unicorns, oh my!

BY Andrew Seo  
Editor-in-Chief

Beanie Babies and Pokémon cards are rejoicing all across the country, as they have just learned that a new fad will soon be joining them in storage containers tucked away in dusty basements, attics, and garages.

A direct descendent of the rubber band (the loop-shaped utility used by mailmen and orthodontists), Silly Bandz are the latest craze among the adolescent demographic.

Part bracelet, part rubber band, and composed of silicone, these new objects of teenage affection are just as their name suggests: silly. On the wrist, they appear to be just another colorful accessory. But once liberated from the confines of the human wrist, the item assumes the shape of something much more.

Similar to the characters in Lois Lowry's *The Giver*, each silly band is predestined to become a unique shape. Some become phoenix or penguins, while others turn into the less exciting letter "P."

Silly Bandz are assembled by theme in packages of 24. Prices range from \$3.76 to \$8.20 on Amazon. Taking a page out of AP Economics, the cost of Silly Bandz is greatly influenced by supply and demand.

The Fantasy Shapes pack, which includes mermaids, unicorns, and dragons, are on the lower end of the cost scale, while the Spring Shapes collection, featuring tulips and kites, is more expensive.

Other types of Silly Bandz themes

include dinosaurs, rock band, sea creatures, alphabet, and baseball.

"I have about four packs of them. I like to follow trends, and it reminds me of when we were younger. I remember Silly Bandz being popular back when we were in middle school," said junior Aditi Shroff.

In addition to the Silly Bandz brand, several manufacturers have come out with "silly bandz" of their own. They include Zanybandz and Crazy Bands. Despite the multitude of brands and styles available, this fad may already be coming to an end, both by choice and necessity.

"I found that the bands were cutting off my circulation and turning my skin purple. It was painful, so I don't know if I'm ever going to wear them again," said sophomore Janice Havasy.

"They're still interesting and fun, but they don't seem to be holding the interest of people as much as they did only a few weeks ago. It's juvenile, and I think some got too carried away, but it was fun while it lasted," said senior Katelynn Catalano.

While at one time students derived pleasure from trading these colorful expressions of identity, there are few students who still obtain that familiar thrill from acquiring a glow-in-the-dark Statue of Liberty in exchange for a neon cowboy boot.

Unlike its predecessors in the fad empire, Silly Bandz are now contraband in schools throughout the district and the county. In addition to presenting medical concerns, including circulation issues and flick-induced injuries, teachers all over



## Fads throughout the years



Long Island have banned these bracelets from their classes for the distractions they present.

For now, Silly Bandz are still allowed within the halls of this school. It appears that the administration trusts the students to make fair trades (that means no

penguins for cats), refrain from slinging the would-be projectiles across the room, and keep their sea creatures, zoo animals, and mythical creatures at bay.

Whether or not students will continue to collect, wear, and treasure Silly Bandz remains to be seen.

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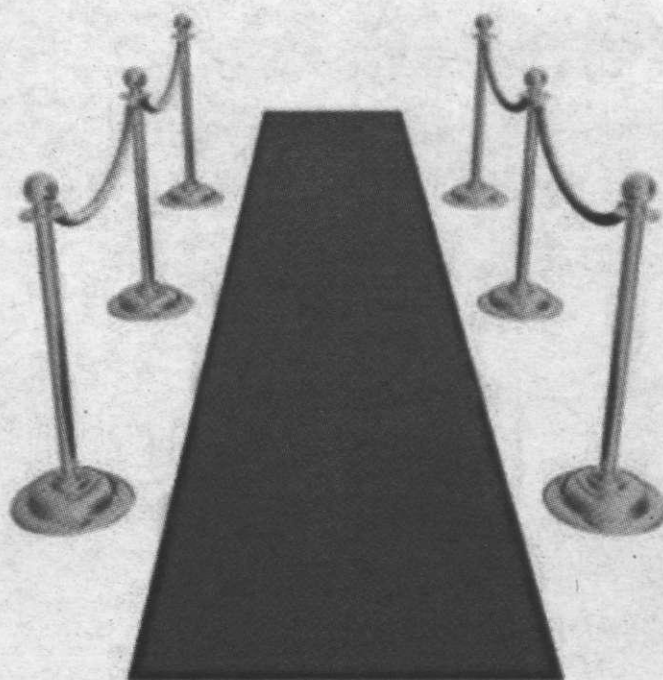
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# arts & entertainment

## Far from solid, *Iron Man 2* is another lame sequel

BY **Benny Scheckner**

Staff Writer

What more can be said about *Iron Man 2* that has not already been said? Perhaps that *Iron Man 2* is the most over-hyped, over-budgeted, and over-rated movie of the year. Even as a fan of Robert Downey Jr. and Jon Favreau, the movie proved to be nothing more than a lame sequel, a film produced merely for the box office earnings.

The script was probably the main problem with the film. The writers really tried to integrate many elements from the comic book, but in the end they could not create a solid and coherent mix. The story could have been great, but it never went anywhere; there was very little plot development.

Additionally, the forced nature of Samuel Jackson's character, Nick Fury, was very bothersome. Fury is part of Marvel's mass comic book alliance film, *The Avengers*, which will be released in a few years. For now, though, Marvel is alluding to it in all of their movies—simply including this character seemed irrelevant. The clues were far from interesting or intriguing.

While the acting was great at times, the characters do not move forward at all. They end the same way that they began, which is especially aggravating, considering the long list of issues that Tony Stark's character has. His constant need to rebel and be funny becomes extremely bothersome after a short period of time. Also, his relationship with Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow), which consists of constant bickering, is far from entertaining.

The film also lacks structure. The entire middle section of the film simply lags

and the final confrontation with the villain, if it can even be called that, resolves absolutely nothing.

There was a lot of potential for a great revenge subplot, but the failure of the writers to really delve into that story line makes it seem like there is a giant hole in the film.

Even though this is an action film, the fighting may have been excessive this time. Though the visuals were awesome, the action gets in the way of the story development and cannot be taken seriously. That is one of the problems with the more modern special effects, as they overshadow the dialogue, making it seem rather banal and repetitive.

Finally, my last issue with the film pertains to one actor and one actor only, Mickey Rourke. Rourke was the one person I was really excited to see going into the film, but in his limited screen time, Rourke's performance was bland,

hardly intimidating, and empty. Some of this is due to the script, but Rourke should have tried to add more personality to the character.

Despite the fact that overall, the movie was



Mickey Rourke portrays the villainous Ivan Vank in *Iron Man 2*. Unfortunately, Rourke's performance was as horrendous as his character's personality in this film.

pretty much a blunder, there were a few positive components of the film. Downey Jr. is truly at the top of his fame in the film, and his performance as the witty and cynical Tony Stark was excellent. Sam Rockwell also did a wonderful job as the crazy billionaire weapons maker, Justin Hammer.

Even though the other actors could not match these performances, they certainly added another dimension to the film. Paltrow brings the same sweetness to Pepper that she did to the original film, and Jackson and Scarlett Johansson proved to be great additions to the cast.

The special effects of the film also helped to salvage it, to some extent. The studio clearly spared no expense on the visuals and Favreau did a fine job of directing on such a large scale,

which in this case is particularly impressive, considering his background in comedy.

Overall, *Iron Man 2* is a poorly made movie. The group of actors would have been better suited to a comedy film instead of this ordinary and uninteresting action movie. However, if one is looking for a mindless afternoon with a tub of great movie theater popcorn, *Iron Man 2* may suffice.

In the end *Iron Man 2* should have ended a lot earlier on. Disappointingly predictable, the story line drags from one explosion to the next, with the interesting character study of Tony Stark that occurred in the last movie giving way to a watered down anti-hero cliché. But hey, you don't invest millions into CGI effects not to reuse it again; the same though should not be said for a plot which proved to be a poor mimicry of the previous film with the same rise, fall, rise story line and ultimately, the same girl. Odd too were the weirdly unlinked plot additions of the SHIELD and the black suited normal looking agent guy, whose father resolving purpose did not seem proportional to the amount of time both entities spent in the movie. Odder still was that in a movie so focused around artificial creations is that the best portions of the movie were any scene which featured the indisputably human Scarlett Johansson.





# Instead of giving, Robin Hood steals all joy

BY Morgan Quigley

Assistant A&E Editor

The legend of Robin Hood is very well known. "Steal from the rich, give to the poor," is what most people remember it by. However, there are many variations on the story, which include Robin Hood receiving a full pardon from King Richard, and another in which Robin Hood dies at the hands of a kinswoman, the abbess of Kirklees Priory.

In the 6th major motion picture adapted from this story, director Ridley Scott believed he could put a new spin on this otherwise very old tale.

Scott really knows how to start off an action movie. The very first scene was a battle between France and England in which we get to see Robin Longstride's (Russel Crowe) archery skills, as well as King Richard (Danny Huston) taking an arrow to the neck.

It was action-packed and fun to watch, but the movie went downhill from there. Scott tried to be unique with his take on *Robin Hood*, whose early fan buzz labeled it as the next *Gladiator*, but the unique appeal of the film ultimately failed its audience.

There was an underlying political tone to the whole story with France trying to take over England, and this only further diminished the legend of the original *Robin Hood*.

Scott should have learned from past movies, such as Antoine Fuqua's *King Arthur*, in which he too tried to create

some form of historical realism. *Robin Hood*, much like *King Arthur*, did not stick to the legend, nor did either of them even come close. Robin Hood's outlaw life and deer-poaching adventures were almost neglected in this awful take on the legend of *Robin Hood*. The plot was confusing and rather boring.

Though the movie did not claim to be the legend, it claimed to be "the story behind the legend." Even with this disclaimer, it still made no sense, because according to the legend, almost the entire movie would be impossible.

While Robin Hood is known as someone who steals from the rich and gives to the poor, the legend does portray him as someone with questionable morals.

However, Scott portrayed Robin Hood as a morally sound person. It adds to the fact that the actual legend was not kept in mind during the making of the film. It seemed that the historical and political realism was more important than the story and Robin Hood himself.

There is pretty much one word to describe Crowe's acting in the movie: lazy. He appeared to be uninvested in the movie and his acting was far inferior to his supporting cast, including Cate Blanchett, who played Marion Loxley, and Oscar Isaac, who played Prince John. The acting on both of their parts just added to how



Despite the action packed scenes and talented cast, including Russel Crowe and Cate Blanchett, *Robin Hood* was nothing more than drawn out hours of uninteresting cinema.

uninterested Crowe appeared throughout the film. Never in my life would I ever think to see someone unenthusiastically flirt with Blanchett.

Despite these short-comings, the movie was not all bad. Scott's directing of action scenes was very impressive. Seeing as Scott directed *Gladiator*, it was expected of him to provide some very thrilling action packed scenes.

Scott's take on the famous legend of

*Robin Hood* was more of a take on the medieval era.

The legend of *Robin Hood* was not depicted in the movie at all, and neither was Robin Hood as a person. Scott should have learned from Fuqua's failed attempt in *King Arthur* to not make the main story about the history, rather than the character. There clearly was no need for a remake, as the original was far more satisfying.

## City Island: The enjoyable, unconventional retreat all films should be

BY Benny Schenker

Staff Writer

It is always nice to discover a movie that is not necessarily a major blockbuster production. Raymond De Felitta's recent indie, *City Island*, is one of those discoveries: brilliant and extremely sentimental. Starring Andy Garcia of *The Godfather III*, the film centers around a twisted family with more secrets, it seems, than even Jesse James.

From the very beginning, the plot invites the viewer in. Vincent Rizzo (Garcia), a correctional officer at a local prison, has a secret aspiration to become an actor, akin to Marlon Brando. He sneaks out of his house, trying to escape his inquiring wife once a week in order to take acting classes led by the hysterical Michael Malakov (Alan Arkin). In the film, Arkin proves, yet again, just how talented he is. Since *Little Miss Sunshine*, Arkin's name has become synonymous with excellent acting, and this recent comedy is no exception.

The hysterics, however, do not stop with Arkin. Vincent thinks that he may have found his son, whom he left behind in prison, and precedes to take him home, all while concealing the possible family connection. Chaos ensues at home with Vincent's daughter, Vivian (Dominik Garcia-Lorido), who just lost her college scholarship, and his wife, Joyce (Julianna Margulies), who is struggling to figure out how she feels about her husband. Of course, eventually it all erupts and the situations become entangled, leading to possibly the best display of family comedy since *The Simpsons* appeared on the small screen.

*City Island* really is a fun movie to

watch. It is great to sit back and witness this family manipulate and lie to each other—not in a sadistic way, of course. The actors really appear to enjoy their roles, and do a great job of getting to the core of the characters. In all honesty, though, I never expected anything less from Garcia, whose Fred Flinstone-like demeanor is Oscar-worthy. The supporting cast is great as well, especially Margulies, who portrays a sassy, typical New York woman.

Another great part about this movie is that it is not mainstream. I guarantee that if you do most of your movie-watching on Main Street, you have never seen a movie like this before. Everything that happens in the film occurs on a very small scale, unlike modern Hollywood pictures, which are big and epic. This is just a few days in the life of a quirky little family. It is also a very warm-hearted movie. *City Island* lives and breathes, just as we do, and by the end, you're on the edge of your seat, both out of laughter and shock at what's happening to these characters that you have very quickly grown to care for.

Visually, it's very bold and colorful. The movie takes place on the Bronx's City Island, which is a really nice setting to look at for an hour and forty minutes. The score also stood out to me, which is unusual. I found myself humming the background music, days after seeing the film.

In this modern cultural era, Hollywood seems to control the entire movie industry, so it is a nice breath of fresh air to sit down and watch something rather innocent. This is a film that was made not for the money, but for people to genuinely enjoy. It is most definitely worth that coveted \$10.75.

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# Rockstar games redeems itself with Red Dead Redemption

by Kerim Kivrak

Staff Writer

Although the Wild West has been glorified in countless classic movies, most attempts at using it as the backdrop of a video game have ended in mediocrity. After 2004's forgettable *Red Dead Revolver*, Rockstar (the publishers of the controversial *Grand Theft Auto* series) has returned to the West with *Red Dead Redemption*, a spiritual sequel to the original.

You play as John Marston, an outlaw trying to make good with the world by killing or capturing his old friend and gang-mate in order to safely return to his family. Marston tries to garner support by doing various odd-jobs and helping the people of the towns he passes through. Any veteran to the *GTA* series will notice many similarities between this and any of the more recent *GTA* installments, but *Red Dead Redemption* introduces long-term consequences to being a Good Samaritan or a lawless cowboy in the form of an "honor meter," an adaptation of the karma system found in many other games.

Again, as with *GTA*, the game starts off slowly, teaching you basic controls and introducing you to some of the more fundamental aspects of the gameplay before you can go out hunting deer or criminals on your own. Many *GTA* players, with little motivation to progress in the dull story, resort to cheats to obtain anything lost by bypassing the main missions. This is remedied with a much more compelling story and, to many fans' dismay, a disability to save or unlock "achievements" or "trophies" after cheats have been activated.

Following through with missions for Bonnie, who serves as the player's guide



www.ugo.com

After 2004's flop, *Red Dead Revolver*, Rockstar looked to capture the wild west gaming genre with its follow-up effort *Red Dead Redemption*. With advancements in online multiplayer gaming, it largely succeeds.

for the first twenty or thirty minutes of the game, will reward you with the lasso, an integral part of the game that can be used to obtain new horses, capture wanted criminals, or to tie unsuspecting civilians to railroad tracks for your own sadistic pleasure. Along with a satisfyingly large arsenal, the new "Dead-Eye" targeting system makes combat more exciting and unique. Although it is as simple as the bullet-time seen in *The Matrix* at first, as you obtain higher levels of Dead-Eye you can "paint" targets around an enemy's body for Marston to rapidly shoot at.

Although the game features different difficulties of aiming with different levels of computer assistance ("auto-aim"), a well-placed shot can determine if the enemy goes down instantly or if they

are crippled for easy lassoing. The game includes a cover system similar to the one in *GTA IV*, but it is noticeably less buggy and less of a necessity.

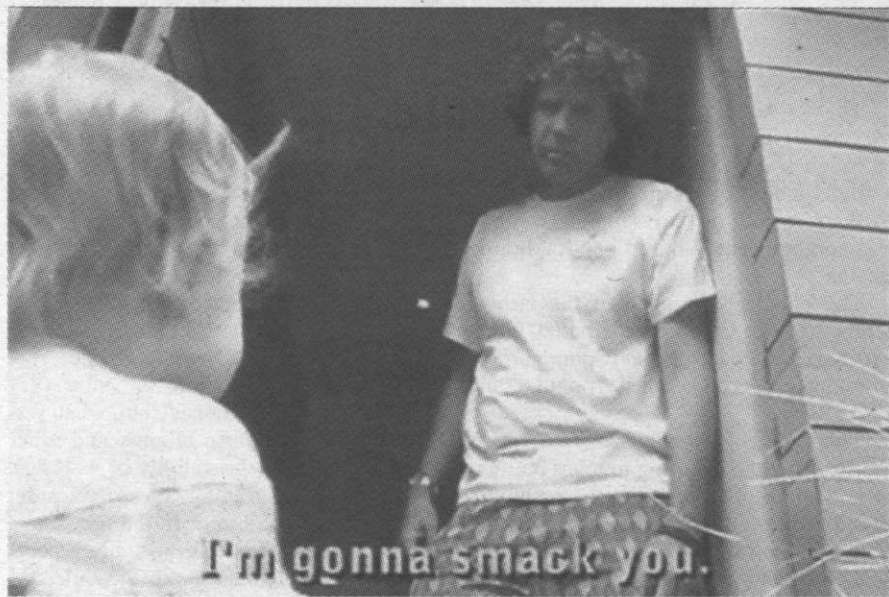
In true Rockstar fashion, *Red Dead Redemption* brings with it plenty of controversy. Firstly, this game is certainly not for the faint of heart. Any animal, whether it be a dog, a horse or a bear, can be skinned for pelts and meat to be sold for money, leaving an anatomically correct mutilated animal corpse. Prostitutes roam bars and are occasionally assaulted by customers as one of many random events.

Of course, the game is not without its share of gore. From realistic bullet wounds to the aforementioned animals, this game is enough to make anyone cringe from time to time. Many of these things, mostly

made possible by Rockstar's own RAGE physics engine, are what make the game so impressive, but the beautiful landscapes stretched over a massive world could be enjoyed by even the most squeamish of players.

*Red Dead Redemption*'s massive, open world allows it to succeed in bringing the immersion that every other western game has lacked. The only major flaw in this game is the lack of variety in random events. After having your horse stolen five times, you learn not to pick up the stranger on the side of the road. In a way, this is Rockstar's redemption from the massively overrated and disappointing *Grand Theft Auto IV*, improving upon it in every way to create a must-have for any console owner.

## The emergence of YouTube popularizes the creation and viewing of viral videos



www.joystiq.com

Viral videos, like this one involving Will Ferrell, have become more popular with the emergence of YouTube in 2005, and Internet users have embraced the popularity of these shorts.

by Brett Fishbin

Assistant A&E Editor

They are on your computer while you are supposed to be working. They are spoken about at water coolers across the country. They often become inside jokes that are shared between thousands of people. They are viral videos. Since the creation of YouTube in 2005, the underground videos, which were generally

unknown to most, became mainstream sensations. For a video to go "viral," it must be seen around the world, and popularized by internet sharing.

Although most of the popular examples of viral videos are random people trying to be funny, many popular ones are celebrities caught on camera, or even professional comedians releasing videos to be enjoyed by the world.

The early roots go back to the 1990s, but throughout the last five years, the

invention of YouTube has sparked the viral craze that has hit America and many other countries.

For the past few years, the popular sketch comedy, *Saturday Night Live*, has started a series of productions called "SNL Digital Shorts."

Pioneered by Andy Samberg and his comedy group referred to as "The Lonely Island," they have produced many short comedy videos which premiered on *SNL* but later found their way to YouTube. The videos vary from comedically-written rap songs to romantic ballets and bizarre skits. Some of the most well known include "Lazy Sunday," "Motherlover," "Im On A Boat," and "We Like Sports."

The videos often feature a well-known celebrity and gain audience interest through these guest appearances. The comedy group has gone on to release a CD featuring some of their favorite and most popular clips.

Perhaps the most popular type of viral video, though, is privately produced comedy videos. Groups such as WKUK (Whitest Kids U'Know), have created many popular viral videos, including the ever popular "Grapist." The video is about a salesman pitching a commercial to a network by using an obviously inappropriate character, nicknamed "the Grapist." While it is obviously a horrible idea, the network producers seem to love it, while the third producer is horrified by it's completely inappropriate nature.

Although most of these videos are produced by common people, celebrities

such as Will Ferrell have started viral ventures to promote their videos. In April 2007, he launched *Funny or Die*, a streaming video website featuring his comedy videos.

Although most of the clips are produced and submitted by viewers, Ferrell himself occasionally posts a video featuring himself.

The most well known video on the website is "The Landlord," featuring Ferrell being harassed by his two-year old landlord to pay his rent. The sketch has been viewed over 71 million times and has inspired many other viewers to upload their own humorous videos.

Although viral videos are mostly used for comedic purposes, many celebrities have learned the dangers of the Internet the hard way by being unknowingly recorded during an embarrassing moment. In February of 2009, Christian Bale was caught on tape screaming at his production crew.

Although these videos are more popular now, the roots of celebrity rants go back to the "radio era" when "America's Top 40" host Casey Kasem was recorded on a profanity-laced rant. Other examples of these videos include those with Michael Richards, James Cameron, William Shatner, Julia Roberts, and Bill O'Reilly.

During the newly popularized web era, viral videos have been mostly catalyzed by the emergence of YouTube and have become a huge part of modern web culture.



# Shivdasanis swing their last shot together

## Sibling duo finishes its final season with 6-2 record

BY Harrison Remler  
Senior Sports Editor

For the Shivdasani brothers, tennis is life.

"Everything we do has something that relates to tennis. Our whole family is obsessed," said senior Shaan Shivdasani.

The Shivdasani duo has transformed their sibling rivalry into treasured success this season on the Vikings varsity tennis team.

"We work so well together because we get in sync. Doubles is all about commu-

nication and teamwork, both of which we strive to achieve every match," said Shaan.

The brothers complement each other. Shaan, with a driver's license and a few inches on sophomore Krishin, is more aggressive both on the court and off.

"I am more passive as a player and person, but Shaan sometimes is aggressive and loud on the court," said Krishin.

But, it's their innate respect for each other that proves most useful on the court.

"His strengths are his ground strokes. He is incredibly consistent," said Shaan.

The younger brother has developed into one of Port's top tennis players through hard work and dedication.

"Shaan may be the better athlete but playing with him always forces me to work harder and develop a strong work ethic," said Krishin.

The Shivdasani brothers recorded six victories and two losses on the year for the Vikings, who missed out on the playoffs.

Both brothers noted wins over Cold Spring Harbor (7-6, 6-3), a match which lasted until 7:30 p.m., and a 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Great Neck North to be highlights of their season.

Yet the tennis season extends much further than the spring months of the school year for Shaan and Krishin.

Annually, their family vacations at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in New Braunfels, Texas, to train. While other families are enjoying the glittering sun in the Bahamas, the entire Shivdasani family is working on their strokes.

"Our dad is a fine player and our mom is right behind him. Newcombe is a great academy to train at because it houses many professionally-ranked players, as well as some of the best coaches in the nation," said Shaan.

During last year's US Open in Flushing Meadows, New York, the Shivdasani brothers rallied with the best doubles team in the world.

During their preparation for the Open, Bob and Michael Bryan, the top ranked doubles team in America, hit with Shaan and Krishin as they shared their advice and experiences on competing as siblings.

The Bryan brothers have set the standard for sibling pairs, winning eight Grand Slam tournaments and garnering the highest ranking in the world.

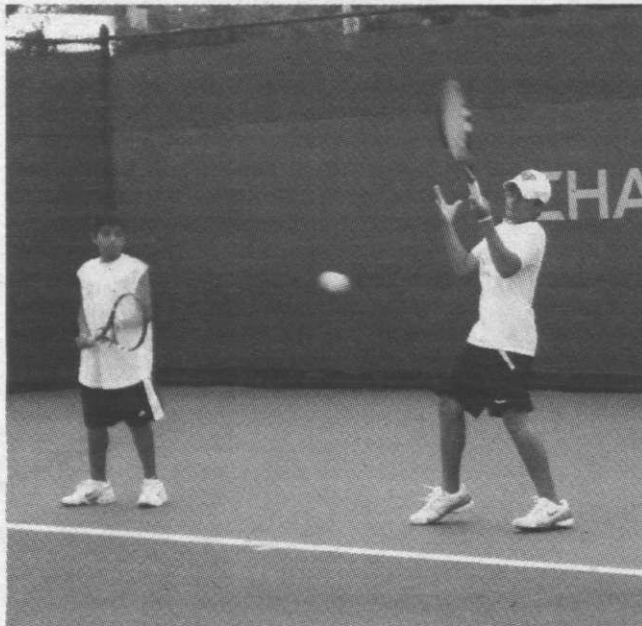
"It was an awesome experience to be hitting with the Bryan brothers. They are incredible players and taught us the nuances about playing doubles," said Shaan.

With Shaan departing for Emory University in the fall, Krishin will be left to carry on the Shivdasani legacy on his own.

"Next year, Krishin will have to learn to play with other teammates, where hopefully he can adjust," said Shaan.

There is one thing Shaan will hand to his brother, though.

"He is undoubtedly the better ping pong player," said Shaan.



Shaan Shivdasani

Senior Shaan Shivdasani makes a shot against the highly-ranked Bryan brothers at the U.S. Open in 2009. In their rally, the Shivdasani brothers learned valuable doubles tips from the highly successful team.

# Port competes for cancer

BY Rohit Khullar  
Assistant Sports Editor

The boys and girls spring track teams recently hosted and claimed victory at the annual Port Washington Invitational Meet. On April 29 and 30, the Vikings and Lady Vikings competed and continued their winning tradition at the event against several teams, including Herricks, Roslyn, Manhasset, Roosevelt, Great Neck North, and Garden City.

This year, the meet took on an added significance. With the assistance of Director of Athletics Ms. Stephanie Joannon, sophomore distance runner Ryan Schwartz helped organize a donation for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. This was in honor of the girls cross country, boys winter track, and Weber girls spring track team's coach Ms. Robin Cooper, who was diagnosed with breast cancer this past year.

Schwartz and Ms. Joannon recruited the sponsorship of Port Washington business Cedar Shopping Centers to produce t-shirts and water bottles representing this cause.

It became a team effort to fight against breast cancer at the Port Invite. On the day of the meet, all of the Port Washington boys and girls track members wore the pink "On Track for a Cure" t-shirt. In addition, the team sold water bottles and took donations in support of the Cancer Foundation.

In the end, the boys and girls teams raised a grand total of \$2,000 that was donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

"Ms. Cooper was a former coach of ours and I respect her," said Schwartz. "I thought it was an obligation for us to help in her time of need."

# Farewell to final regular game, striking into semifinals

BY Dan Miller  
Staff Writer

In the midst of AP week on a rainy Wednesday afternoon, the boys varsity volleyball team played its final regular season home game against Uniondale.

After both teams had taken their time on the court to warm up, Coach Maria Giamanco took the microphone and honored her players from the Class of 2010.

The team's eight seniors were each presented with a white flower as their coach gave a supportive crowd a short background of each player's time with the team, followed by each player's plans for the future while occasionally throwing in an interesting bit unrelated to the sport. (Dan Bernstein apparently knows his way around a kitchen.)

Following the festivities, the team defeated Uniondale in three straight games, much to the delight of the home fans.

The team's final regular season game, however, did not go as smoothly. On the road later that week, the Vikings (13-3) were swept by an undefeated 16-0 Massapequa team.

Despite this defeat, the team has not lost momentum, highlighted by the words of their coach.

"Let losses motivate you to do better," said Coach Giamanco.

Tri-captain senior Adam Epstein is one player who truly wants to do better. Ever since he entered the school, Epstein, one of the team's middle hitters, has tried

to win a county championship, twice being denied in the final round. This season marks his final chance to achieve this dream and go out on top.

"I want to put a '10' on that banner so badly," said Epstein, who will be studying atmospheric sciences and meteorology at North Carolina State next fall.

For this dream to be realized, the team must be better prepared for Plainview and Massapequa, the only teams which Port lost to during the regular season.

Coach Giamanco describes the losses as "days when the team lacked the emotion it takes to win," and later, reminded her players that "you have to be fired up to play."

Outside hitter and tri-captain Bernstein believes that this team can go all the way because of the unity among its players.

"Everyone knows each other pretty well, the chemistry, as well as the desire and strive for perfection are there," said Bernstein, the future Syracuse University student. "It seems like we've started to pull it together as we get closer to the postseason. The teams in Port that I've played for, especially this team, have stood for camaraderie instead of ego, and I value that; it's more important to have a strong cohesive unit than one superstar."

This idea of every player putting forth all possible effort is exhibited through the play of teammates like outside hitter senior Dan Sapienza. Though he did not join the team as a starter, Coach Giaman-

co has noted how Sapienza "works hard in every drill."

"Every time I step on the court, I want to be better than I was the day before," said Sapienza, who will be attending SUNY Buffalo in September. "Being mainly a bench player, I'm motivated by the desire to get on the court and be involved in a game-changing play."

Recently, on May 21, the Vikings improved their winning record with a 3-0 home win against number six seeded Hicksville in the quarterfinals of the Class A playoffs.

Epstein and Bernstein led their team in the number of kills, and senior Sung Kim had a game-high 26 assists. This victory took the team to a semifinal game on May 25.

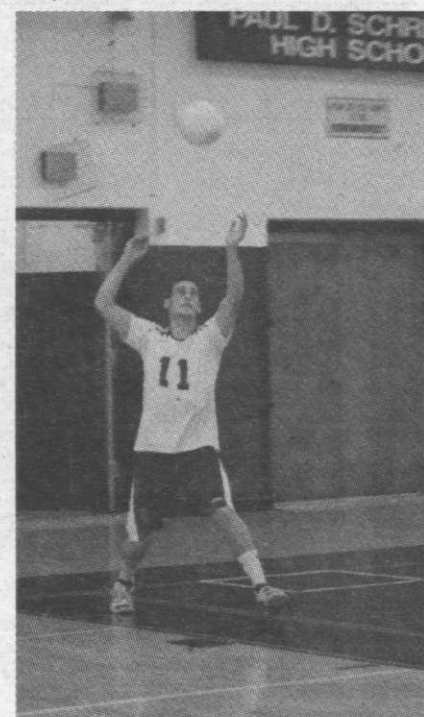
Though the future of this season has yet to be determined, one thing is clear: the graduating seniors have made the volleyball program a serious force to be reckoned with. The holes being left by these eight players will be tough to fill, but the future looks promising, as the junior varsity team just completed its season going undefeated (16-0).

Coach Giamanco expects her team to be well prepared for next year due to the change in season; boys volleyball is moving to the fall.

The team tryouts will begin in August, right after many of her prospective players finish beach volleyball and training at Penn State.

"I just brought up five JV players for the

varsity postseason," said coach Giamanco. "These five have really committed themselves to the sport both in-season and in the offseason, and I feel their impact to the team will be felt immediately."



Olga Kosheva

Senior Adam Epstein serves the ball at the recent quarterfinal against Hicksville.



# Athletes of the Month

## Cara Tortoriello

BY Blake Mergler  
Opinions Editor

Junior Cara Tortoriello runs with purpose. Recently, she took part in the Penn Relays with her 4x400-meter relay team, consisting of teammates seniors Meghan Byrnes, Janayia Thomas, and junior Bridgette McDermott.

The team's record time for this relay is 4:15. Thus, Tortoriello is an instrumental athlete in this relay team with a personal record of 62 seconds in the 400-meter race.

"I'm still trying each day to break that record, and hopefully [I will] be able to break 60 [seconds] by the end of my high school career," said Tortoriello.

Each year, the three-sport athlete has accomplished many impressive feats, which continue her drive to participate in both soccer and track. For spring track, she has qualified for the County Championships each year.

"I would have to say that my biggest accomplishment is the progress that I made with each new year, and reaching new goals each season," said Tortoriello.

For most, it might seem tiresome to run around the track all year long. Yet, for this athlete, inspiration comes from within.

"As opposed to other sports where you rely on teammates, track is a test of your own personal strength, ability and endurance," said Tortoriello. "You are the only one that you can count on to do the best you can. With every race comes the inspiration to do better in the next one."

Aside from personal gains, she finds that the team's camaraderie adds to her success.

"It is very motivating to watch a team progress together and become unified,"

said Tortoriello.

Tortoriello appreciates the support of her coaches throughout her career.

"Coaches Lauren Bishar and Mary Romano have been very influential throughout my career," said Tortoriello. "Coach Bruce MacDonald, being a former Olympian, has shared many motivating stories. Coach Virginia McMahon is a very 'motherly' figure to all of us and cares about us greatly."

Since Tortoriello is only a junior and still has another year to shine on the track and the soccer field, no decisions have been made about her athletic career out of high school, yet she looks forward to displaying her talent wherever she goes.

"I would love to continue both sports at a collegiate level when I graduate," said Tortoriello.



Courtesy of Cara Tortoriello

A three-sport varsity athlete, junior Cara Tortoriello is an integral part of the 4 X 400m relay team.

## Andrew Minicucci

BY Graham Potters  
Senior Sports Editor

Senior Andrew Minicucci has not stopped running since middle school. As captain of the boys varsity track team this season, Minicucci is a mid-distance runner who has also participated in cross country since he was in middle school.

"I have been running competitively since seventh grade cross country and have done every running season since," said Minicucci.

Minicucci focuses on the emotional aspects of being captain as well as the physical.

"The main responsibility that a captain has is to motivate everyone to do his absolute best. There's way more to being a captain than just leading the warm up and stretches," said Minicucci.

Minicucci also respects and admires his new coaches. Their backgrounds in sprinting have helped Minicucci in his events more than previous coaches have, who were distance runners.

"Coach Baker and Simeone are great. Baker has a lot of experience and specializes in the sprints," said Minicucci. "It's great to have someone like him because most of our past coaches have a strong history in distance running. His sprinting workouts have really improved my leg speed."

Minicucci has already seen improvement in his 400m and 200m times from the winter, with new personal records in each event set. He ran a 23.7 second 200m and placed sixth at the Division IB championship meet. He placed second in the 400m event with a time of 51.2 seconds.

Minicucci's inspiration does not come from specific role models or other athletes.

Instead, he uses his fear of making mistakes to push himself to always be the best he can be.

"Inspiration comes from the team, especially when I'm on a relay. I never want to be the guy that messes up a relay," said Minicucci.

Minicucci has garnered All-Conference, All-Division, and All-County honors. Next year, he will be running at Johns Hopkins University. But for now, Minicucci is focused on finishing this season.

"My goal this year is to earn All-County honors, as I did last year," said Minicucci. "And, I am looking forward to running for the track and field team at Johns Hopkins University next year."



Kevin Granger

Running since seventh grade, senior Andrew Minicucci will cross the finish line and head off the Port track to John Hopkins University.

## Captain's Corner: Scott Schwartz, Varsity Football, Track, Soccer

BY Harrison Remler  
Senior Sports Editor

Senior sports editor Harrison Remler sits down with senior Scott Schwartz as he gets ready for graduation. Schwartz is a co-captain of the track team, leading the discus unit. Schwartz will be representing Port at the County Championships in the 4 X 100.

**Harrison Remler:** So, you are the captain of what team again?

**Scott Schwartz:** I don't know if I really am a captain. But, in all seriousness, I am the captain of the discus and shotput unit of the boys varsity track team.

**HR:** So, in essence, you're another big, tall, strong and lazy athlete who wants to stay in shape during your offseason?

**SS:** Precisely.

**HR:** Is this the attitude you have taken in all aspects of life?

**SS:** No, I have actually worked hard to achieve things in other sports besides track.

**HR:** How many times have you lettered on a varsity sport?

**SS:** I have four varsity letters in track, two in soccer, and one in football.

**HR:** Which one means the most to you?

**SS:** I would have to say soccer since it was great being part of a playoff team, and I

was the leading goal scorer.

**HR:** Camp Wahnee's Jack D. Gordon championship team of 2008 versus our junior varsity basketball team of 2008? (Scott and I manned the low post for Coach Dennis Trotter during his final season as the JV-I basketball coach.)

**SS:** I'd have to go with my Jack D. team at our home court with our crowd.

**HR:** Despite the fact that you have approximately seven varsity letters, your friends still describe you as "goofy." How do you respond to their criticism?

**SS:** I guess, at this point, I don't care what they think.

**HR:** What was the highlight of your track career?

**SS:** It was probably in sophomore year when I placed in the counties.

**HR:** What were those car rides like, rushing from soccer to football games?

**SS:** Pretty exciting as I had to put the last game behind me, win or lose, and focus on the next one.

**HR:** Was it tough changing from one sport to the other?

**SS:** It was easy. I only used one pair of cleats.

**HR:** Which varsity football players do you think could also play on the varsity soccer team?

**SS:** Maybe (Chris) Huevo because he used to play soccer and Jason (Sirotkin) because he is an all around stud.

**HR:** You have one Viking teammate to take a penalty kick to save your life. Who is gonna take the kick?

**SS:** Danny Levinson.

**HR:** So, I guess you'll die...

**SS:** (Laughs) Yeah, let me rethink that. I'll give the kick to a healthy Mark Catanzaro.

**HR:** What will I find on Scott Schwartz's iPod?

**SS:** Eminem, Kid Cudi and lots of rap.

**HR:** Do you have any pre-kick superstitions on the football field?

**SS:** Not really. Just always two steps back and one to the left.

**HR:** What was the longest distance you ever hit a field goal from?

**SS:** I have converted from 52 yards in practice.

**HR:** Did you ever think during freshman year that you would be kicking for the varsity football team?

**SS:** Absolutely not. But, after a good audition for Coach Mascaretti in gym class, I got an invitation to kick for the team.

**HR:** I know that Joe Del Gais trusts you with field goals, but do you think Coach Joe Paterno will? (Scott will be attending Penn State University next fall and is hoping to tryout for Special Teams during their preseason.)

**SS:** Hopefully, as we will see this summer.

**HR:** The fact that you may go from Nassau County to the Big Ten scares me. Do you think you are ready?

**SS:** I am ready for any challenge at Penn State and am definitely ready to sit on a Big Ten bench.

**HR:** What was the most memorable play of the football season for you personally?

**SS:** I ran for a first down after a tough snap.

**HR:** You must have been freaking once you realized it was going to be a punt-run. What was running through your head when you saw it was a bad snap?

**SS:** I was just thinking about getting the first down. Once I got it, I realized how slow I had run.

**HR:** I can see you nagging Coach Del Gais to get in on offense. Did they ever let you get a shot on the offense?

**SS:** I begged a lot and finally got a chance against Hempstead. I got called for three illegal motion penalties at the receiver position.

**HR:** Yeah, that's awkward.

**SS:** Thanks for the interview, my JV I basketball backup.

**HR:** If only we had stayed in the starting lineup. (Scott and I led the JV basketball team to a 5-0 start, including an upset victory over Uniondale's junior varsity which included current All-State selectee Bolade Akingboye.)

**SS:** If only...



# Calling the Shots: The final descent part II

by Harrison Remler

Senior Sports Editor

People think that just because I am tall, the Sports Editor of the school paper, and a two-sport varsity player, I am a "sports-obsessed freak."

People think I eat, sleep, and breathe sports. They are right that I eat, sleep, and breathe, but the truth is that I eat good food, go to sleep at 10 p.m., can play good defense during a hoop game, and throw three pitches for strikes.

I never got into the ESPN craze. I really never even got into TV. Truth is, I don't watch full games of baseball, and I can barely keep on a single channel during an inning. Maybe it is my love for Anthony Bourdain's *No Reservations*, but come on, what athlete doesn't love a good bite?

I have an outspoken voice, a column to fill, and plenty of *New York Times* articles to reference. I know professional sports through my mind and opinion.

So, let's fix all this beautiful chaos.

The first thing professional and college sports need is respectable, polished role models.

Michael Phelps, Tiger Woods, Ben Roethlisberger, Michael Vick, Lawrence Taylor, George Huguely. Cross 'em off.

People make mistakes. But, there is no excuse for mistakes in the public spotlight. Tiger Woods was the symbol of American progression, an African American dominating a "waspy" and conservative sport.

Every family fights, yet this one athlete has a net worth of millions, and is the center of each golf tournament in the world. Tiger showed us that athletes are regular people, but he also ruined his reputation and cost himself millions in endorsements. Money cannot buy happiness, but it can buy you plenty of mistresses and a

fancy speech coach to write your bizarre apology to the whole of America earlier this spring.

There is room for acceptance. We need to accept realities. These athletes are regular, average American young adults. Mr. Phelps was finally on shore for more than a few hours and wanted to have some fun. He enlightened his day with cannabis. Barack Obama, our nation's president, has admitted to using marijuana.

Am I saying that everyone should be smoking weed? Absolutely not. Am I saying people make mistakes? Absolutely yes. But there is no excuse. Children need role models.

The days of clean-cut, true American heroes are far gone. Lance Armstrong cheated on his wife while he suffered from cancer. Cross him off. Then there was hope with Tiger. We all know what happened there. Let's play the process of elimination. Who's left? LeBron James and Derek Jeter. Knock on wood—let's hope LBJ doesn't get too drunk celebrating the Knick's 2011 playoff berth at Jay Z's 40/40 NYC nightclub.

You can count the number of pure role models left in American sports on one hand. That's an issue.

MSNBC reports 44-percent of married males are unfaithful. According to statistics, one in six people smoke marijuana in the United States. That's the honest truth.

These athletes have shown us that they are average Americans. But they have also shattered our hearts, ruined our dreams, and brought disgrace to our cities.

Professional and college athletes need to accept responsibility and become role models. Every one of them do, plain and simple.

There are problems with everything in professional sports. There are also pristine

things about professional sports. But honestly, who praises the good these days?

I'd like to touch on a few aspects of professional sports which need some healing or rebuilding. Let's start with the NBA.

New York needs a winning basketball team. Some pieces are there, such as Danilo Gallinari's gorgeous hairdo, but Sergio Rodriguez is not going to get the Knicks back to NBA supremacy.

The NBA is a joke. Senior Eddie Grove had more power on the Student Council than Kiki Vandeweghe did coaching the New Jersey Nets, and StudCo can't even produce a homecoming dance. Not as if the Nets could execute a full court press.

College hoops needs a return rate. The days of "one and done" are all over. The NBA needs to re-open its policy on letting high school seniors go straight to the NBA. If you are going to be dumb enough to make that decision, please go ahead and do so!

College hoops needs four-year players. Just imagine if Dwight Howard or even a high school phenom like Sebastian Telfair had gone to college. LeBron is the only player who was ready to come in and be a legitimate offensive threat his first year in the league.

College basketball has the greatest event in professional sports: March Madness. It's not like any of you go to class, so why not come party with Tennessee recruiting hostesses, kick it big time with Coach Calipari, or party till the Final Four in Morgantown, West Virginia?

Maybe if the Western and Eastern conferences weren't as lopsided as an overstuffed Big Mac, we'd have a league. Yeah, draft busts! I love draft busts! Last I heard, Greg Oden was looking to get an interview at Schreiber's first annual summer job fair last week.

Major League Baseball. Two things: firstly change the game times of the playoffs. I can't stay up for the 10:04 p.m. start time of a Yankee-Red Sox playoff game.

Secondly, continue to fight the war against steroids. While the talks have stirred down, there are more and more drugs brewing in clubhouses than ever. Big Papi's power surge—I'm pretty sure he didn't forget to pay his electrical bills.

But stay great. Stay great like the NFL. The unpredictability of the NFL as well as the storied traditions of both leagues make them ideal and perfect entertainment. The fact that Eli Manning can go from an immature, ungraceful, bizarre quarterback to a Super Bowl stud deserves recognition. Seeing the Jets play with their playoff lives on the line during a home and away series with Cincinnati is a beautiful masterpiece.

I actually sort of like the BCS. It makes every week matter in college football. I'll be quick, since most of you have put down this column after I supported the BCS. Notre Dame needs to get better, Lane Kiffin needs to learn some morals, and all hail John Parker Wilson. I mean, is that not the greatest, most traditional football quarterback-y name ever?

Tim Tebow will be a winning professional. Talent comes and goes, but winners stay forever. Sam Bradford is a great talent, same with Matt Stafford, but Tebow is an innate winner. Just watch, Tebow will do big things in the league.

There is a better chance of me becoming the commissioner of a professional sport than Floyd Mayweather fighting Manny Pacquiao, so I guess I'm out.

Let me get back to my isolated world of Long Island high school sports, filled with Tavon Sledge and Mike Quick.

Peace, professional world.

## Making changes in Coney Island: Alumnus Kevin Mahoney

by Harrison Remler

Senior Sports Editor

Kevin Mahoney lived the typical life of a Schreiber baseball player: games at off-site fields such as Guggenheim and Sousa, winning upsets over MacArthur, and a dream to play in the major leagues.

"My dream was to pitch in the World Series for any team that would sign me," said Mahoney, who grew up a New York Yankees fan.

Although he was hoping to be sixty feet, six inches from home plate, Kevin ended up being only a few feet further away.

Since graduating from Schreiber in June of 1990, Mahoney has become the Assistant General Manager for the Brooklyn Cyclones, a minor league affiliate of the New York Mets. Mahoney pitched for the Vikings for four years and continued his career at SUNY-Brockport.

"My most memorable high school start was probably beating Herricks, which was my first start as a senior. We won 1-0 and I pitched a complete game. While we usually played our home games on campus, we actually played this game at Sousa," said Mahoney.

Back before the current library was constructed over the baseball field, Mahoney embraced the easy commute to practice everyday.

"It was nice not to have to go on the bus and we also had our own scoreboard and bleachers behind the plate," said Mahoney.

According to former head coach Mr. Joe DelGais, the Vikings upset both Massapequa and MacArthur during Mahoney's senior season. Mahoney's final season was Mr. DelGais's first as the Vikings' head coach. Coach DelGais is currently the assistant baseball coach at Schreiber and is finishing his twenty-first year on staff.

"Kevin was a really great kid on and off the field. He was a top shelf student athlete and worked tremendously hard with his desire to improve. My only regret is that I had only one year to coach him. His work ethic has continued today," said DelGais.

While Mahoney graduated in 1990, he met up with DelGais again on the baseball field several years later.

Yet, this time neither DelGais or Mahoney was wearing a Vikings jersey.

"I remember playing Coach DelGais while I was on the Long Island Giants and he was playing with the Wantagh Yankees in a Stan Musial summer league game. He caught and probably got a hit off me," said the left-handed pitcher.

During his time at Brockport, Mahoney led the Eagles to SUNYAC West Division Championship twice. Kevin recalls his experiences on the baseball field at college as "the greatest four years of his life."

After his playing days ended Mahoney began his career path to where he is today. Starting with an independent team in Newburgh, New York, Mahoney has worked with the New York Met minor league teams in Fort St. Lucie, Binghamton, and his current team in Brooklyn.

During his time in Binghamton, Mahoney met current social studies teacher and radio director Mr. Jeremy Klaff, who worked as the on-field MC during home games. Mahoney and Klaff reunited in Brooklyn, where Klaff helped run on-field promotions in what was then Keyspan Park.

"My role as assistant general manager ranges from selling advertisements to on-field promotions, and I also serve as the liaison to the New York Mets. I am a traveling secretary for the Cyclones, setting up hotel rooms and taking care of meal money," said Mahoney.

Working in the minors, he has seen both the ups and downs of a minor league baseball player.

"When a player is promoted it is like a child on Christmas," said Mahoney, who helps deliver the good news to players.

The most recent Cyclone to make an impact in the big leagues is current Met first baseman Ike Davis.

"Ike had a seventeen game hit streak when he was with us. He was very quiet about his business during his time in Brooklyn," said Mahoney.

Working in what is considered one of the top ten minor league venues in the nation, Mahoney is quick to remind us of the realities of minor league baseball.

"The average fan wouldn't realize that I help put the tarp on during a rain delay," said Mahoney.

From Guggenheim to Coney Island, some things never change. One alumnus' dream has brought him to the minor

leagues (even if this time he isn't the one on the mound).



PortLight

Kevin Mahoney awaits a throw during a practice his junior year as part of the Vikings.



# VIKING SPORTS

## Lady Vikings sail through Oceanside *With a score of 17-10, Port anchors itself for second round of playoffs*

BY Reid Mergler

Sports Editor

What began as a cloudy and overcast day ended in a downpour, as the number five seeded Lady Vikings poured in 17 goals over number four seeded Oceanside in the team's first round playoff game.

The 17-10 victory, which took place on May 19 at Oceanside, marked the first Port playoff win in five years and maintained the team's undefeated record, 15-0-1.

Although the actual rain storm came and went, the game itself started off with a drizzle of goals.

The Lady Vikings netted five goals during the first half, while Oceanside countered with five goals of its own, as the teams entered the halftime at a stalemate.

Juniors Alexa and Jackie Froccaro and sophomore Chrissy Commons, Port's "triple threat," as referred to by Coach Raquel Piraino, all scored in the first half. Yet Oceanside's aggressiveness was a major issue for these top scorers.

"The first half was very physical and aggressive," said Commons. "The other team got several cards."

Additionally, there was anxiety building up in the air, as the score went back and forth between Port and Oceanside.

"We were all anxious from the start," said defender sophomore Gianna Gallo. "But once Oceanside put that first goal in, we got even more nervous. The score went back and forth, which is why it was so nerve-racking. It could have gone either way."

As the score set in at halftime, the players came together and executed a nearly flawless second half.

"As the halftime came, it was the matter of who wanted it more," said Gallo. "We knew that we could pull it off. We kind of just took a deep breath and said that we didn't come this far to lose."

Coach Piraino felt confident after watching her side dominate a second half in which Port scored 12 times, as the game

ended with a final score of 17-10.

"Being 5-5 at halftime, we were nervous," said Coach Raquel Piraino. "Yet, once we set in, we were able to dominate and control the second half."

Defender junior Lily Thrope believes that after the team had scored goals in a row, the team met its expectation.

"Once we scored a couple of goals, we were excited and had that winning spirit," said Thrope. "On the offense, scoring was all-around and, therefore, everyone was a threat."

The key factor in the game was possession, something that both teams vied to dominate all game. In the end, the Lady Vikings held the upper hand, holding the ball longer than its opponent.

This translated to more goal scoring opportunities for Port and fewer chances to get on the board for Oceanside.

"The main aspect to the game was possession," said Commons. "Towards the second half, we started to take control and we had the ball the longest. We capitalized on the other team's turnovers in the midfield and held possession to work for our best possible shot."

Goalie junior Sam Tilts was instrumental in making many major stops. With eight saves, Tilts proved to be another essential contributor.

"When we really needed her, she played out," said Coach Piraino. "This definitely helped to swing momentum in our direction."

"Sam is very composed and can rebound and make big saves," said Thrope. "As a great aspect to the team, she leads the team and is comfortable with her important position."

Aiding Tilts was a difficult to penetrate double backer zone defense. By implementing this defensive setup, the Lady Vikings were able to add another threat to its opponent.

"I think playing zone is one of the reasons why we did so well this year," said Gallo. "If you get beat when the other team is settling the ball, then the zone defense allows the backer to slide to help. It also causes a lot of caused turnovers since the offensive team needs to throw through two defensives."

Thrope shared in the sentiment that the team's defense program is successful in its ability to allow for smooth and efficient transitions to offensive play.

"The defensive players feed off each other's energy," said Thrope. "We need to communicate, and zone defense helps us win the ball. Then, we quickly transition into a fast break, and that's when we score most of our goals."

The team prepared for its playoff game



Hayley Kerr

**Port's top scorer junior Alexa Froccaro (left) sprints after Oceanside as she demonstrates her versatility. With the help of her teammates, freshman Brenna Betsch and senior Ali Feldman, A. Froccaro scored seven goals throughout the game.**

off the field by watching its opponent's game play. By knowing that the defense had effective slides, the Lady Vikings were able to pass around quickly and not err in this procedure.

"We watched the game play to see the offensive and defensive tactics," said Thrope. "This helped us sort out our techniques and achieve victory."

Demonstrating the team's strength as a whole, midfielder and impact player senior Sarah Lee scored her first two goals of the season. In addition, tri-captain senior Ali Feldman assisted seven goals. Both seniors' efforts demonstrate how well-balanced the Lady Vikings' offensive attack is.

"Everyone took such a part in the game and gave it her heart," said Piraino. "Sarah gave us critical points and another valuable player in addition to the big scorers at every game."

The team's leading scorers include the Froccaro duo and Commons. Attacker A. Froccaro is the number one goal scorer on Long Island and contributed seven goals in the playoff win. With three years of varsity experience, she has skills to make her one of the school's top athletes.

"Defenders have a difficult time keeping up with Alexa's first step and her agility allows her to dodge and weave through a defense," said Coach Piraino. "If she fakes and shoots on cage, most goalies are not making that save."

A. Froccaro credits Coach Piraino and Assistant Coach Mary Romano for her success, as they are inspirational and motivational.

"Coach Piraino is one of the best coaches that I have had," said A. Froccaro. "She pushes us in the nicest of ways and

always believes in us. That is one key aspect that contributed to our victory this season. Ms. Romano has also had a great impact on me this season. Without both of them, we definitely would not be as far along as we are."

Additionally, J. Froccaro is coming off of an ACL surgery and having a break-out season. She has had over 100 draw controls this season, which is a statistic used to tally when a player controls the start, or restart, of play.

Finishing with 10 draw controls and three goals against Oceanside, she was able to show her ability and skill, despite the obstacles she has overcome.

"Her biggest strength is at center, taking the draw controls, which determine possession," said Coach Piraino. "Her height and skills allow her to dominate at her position, and she is capable of handling the ball under pressure, feeding, and shooting. Her three-year varsity experience and ability to create things off ball is an asset to the entire offense."

Commons, who has started at the varsity level since 8th grade, also scored three goals.

"Chrissy has been a starter since she was in 8th grade, and now, as a sophomore, she is playing like a true senior," said Coach Piraino. "She is versatile, plays both ends of the field, leads the team in assists, and is able to place the ball."

With the experienced offense, team unity, and defensive program, the Lady Vikings were able to control Oceanside and make history.

The team faced number one seeded Farmingdale in the Class A semifinal on May 25, which occurred after press time.



Hayley Kerr

**Freshman Brenna Betsch hunts for the ball on defense. This season, she worked her way into the starting lineup on defense and midfield.**