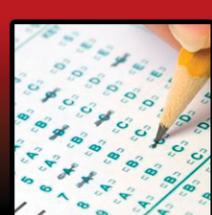


THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXI No. 2 October 2010



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Senior Tori Kaplan took this photograph at Astoria Park in Queens over the summer for her AP photography summer assignment. She captured this naturally occurring scene of a broken fence and sunflowers.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Comida, música, and baile are just three of the aspects of Hispanic culture that were represented at the Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Various school groups hosted the gala Hispanic culture and tradition on Oct. 15. This was made possible through the cooperation of the Foreign Language Honor Society, the ESL department, and the languages other than English department, chaired by Mr. John Placella.

"It's a great way to bring together the large Latino population we have here at Schreiber," said Mr. Placella. "I offered to sing but my offer was, unfortunately, turned down."

The two hour fiesta was held in the student commons during periods 4.1 and 4.2. The party featured a variety of Hispanic dishes and music, and a dance floor was open to students.

These students had the opportunity to give the school a taste of their native Hispanic backgrounds by preparing and sharing foods that represented their own ethnic heritages.

Although there were no formal qualifications needed to attend the celebration, organizers of the celebration encouraged only ESL students, Foreign Language Honor Society members,

foreign language department staff, and students enrolled in selected language classes to attend. These guidelines were largely due to space limitations.

The party had such a large turnout that students from several of the language classes were asked to leave because of overcrowding.

~Katie Garry

Outdoor Education Trip

As an extension of the orienteering unit, students in Outdoor Education classes traveled to the Sunken Meadow and Nissequogue River state parks. Students who went on the trip hiked five miles through terrain that included forest, river, and estuary habitats. The hike took place along the shore of the Long Island Sound and took about four hours.

Mr. James Fallon and Ms. Maria Giamanco's classes have learned the basics of navigation and hiking in past years, but this year marked the first time that an actual field trip was held to supplement the class.

"It was a fun and educational day all around and the kids seemed to have a great time," said Mr. Fallon. "We look forward to doing it again next year."

The Outdoor Education students

learned about the techniques, risks, and benefits of hiking in the weeks before the trip.

Students also prepared themselves for the trip by carrying backpacks over the hills behind Schreiber during their gym classes. Mr. Fallon and Ms. Giamanco also taught them how to use a compass. To test the students' compass skills, the teachers organized orienteering challenges around the gym.

Students used these skills throughout the trip. What to pack, what to wear in different areas and climates, and how to interact with peers when hiking were all important information that the students needed to know.

Students also had to apply their knowledge about various aspects of the natural environment such as plants, erosion, and flash floods. On this trip, there was also an emphasis on setting up camp and creating fire for extended excursions in a forest.

Mr. Fallon taught the students about Native Americans who had lived in the area and discussed how they were the original outdoor educators. Students also learned about surviving in the wild by building shelters and fires and prioritizing their needs in an emergency.

~Nisha Nanda

The Schreiber Times

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Gay Straight Alliance observes National Coming Out Day

In light of recent events, students raise awareness of problems facing LGBT teens

by **Hannah Fagen**
Assistant News Editor

In response to a recent uptick in the nation's suicide rate and several prominent issues facing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in the news, the Gay-Straight Alliance club took action. On Oct. 14, the GSA spent the 4.1-4.2 lunch period in the lobby voicing concerns about the safety of LGBT teenagers. One of the group's primary missions is to assert the right to a safe school environment for everyone.

"National Coming Out Day is a nationwide campaign that provides students and school staff an opportunity to come out in support of safe schools, to come out in support of LGBT rights, and to come out as supporters of LGBT students," said Ms. Julia Brandt, the faculty advisor of the GSA. "Some LGBT students use Coming Out Day as an opportunity to come out to their friends and/or family members as well."

Members of the GSA honored the day with free rainbow-colored ribbons. They also informed the student body of issues facing the LGBT community. Students were given the opportunity to show their support by signing a banner, which is now hanging on the wall in the lobby. LGBT social issues have recently been brought to international attention due to the rise in suicide rate among LGBT teens as a result

of sexuality-related bullying.

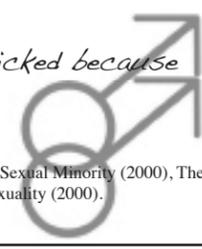
"Six people committed suicide in September because of bullying. Because of what has been going on in the news, people are opening their eyes to be more supportive of the LGBT community," said junior Kristin Malcheski, a member of the GSA.

The mass media has had extensive coverage of this recent string of suicides, including that of Tyler Clemente, a freshman at Rutgers University who jumped off of the George Washington Bridge after a video of his private interactions with a fellow male classmate was broadcasted on the Internet.

In a separate anti-gay incident on Oct. 3, about nine members of the Latin King Goonies gang kidnapped, brutally beat, and sexually abused two gay teenagers and a gay man in the Bronx. While universally denounced as a despicable hate crime, the beatings also increased concerns about the safety of openly gay people.

"Some LGBT students feel isolated because of their sexual orientation. Sometimes it affects their academics, sometimes their mental health, sometimes both," said Ms. Brandt. "A 2007 study conducted by GLSEN indicated that 86% of LGBT students reported being verbally, physically, or sexually harassed based on their sexual orientation and 91% of students reported hearing other students' negative comments based on sexual orientation."

Some statistics about LGBT teens

- Almost half of LGBT teens under age 18 have experienced violence.
- 17% of LGBT adults have reported a regular history of absenteeism at school due to homophobic harassment.
- 60% of LGB adults have reported being hit or kicked because of their sexuality.

Sources: The Stonewall Survey, Queer Bashing (1996), Social Exclusion: Absenteeism and Sexual Minority (2000), The Bullying of Sexual Minorities at School: Its Nature and Long-Term Correlations of their Sexuality (2000).

In the past month, there has been a public movement to spread messages of support to those in the LGBT community who are struggling with their identity and sexuality. Many celebrities publicized videos as part of the "It gets better" campaign and urged LGBT youth to value their lives. To further show their support, people nationwide, and at Schreiber, wore purple on Oct. 20 which was dubbed Anti-Gay Hate Crimes Spirit Day.

"The GSA is an anchor for some of the LGBT students and their allies who attend and have attended Schreiber over the years. It is a safe place where students can discuss issues that matter to them and where they can learn more about LGBT issues," said Ms. Brandt.

The GSA club, which meets every Tuesday, participates in and coordinates many events throughout the year. The GSA sets up tables in the main lobby on days of importance to their cause. The group also attends the annual Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth Conference at Hofstra University.

"A lot of people are gay, and they have

no one to talk about it to. GSA is a place where you can have fun and talk about stuff. A lot of people know what you're going through," said sophomore Shuvo Abedin.

The GSA dedicates time at its club meetings to discuss LGBT related issues in the media and in local events as well.

"National Coming Out Day is also a day for people who are supporting the GSA. I support people who are coming out, I support having gay friends, gay family members, and I just support in general," said Malcheski.

Days such as this focus attention on critical issues that LGBT youths and adults face on a daily basis.

"Many of us at Schreiber believe our school is different, perhaps more progressive than other schools in other parts of the country. I agree with this sentiment for the most part," said Ms. Brandt. "But as GSA advisor, and as a teacher in the building, I also know that students can be harassed and bullied, even in our district."

PRIDE IN PORT HIGHLIGHTS



Loren Giron



Loren Giron



Courtesy of Ms. Trish Burr

On Oct. 2, Pride in Port festivities occurred throughout Port Washington. Clockwise from top: Junior Shannon Balaban holds a doughnut on a string for senior Bridgette McDermott during a competition at the pep rally. Band students perform during the parade. Schreiber graduates are inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Inductees include Randy Beil, Barbara Belanich, Ashley Birch Matlow, Brian Birch, Joan Biscaro, Barry Milhaven and Jill Schreiber Kleinman.

Treehuggers accept new composter



Loren Giron

The Treehuggers Environmental Club accepted a new composter from the Town of North Hempstead on Oct. 18. The school already recycles in classrooms and has two compost bins in the courtyard. The new composter will help the school reduce its trash output by turning organic waste into fertile soil. The new composter is a rotatable drum; turning the drum increases airflow to the materials, and speeds up the compost process. Members of the club will continue to turn and fill the composter for the rest of the year.

Israeli soldiers visit school with Hope for Heroism

BY Max Kraus
Assistant News Editor

Riding in the back of an armored truck, not even Israeli soldier Guy Preiss could have predicted what would come next. In a matter of seconds, a roadside bomb exploded and his life changed forever.

With both legs amputated and other debilitating wounds, Preiss was hospitalized for months and his future looked dim. Yet instead of giving up, Preiss was determined to make the best of his life, no matter the obstacle. With intense therapy, Preiss learned to walk again.

Years later, he and six other soldiers, ages 19 to 33, are all working for a non-profit organization, Hope for Heroism, which gave them the opportunity to speak to students on Oct. 15 in the school library about their life at war and the goals of their charity.

"Learning about the lives of soldiers and how they live after they serve in the army was interesting," said senior K.C. Ozcayir. "I liked the fact that all the soldiers were upfront and honest with their injuries. I also liked that they met the American soldiers who served in Iraq."

The lecture was organized in a panel

discussion format where the soldiers presented their stories and videos and students were able to ask questions at the end of the presentation. Social studies department chair Mr. Bryan Frank invited students from select AP and research classes to come listen to the men speak.

By talking with and listening to the soldiers, students learned about what the veterans have experienced while fighting in Israel. Students could ask the visitors questions regarding the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and about their views on the possibility of peace in Israel. Many also used the opportunity to ask what it was like to be drafted into the army, since the Israel Defense Force has a mandatory enlistment for all Israeli citizens.

"I think this went exceptionally well. The lecture was an amazing experience and every one of the speakers was interesting," said senior Melissa Seltzer.

All of the soldiers who came to speak were injured during combat. They discussed how to cope and deal with the difficulties of overcoming injury and the immense changes involved while transitioning from the life of a soldier to one of a handicapped civilian.

"I learned that we must all appreciate life because most of these guys could have died and the majority of them live with

injuries," said Ozcayir. "The main speaker lost his legs but he was extremely happy with his life. I thought that was a very valuable lesson for everybody."

The main goal of the soldiers and the foundation as a whole is to aid wounded soldiers in the rehabilitation process. This includes both physical and mental rehabilitation. The process frequently involves adjusting to new and different situations in their personal lives and those of people close to them.

Working under the motto of "injured soldiers helping other injured soldiers," these men travel around the globe to make sure that other soldiers, from the Israeli army and those from other countries, know they are not alone. Soldiers representing Hope for Heroism meet with American veterans, injured and uninjured, who served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The most interesting part of the lecture was the connection between Israeli soldiers and American soldiers," said Seltzer. "It gave us a sense of the impact that being a soldier has on a person, especially because they all went to war at a young age. It was important to learn that these Israeli soldiers have created a very unique organization where they are able to come together to support one another to find a path towards healing."



Courtesy of Max Kraus

Soldiers discussed their stories of war, how they sustained their injuries and how their wounds affect their lives. At the end, students were able to ask the panel questions about current issues facing Israel and the Middle East.

One senior earns semifinalist status in Siemens competition

BY Matt Heiden
News Editor

Out of the senior participants from the school's math and science research programs in the annual Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology, only Jai Sajjani from science research was recognized as a semifinalist.

"I wasn't expecting it and was pleasantly surprised," said Sajjani. "I learned a lot about the professional research process, working in a university lab, and collaborating with others. Other friends who did well in the competition had quite interesting projects including the manipulation of hydrogels and stem cells."

To perform his research, Sajjani worked seven weeks over the summer as part of the Clark Scholars Summer Program in the Chemical Engineering Department of the Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

His project focused on various methods of separating out cells and other components of blood to leave only the plasma, the liquid part of blood, behind. He explored many possibilities and limitations of microfluidic devices that use the physical properties of blood to make this separation more efficient. He experimented with blood from cattle to look for more efficient separation methods.

The research that he conducted could potentially be used for the early diagnosis

of certain cancers. It could also help analyze DNA drawn from blood more efficiently.

The Siemens Foundation, along with other partners including the CollegeBoard, received 1,372 high school submissions and recognized 312 semifinalists in this year's competition. These semifinalists, and the additional 94 regional finalists who were announced, are from 36 states across the U.S. and the District of Columbia.

As Sajjani was not declared a regional finalist, he will not go on to compete in the six regional events across the country. These finalists have the opportunity to contend for a spot in the National Finals in Washington D.C., and the opportunity to receive the top prize of \$100,000 in scholarship money.

New gymnasium floods due to stormy conditions

BY Kristin Yu
Staff Assistant

A tempest earlier this month caused severe flooding in the newly-renovated gymnasium, forcing the physical education teachers and coaches to change their practice plans and schedules. Puddles of rainwater from the leaking roof pooled in the middle of the gym as surges of water poured in through the gap under the doors leading outside. Ms. Maria Giamanco discovered the flooding during her first period gym class while the students were running laps.

"By the time I noticed it, we were jogging and unfortunately one student fell," said Ms. Giamanco. "Fortunately, there were no injuries. It was a dangerous situation with that volume of water."

Senior Timothy Zhong directly experienced the gym flooding. Though Ms. Giamanco discovered water, Zhong continued to jog toward it and slipped, though he caught himself and was not injured.

The effects of the gym flooding were more expansive than this single accident since gym usage was compromised for the rest of the day.

"The gym flooding did not affect me that much, but it did scare me a bit," said senior Victoria Kaplan, a witness to Zhong's fall. "It could have been much more serious. Thankfully, it was not."

Due to the limited space allocated to physical education facilities and the succeeding week of heavy rain, the physical education teachers were forced to make last-minute changes to their classes.

"This time is very important because of the level of participation students have in gym class towards the end of each sports unit," said Ms. Giamanco. "It's the difference between the instructional time at the beginning of the unit and the practice time at the end of the unit, when students compete with each other."

Also, a facility used for extracurricular athletic programs was lost to the rainwater. The physical education department is looking into alternative practice facilities.

The issue of flooding in the gym inspired several different responses.

"I think that on days when it is raining, the gym floors should be surveyed by the gym teachers prior to gym class beginning," said Kaplan.

Another suggestion referred to the structure of the gym facilities themselves.

"It would be impractical to rebuild the entire staircase area, as that would cost too much money, but I think a sort of levee could be made to contain the water within that corner of the gym," said Zhong.

The administration is aware of this issue and has contacted building contractors and the Port Washington Buildings and Grounds Committee. Damaged or faulty areas of the gym floor were ripped up and replaced, especially in the north corner of the gym where heavy flooding occurred, as the physical education department acted upon the possibility that the construction issues caused the flood.

"Despite the disruptions this has caused to the physical education and athletic programs, everything is still up and running," said Ms. Giamanco.

Students publicize Pro-Life Day of Silence with fliers and pamphlets

Unauthorized efforts stir controversy about free expression of student opinions

by Sahil Doshi and Leah Nash

Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

Last week, a controversial topic sparked debates in the hallways and classrooms of Schreiber. Fliers advocating the "Pro-life Day of Silence Solidarity" appeared around the school in an attempt to promote a stand against abortion.

"I decided to hang these fliers around the school because only a handful of students knew it was the day of silence," said senior Pia Wyss. "I wish we thought about this more before, however, so announcements could have been made and more students could have taken part in it if they wanted to. Abortion is a very touchy subject to many people and it gets people thinking about their stance on the issue."

The fliers and pamphlets around the school each had a different set of statistics or a different reason to be pro-life. Some seniors hung the fliers Oct. 19, which is the nationally recognized day for pro-life activism. Some viewed the fliers as propaganda while others appreciated the political activism in which students took a part.

"It was surprising that a lot of people were so angry about these fliers. I knew a lot of people are pro-choice at our school, but I did not realize that this would create such a scene in some classes," said senior Dorothy Kim.

Thousands of students in 29 countries recognized the day. In Schreiber, seniors Mariapaz Araya, Ronnie Grant, and Julie McManus and other students were all involved through the Stand True Foundation (<http://www.standtrue.com>). Bryan Kemper, who started this foundation, influenced Wyss when she attended the Purple Door Musical Festival in Lewisberry, PA with her youth group.

"Kemper had a really strong message and wanted the word to be spread," said Wyss.

Although these fliers provoked

controversy, the administration had not approved them.

"Students are not supposed to bring things to school and disseminate them without any authorization," said Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald. "We are very careful about political opinions since if one view is represented, we have to also allow the other side as well."

The students who posted these fliers were unaware of such a regulation.

Although many students were in disagreement with this message, the posters prompted students to express their political ideologies.

"In one particular class, discussion of these fliers initiated a heated debate between pro-life and pro-choice supporters. In this perspective, I guess the students who posted the fliers received publicity for the goal they set out to accomplish," said Kim.

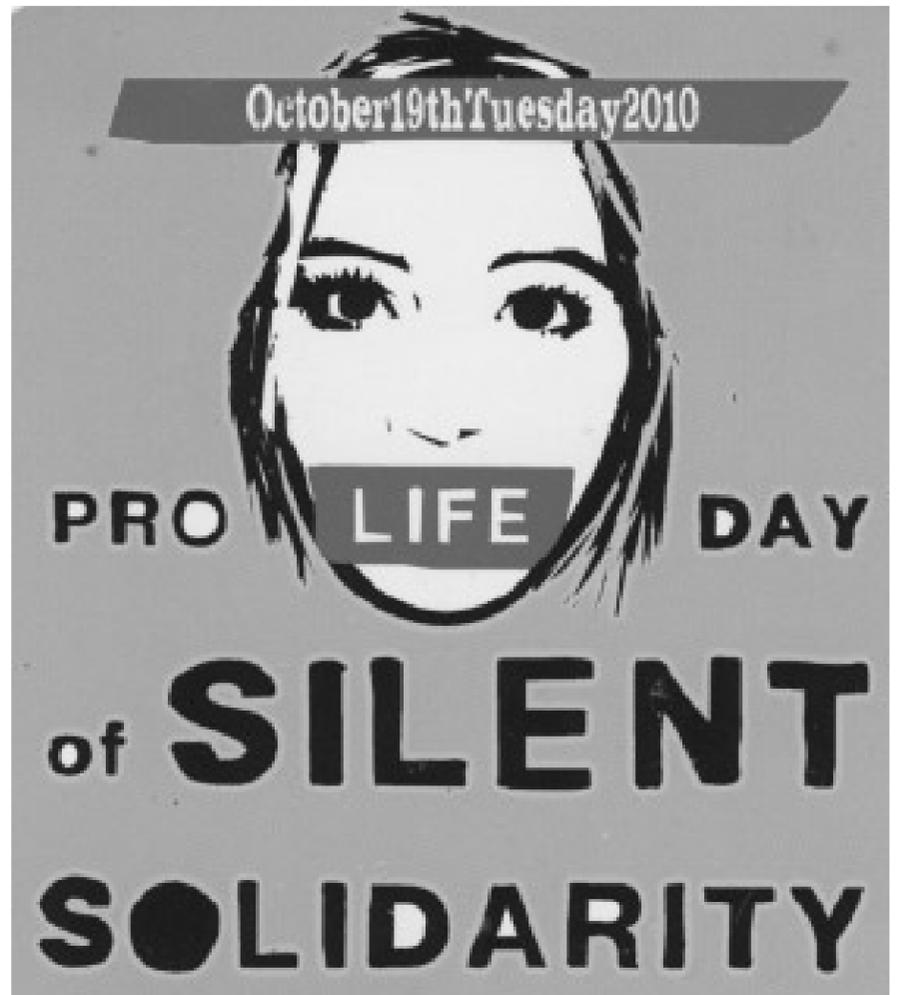
But many students were angered or offended by these pro-life posters.

"I think that it is outrageous that people are pushing their own political views on students. Not to mention that it is against school rules to put up these fliers without permission. Students should be able to make their own decisions on such personal matters," said senior Michael Graf.

"It is much easier for us to be less reactive to a pro-abortion sort of opinion. This got everyone's attention since it is not what most people are used to at Schreiber," said Dr. Fitzgerald.

After such an unexpected response, these students plan to do something else more extensive in the future that will involve a greater interaction with the student body.

"Honestly, I thought the Schreiber community would have ignored the fliers and I didn't notice anyone paying attention to me or the signs," said Wyss. "All day I personally heard only one person say something about the signs on the walls, but I brushed it off. I didn't realize how big of a deal this became,



A group of seniors involved with the Stand True Foundation hung fliers such as this throughout the school to spark debate over the ethics of abortion, but their unauthorized actions revealed the range of views among students.

but I'm beyond thrilled that it happened. People have told me that their classes had debates over abortion which is the whole

point of the day, to get the word out and talked about."

Students attend Poetry Festival

by Emily Sanders

Staff Writer

In many English classes, the poetry unit can be the hardest of the year. Poetry requires a finessed and exact knowledge of literary techniques and vocabulary that many students find difficult to achieve.

This, however, is not true for the 23 select sophomores and juniors who attended the Dodge Poetry Festival, a biennial event featuring readings and performances.

"It was really intimate and personal, which allowed for a really profound connection with the poetry," said junior Jesse Weil.

The students were invited to attend the festival based on recommendations from their previous English teachers. This year, the festival took place from Oct. 7 through Oct. 10, in Newark, New Jersey, and Schreiber was one of over two hundred schools that was represented at the festival.

English teacher Ms. Evelina Zarkh led the planning, along with Ms. Sara Brock, Dr. Mark Graham, and parent Ms. Catherine Bellon.

The festival lasted three days, and one was set aside for high school students. On this day, thousands of students attended the event, creating a crowded but enthusiastic atmosphere.

The coordinators provided many

opportunities for students to listen to and discuss poetry. The students were allowed to choose which events they attended.

The students invited were given the opportunity to discuss the poems that were read, further immersing them into the creation and thought process involved in creating a poetic work.

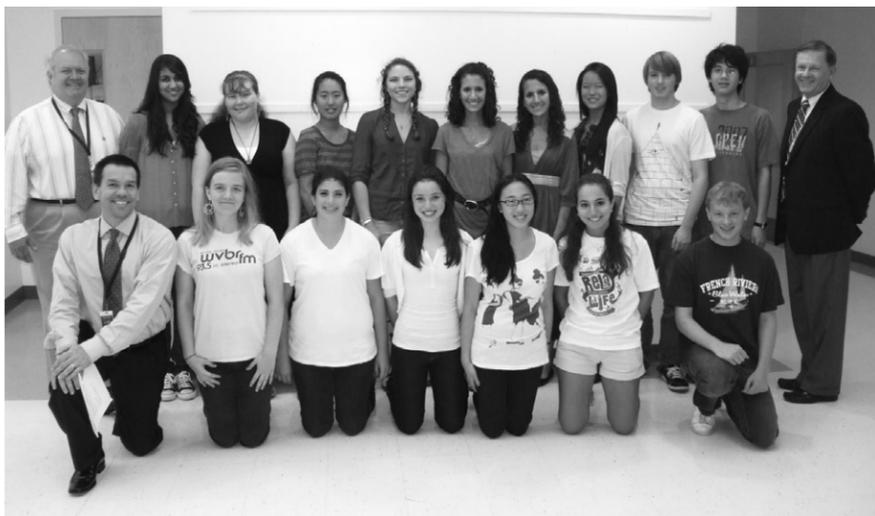
"I went to two readings and one talk. The poet who ran the talk opened the floor to any questions. I tended to agree with his theories on poetry. To me, it's always magical to hear a poet talk about his or her craft," said junior Jessica Boyd.

Among the festival's notable attendees were former United States Poet Laureate Billy Collins and twin brothers Matthew and Michael Dickman. Although there were many professional poets and writers in attendance, student poets spoke at the festival as well.

"The student readings that several of us opted to attend were unequivocally my favorite part of the trip. It was such a great opportunity to hear poetry of fellow students, because we could really relate and sympathize with what they wrote about," said Weil. "It was an absolutely incredible and unique experience."

The festival coordinators planned to be more eco-conscious this year by encouraging green policies such as recycling. Booths were set up around the facility showcasing proper recycling and composting techniques.

16 students are Commended National Merit Scholars



Courtesy of Ms. Ruth Smith

The CollegeBoard recently named 16 students Commended National Merit Scholars based on their PSAT scores from last fall. Top from left: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon, Aditi Shroff, Annabelle May, SonYon Song, Laura Werle, Blake Mergler, Reid Mergler, Yeon Joo Lee, Matthew Small, York Kitajima, Interim Principal Dr. Francis Banta. Bottom from left: Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald, Sara Lyons, Alison Ehrlich, Sarah Paul, Dorothy Kim, Samantha Palmer and Evan Rosone. Not pictured: Jaehoon Yoo

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Point Counterpoint

Should teachers create new tests for absent students?

BY **Ryan Havens**

Staff Writer

No year at Schreiber would be complete without multiple tests, quizzes, and the occasional quest. Every student in the building knows how burdensome studying for various tests can be. Some weeks we get reprieves, and others we have tests every day. Most of the time, there is nothing a student needs to worry about other than having a decent understanding of the lesson plan.

However, it is almost inevitable that sometime during the year an unfortunate sickness, death in the family, or emotional trauma will screw up your precisely scheduled test routine. It becomes very possible that a student will miss a test because of these unforeseen circumstances and will have to arrange with the teacher some way to make the test up at a later time.

Teachers should create a different make-up test for these students who miss the scheduled examination. This is the only guaranteed way to prevent cheating, and this should not present much of a burden to the teacher.

For example, a classmate will stay home from school on a Friday because the student has a bit of a sore throat or some other trivial illness. This student ends up missing a chemistry test and emails the teacher to let him or her know that he or she will make the test up on Monday.

However, some minor health irritation won't prevent this student from hanging out with friends on the weekend the way it prevented him or her from taking the test. The test that the student hasn't taken yet may come up in casual conversation. Can you envision how this conversation might go?

"How was the test?"

"Pretty hard. Question 22 asked about the periodic table, and I had no idea what the answer was."

"Oh, Jane was texting me about that too. She said it was D."

"Yeah. The long answer questions were hard. I'll tell you about them."

"Thanks!"

Okay, I am the first to admit that no conversation of this sort could ever possibly happen in Schreiber's atmosphere. For instance, not a single "like" is uttered.

However, minor details aside, this is the major topic that the sick student would want to discuss. This amounts to cheating, with the mildly ill student gaining an unfair advantage.

Students who are unable to attend the originally scheduled test should under no circumstances be given an advantage. If anything, students who make the examination should be rewarded.

"Any form of make-up test should be a scrambled form of the test, or have parallel questions to the original test," said chemistry teacher Ms. Joy Grasso-Krebs.

In other words, the two tests should have very similar questions. It would be unfair to penalize students for illness, family crisis, or other unpredictable events. Students should be given the opportunity to do their best, but at the same time, there should be a level of fairness that is consistent between those who take the test on the scheduled day and those who do not.

In addition to preventing cheating, the idea of unique make-up tests creates a situation where it does not matter if the student makes the test up the next day or the next week. The rest of the class would not have to wait for the absent student to make up his or her test in order to receive their tests.

We all know how anxious students can get about grades after a test. Their wait should not be prolonged because of just one student in the class. Since the tests would be different, the option of cheating is once again diminished. This would prove to be fair for both students who were absent and those who attended class.

Many students agree that even if they happened to be absent for a test, they would prefer to take a make-up test rather than receive an automatic zero.

High school is full of all different kinds of exams. Teachers should have to create a make-up test for those students who were unfortunate enough to be unable to take it on the original date. In order to keep everything fair and just, the new test should be similar to the original test.

Having separate tests for students who were able to take the test and for those who had to miss it resolves any uneasy issues and creates an even playing field for all students.

BY **Brendan Weintraub**

Staff Writer

Although it sounds simple, creating make-up tests for students who miss the original test involves many complications. Questions are hard enough to make in the first place, and expecting teachers to come up with double the amount of questions is unrealistic and unfair.

So, if a student misses a test, teachers should just give him or her the same test the rest of the class took. Students should maintain honesty and not cheat in such situations. This insures that all students have an equal assessment.

Here at Schreiber, the Code of Conduct is an expectation for all students. This code distinguishes between conduct that is responsible and honorable and conduct that is condemned and unacceptable. Basically, it sets a standard of guidelines for students to follow. Among many social and academic ideals, that of not cheating arguably plays the most important role.

"Why should teachers go through the unnecessary trouble of making a new test when students can just not cheat?" said junior Isha Gupta.

If students simply complied with the Code of Conduct, there would be no

need for teachers to create different make up tests.

Students who go out of their way to cheat are only punishing themselves. If they are so desperate to squeeze any amount of information from the students who already took the test, they should really reconsider their position in the class.

Although it goes unsaid, and most of the time unnoticed, teachers have very busy schedules. On top of grading tests, quizzes, and essays, they also have to create engaging lesson plans for the class, meet with students who need extra help, and cater to their own personal lives outside of the school. It would be unfair to throw more work onto the already demanding schedules of high school teachers. The obligation to create a separate test for one or two students generates an unnecessary and unrealistic addition to a teacher's workload.

There are many issues with the idea of just making a separate test. If more than one student needs to make up the test, all the absent students would have to take it at the same time to prevent cheating. Realistically, this is difficult and basically impossible due to varying schedules of students.

Also, making a different test of the same quality would be extremely complicated for the teacher. How would the teacher ensure that the tests are truly of equal difficulty? Trying to avoid creating a make-up test that is either much harder or much easier is an inevitable problem for a teacher. Creating a test that is consistent to the test taken in class is both demanding and unrealistic.

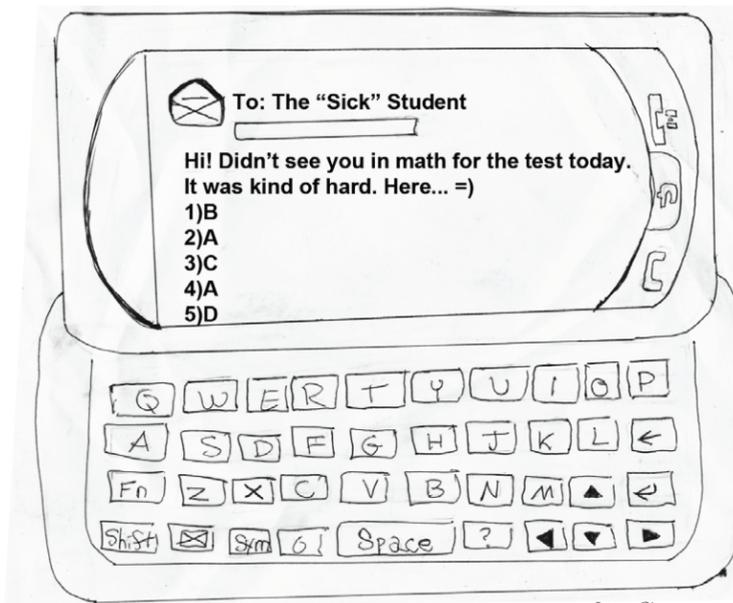
To avoid the need for a different make-up test, students and teachers can take many initiatives. Students should all follow the Code of Conduct and adhere strictly to a non-cheating policy. Students who know they will be missing a test can take the test right before the class takes it.

A more realistic alternative would be to have teachers just switch around the order of the questions. This at least prevents students from memorizing the multiple choice answers. Teachers would not have to make up

new tests; it would just be a matter of rearranging an already existing test.

Together, teachers and students can prevent the need for separate tests for those who miss the original one given in class. By following the Code of Conduct and scheduling make up times to take the test, students can help minimize cheating.

To expect teachers to make a different test for absent students is both ridiculous and flawed. Teachers would be hard pressed to make tests fair enough for both those in the class and those making it up. It would be best for teachers not to make separate tests at all.



Loren Giron

Schreiber Speaks

"Teachers should make up different tests, because people miss tests on purpose if they are having trouble with the subject and assume that they can get their friends to give them all the answers."

-Jason Hubsher, senior

"I do not think a different version of the test should be made up. Each student should be given the same test regardless of when it was taken. There can never be a way to ensure that the alternate versions are of equal difficulty which can lead to the problem of fairness."

-Alex Bricault, senior

A futuristic vision for morning announcements

BY Daniel Bialer
Staff Writer

Relying solely on our sense of hearing is no longer a legitimate option for the morning announcements. To share news more effectively with the staff and student body, the school should convert to a television system.

If you have ever listened to the morning announcements, you may have noticed the lack of focus and a noise level that generally overwhelms the announcements. It has become clear that students value socializing with friends more than they value listening to our informative announcements.

For students who are actually interested in listening to the announcements, the loud chatter of the other students prevents any chance of hearing what the morning crew has to say. A student can easily miss club meetings, drama club productions, sports events, and other important happenings.

"It would be easier to get the announcements out because people would pay more attention to a television program" said senior Annabelle May, one of the current school announcers. "It would also probably be easier for people to hear the announcements too."

A few years ago, the school changed the announcements from the end of first period to the start of second period in the hope that students would focus on the announcements instead of rushing

to get to their next class. Some students have also taken an active role in making the announcements easier to concentrate on. Programs like "PM in the AM" and "Double A in the Morning" have tried to gain student enthusiasm with features like the joke of the day and the vocabulary word for each day in the cycle. Despite these efforts, however, many students still do not appreciate or pay attention to the morning announcements.

For some, the issue of noise level is not the only problem with the

announcements. Some students are visual learners and have difficulty absorbing auditory information. Teachers are able to solve this problem by using a white board to teach, but for hearing the announcements, the problem has still not been addressed on the school-wide level.

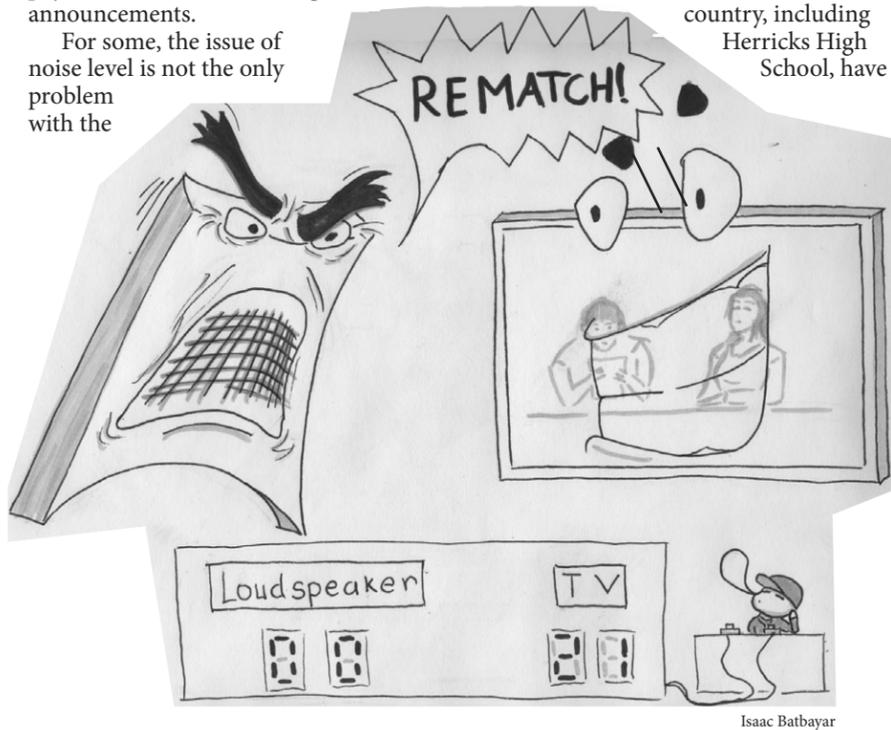
Introducing television news shows is not a new idea among schools. Other schools across the country, including Herricks High School, have

converted to these shows as a means to communicate the morning announcements. Some schools have broadcast television shows to their classrooms for years, so the technology should not be a problem.

There are some areas in the school that do not have televisions, like the gym or library, which may pose a problem for this system; however, televisions could easily be installed in these places. If, for whatever reason, they cannot be installed, the announcements could still be played over the speakers for those who do not have access to a television at the moment. The television program could be made so that, whether you are seeing, hearing, or both, it is easy to understand.

The television program would allow the announcement crew to better explain events to the students by using images, as well as words. The possibilities for this program are endless. When advertising a drama club show, a lead actor, in costume could be broadcast to the classrooms. For school club meetings, the newscasters could hold up signs with pictures to explain the events for that week.

Although the switch would be costly, it would greatly benefit communication within the school. If the idea is not feasible now, perhaps the system can be implemented in the future when there is extra money in the budget. Even if this method is not put to use for a few years, it is definitely something to consider for improved technological programming.



Isaac Batbayar

Put the all nighter to bed

BY Sophia Jaffe
Opinions Editor

Let's be honest. How many of us actually get eight and a half hours of sleep a night? All too often we find ourselves overloaded by after school activities, and we struggle to find time to even start our homework. Sometimes, students have to face the unfortunate realities of the infamous all nighter.

We have to question: is it more important to trudge through an all nighter or is it more important to put the books aside and get some sleep? Sometimes we lose sight of what's really crucial to functioning through our day to day lives.

"No student should ever put himself or herself through an all nighter," said junior Ava Selbach. "They are doing themselves more harm than good, and they need to remember how important sleep is."

If you have a test that you want to study all night for, please think twice. When you stay up all night, you are wearing out your body and depriving it of the sleep that it so desperately needs.

Also, if you do not get good sleep after you learn new information, you will not absorb it effectively into your brain. Therefore, all of the studying that you did will be useless.

During the assessment, you will be too tired to actually remember the facts that you endlessly tried to force into your sleep-deprived brain in the late hours of the previous night.

Although it is not easy, sometimes students have to realize that they will not be able to complete all of their homework for the evening. They must

prioritize what assignments need to be done, and there is a point when students must accept that they need to get into bed and go to sleep.

By no means am I advocating for students to not do half of their homework every night, but every once in a blue moon, it is likely that students will have to make sacrifices.

In these cases, we have to acknowledge that we did not prioritize our time efficiently, and we must learn from these experience to minimize the chances of it happening again. Sometimes, we just have to go to sleep and accept the punishment for not completing our assignments.

To avoid ever having to make this rough decision, there are many precautions and responsibilities that a student can take. Although easier said than done, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to stay on top of all of your homework.

Whether it means making a weekly schedule for yourself or using your agenda every day, just don't let your homework load overload you. If you have a U.S. History paper or English project due next week, at least start it today. This will make it much easier to finish it on time or even early.

Don't get me wrong, I am guilty of not getting enough sleep from time to time, but it's important to realize when it's more important to sacrifice work than sacrifice sleep.

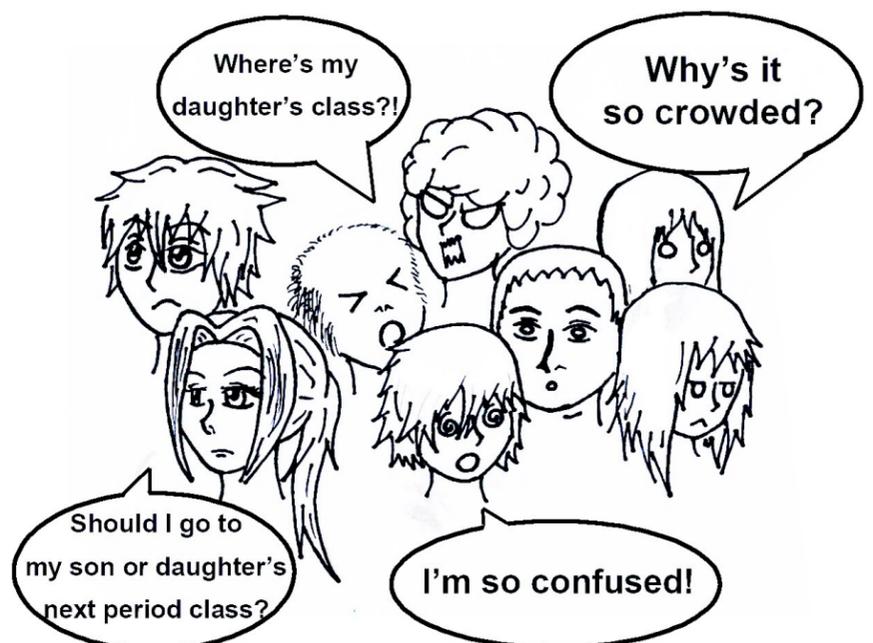
Even though you probably hear these words all the time from your parents, now you are hearing them from a peer who is equally as guilty: go to bed.

Parents' Perspectives on Open House Night

"It was stressful because you had to run to get to classes and teachers are always rushing to finish within the time period. But, it was helpful this year having students in all the corners to give directions and the music was great." - Nancy Gurewitz, mother of senior Jason Gurewitz.

"Attending my first Schreiber Open House, I was very impressed with the teachers. It was so nice to meet them. Open House was a lively atmosphere with a good community feeling." - Xadia Schaub, mother of freshman Rebecca Schaub

"The program was informative and I have a great appreciation for this year's curriculum. However, the weather was atrocious, and that made parking even more difficult than it usually is." - Paul Fishbin, father of junior Amanda Fishbin



Loren Giron

Tearing up to get the grade up?

BY Sahil Doshi and Leah Nash

Editor-In-Chief and Managing Editor

All too often students are dissatisfied with the grades they receive. While some channel their disappointment into motivation to improve in the future, many others feel the need to seek immediate grade improvement.

When it comes to this type of situation, there are two types of students: those who remain composed and those who begin to get emotional. Usually this transforms into tears and sobs. Unintentionally, teachers begin to sympathize and give in to these students since it is natural to try to comfort someone who is upset. Yet, teachers should not grade these overemotional students easier than the rest of the students.

"I have seen a lot of students who are really upset, or are crying, given a second shot or extra credit by their teachers. But, if they do not seem that upset, the teacher does not really do anything and just reassures the student to do well the next time," said sophomore Ellie Zolotarev.

Do not get us wrong – receiving a bad grade on a test can be very disappointing and upsetting. That one grade may make a difference for your quarter grade and that one test can, in the moment, feel like the end of the world. Yet, part of high school is to deal with setbacks and to learn from them and move forward. By crying and complaining to the teacher, sure your grades might improve, but what are you going to do in the real world? No tears will be accepted there.

However, students do cry in school over grades and other pressures, and this will most likely continue. While students do not cry intentionally,

teachers may feel compelled to comfort the student and offer them a chance for improvement.

Would this really be fair? Sure, at times these students deserve the points back, but many times it's simply an act of kindness on behalf of the teachers. While this may be great for those students, what about all the others who do not get as emotional about their test scores? Surely, they too want the points back, and deserve them just as much as the others. But, more often than not, they may be turned away by teachers.

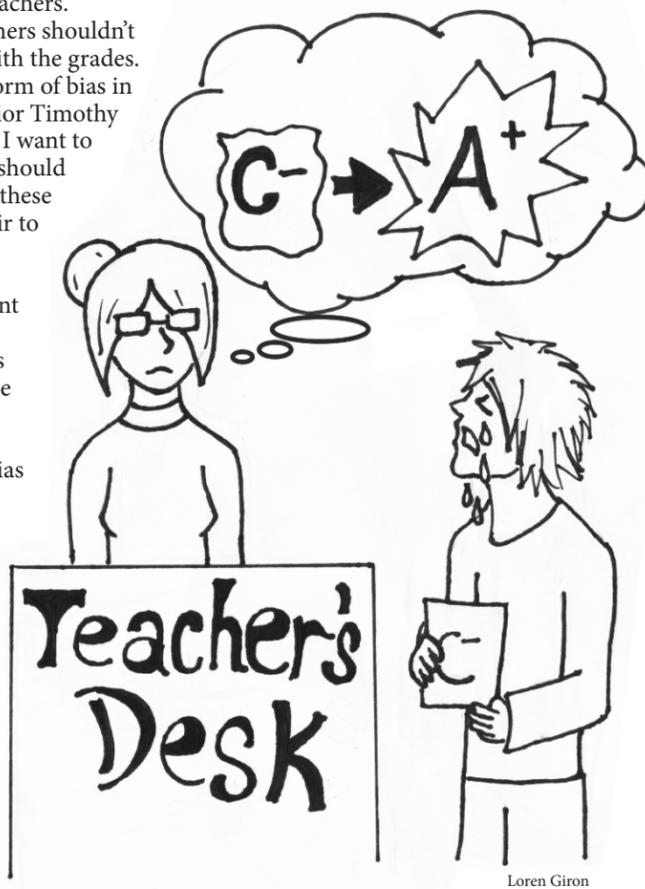
"I think that teachers shouldn't really do anything with the grades. Pity is just another form of bias in our school," said senior Timothy Zhong. "As much as I want to say yes, the teachers should give better grades to these students, it is only fair to say no."

We believe that neither type of student should be treated differently; while this is eventually up to the individual teachers and hard to enforce, there should be no bias involved. Emotional students and unemotional students should be on the same field when it comes to test scores and the teacher's interactions with the student.

Any other attitude will give students the false impression that crying, and

other such actions, will help them win over the pity of other teachers, and even employers in the future. However, as many of us know, this is not the case. Rather than being unrealistic, teachers should set the right example for students so that they will be prepared for the real world.

After all, it's only one grade, and there will be many chances to improve in the future.



Loren Giron

Grade notification systems benefit all

BY Blake Mergler

Senior Opinions Editor

The end of the first quarter celebrates students' communal survival of the beginning of school and brings the hoorays of the first report card, or so we hope. Yes, in about a week, for those of you who do not know, your first quarter grades will be cemented onto your report card—there to mark your successes (or failures) of the first ten weeks.

Teachers are responsible for these evaluations after we had the responsibilities of taking tests, writing essays, and doing any other quarterly work. If some of you are sitting there realizing that you do not have the slightest idea of what your class grades are going to be, then you might be in trouble.

To relieve some of our anxiety and stress, some teachers have systems that they use to continuously notify students of their grades. Usually, this is done through different websites. Teachers use websites such as Engrade and Turnitin to help students keep better track of their grades and quarterly averages.

By knowing exactly what our grades are as the end of the quarter approaches, we are able to be calmer if our grades are high or worried if our grades are low. However, if one is worried or stressed about his or her low grades in a class, any type of notification is extremely help-

ful and in some cases, needed. It will hopefully encourage students to allot more concentration to the subjects in the final few weeks in an effort to raise their grades.

The benefits of Engrade or any other notification system are tremendous for the students as well as for the teachers. Teachers too are scrambling and worrying at the end of a quarter; they are not frantic about performing well on assessments, but rather, about getting the grades into the administration by the deadline. By continuously updating students' grades throughout the quarter, teachers are, in effect, ridding themselves of the stresses of calculating grades in the last few days before the due date and are as on top of their workloads as possible.

This being said, the positive aspects of having grades posted online are probably the most crucial for first quarter grades. During first quarter, when students are just getting used to certain teachers' grading behaviors, such as rounding a 84.5 to be a B+ or adding a participation grade, grades online are salutary to avoid confusion and the occasional "what?" when someone sees his or her first quarter grades. Although students should be on top of the grading policies of each teacher, they are often confused since policies vary.

Additionally, since first quarter is the quarter of adjustment to a new year and grades are sometimes lower than

expected, to be continually notified of grades is extremely important to stay on top of progress.

Some teachers may argue that they are not technologically savvy enough to use Engrade and other website grade posting devices. Although this may be true, there are other ways to notify students of their quarterly grades before the quarter ends, such as showing them their grade book one by one in class or in a progress report.

Another advantage of this system is that students are given the chance to talk to their teachers about a grade before it appears on the report card. Whether it is on paper or electronically, being aware of grades before the quarter ends will give students a good heads up. Because students can discuss contested grades before they are submitted to the guidance office, any subsequent grade changes would be easier to make.

When report cards are sent home in the upcoming weeks, not every student will be aware of the grades that he or she is going to see, which could lead to happiness or disappointment. While in the best of all possible worlds, students would be responsible to keep track of grades, this is not the case at Schreiber. Teachers could help relieve this issue by doing something that will help their students as well as aid themselves in the grading process.

Gym dress code: strict for a reason

BY Heidi Shin

Contributing Writer

We should be grateful that we have a basically non-existent dress code in Schreiber. However, justifiably, the same leniency does not apply to our gym dress code. Fashion should not be one's first consideration when choosing gym clothes. Comfort, hygiene, and safety are much more important aspects in a gym class wardrobe.

In comparison, the gym dress policy is strict, but it is enforced for the student's well-being. Tank tops and short-shorts are often borderline inappropriate and students should not wear revealing clothing that can make other students feel uncomfortable.

"It's not that it's strict, it's appropriate," said physical education teacher Ms. Maria Giamanco. "Stating that the gym dress code is strict is indicating that there's judgment."

In addition, students can easily be distracted by their own attire. Students may fidget with their tank tops and shorts when doing exercises, such as the pull-ups or the circuit in the fitness room.

So, what are the "wears" and "wear-nots" for gym? If you did not already know, students are permitted to wear garments such as t-shirts, gym shorts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, and sneakers with laces. Jewelry, tank tops, short shorts, cargo pants, denim, and shoes without laces are all signals of a "fashion no-no" in Phys. Ed.

"Appropriate as well as safe athletic attire consists of clothes that have no buttons, no dangling strings, no big pockets, no denim, no tank tops, and no slip-on shoes," said Ms. Giamanco.

Physical education, unsurprisingly, involves physical, active movement. Therefore, dress with discretion. Students should be more responsible and careful about what they wear to gym.

"Compared to clothing worn throughout a regular school day, gym clothes should be simpler, such as a t-shirt with reasonably lengthened shorts and if it gets chilly, sweatshirts and sweatpants are suggested. Expectation is to perspire," said Ms. Giamanco.

"Soffe shorts, which many girls wear, are easy to roll up and can be transformed into short shorts. PE teachers let that slide which allows the dress policy to be more flexible, in our case. But, if you wear more comfortable and covering clothes in gym, you feel more at ease to take, for instance, a flying soccer ball," said sophomore Ellie Zolotarev.

Not only is it more suitable to wear appropriate clothes in gym, but it is also important that students change out of them after their gym period has ended; there should be no complaints about having to rush to change into or out of gym clothes.

Enough time is available for students to change, and if you are late, gym teachers are usually willing to hand out late passes.

The next time you hear a friend complaining about having to change for gym, keep in mind that the dress code is in effect in order to produce a safe and comfortable gym class atmosphere.

Editorials

Handouts policy should be obeyed

The school community has long been a politically active and engaging group. From debates in social studies classes to discussions over lunch, students often take part in political discourse. However, as highlighted by a recent event involving students handing out controversial fliers, these discussions cannot extend past the casual.

As some students may not know, the Schreiber administration has a staunch policy of oversight when it comes to any literature being posted or handed out in the school. *The Schreiber Times* would like to commend the administration for this policy.

Such measures on the part of the administration prevent not only possibly offensive topics from being brought into a stark spotlight; they ensure that anything posted is true and factually accurate. While the recent incident may or may not reflect this aspect of the policy, it is still important to realize that not everything we read is true.

By reviewing all fliers and posters, the administration can make sure that students are only exposed to material that is fact-based. Then, students can base their opinions on facts and not fiction. Although this is a laudable policy, it obviously needs to be more publicized.

While this is the first notable event that called the policy into effect, the administration should make sure to prevent another by making sure that all students know about it. Even something as simple

as some fliers posted on prominent boards throughout the school telling students to come to the administration if they have anything to hang up or hand out would be effective.

Even though the students responsible for handing out fliers violated school policy, *The Schreiber Times* is primarily commenting on the policy aspect of this incident. We commend the students for taking an initiative to get students involved and aware of such a controversial issue.

The policy of administrator oversight should be made common knowledge throughout the school community to ensure that students are only presented with factual, reviewed literature. This way, the productive and educational casual discussions of students will be based on fact and can continue to be a priceless part of our school's culture.

Stay safe on the spooky Sunday

With Halloween just around the corner, Schreiber students are surely thinking about their plans for the spooky holiday. Landing on a Sunday this year, Halloween presents students with many options for how to celebrate.

For many, Halloween is about the costumes. It can be exciting to be someone or something completely different for just one day, and many people choose to coordinate outfits with friends. *The Schreiber Times* would like to remind you to keep your in-school outfits appropriate and to consider the weather when select-

ing a costume.

Although some high school students feel too old to trick-or-treat from door to door, it can still be an entertaining activity to do with your friends and an easy way to get candy. This year, also consider trick-or-treating for a charity, such as Unicef. You can get cardboard coin boxes from Ms. Janine Kalinowski, who will be passing collections on to the charity.

When trick-or-treating, beware of any suspicious behavior on this night. Halloween is an easy day for predators to target children and teens because they are literally coming to them. After all, Halloween is the scariest of all holidays, but that doesn't mean it has to be dangerous. Think back to those elementary school days with Officer Tony, and practice "stranger danger" awareness.

If trick-or-treating is not your thing, you may want to consider going to a

haunted house, watching a scary movie, or attending a Halloween party. However, whatever your choice of celebration, *The Schreiber Times* urges you to not to partake in any illegal activities. Vandalizing houses or drinking at parties is no way to commemorate this joyous holiday. Keep any dangerous activities to a minimum, while keeping the holiday spirit to a maximum.

The Schreiber Times would like to wish the Schreiber community a happy and safe Halloween, with lots of fun, friends, and candy.

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on Nov. 4. All new writers are welcome!

Michael Yedid, always offering a smile, will be missed by all



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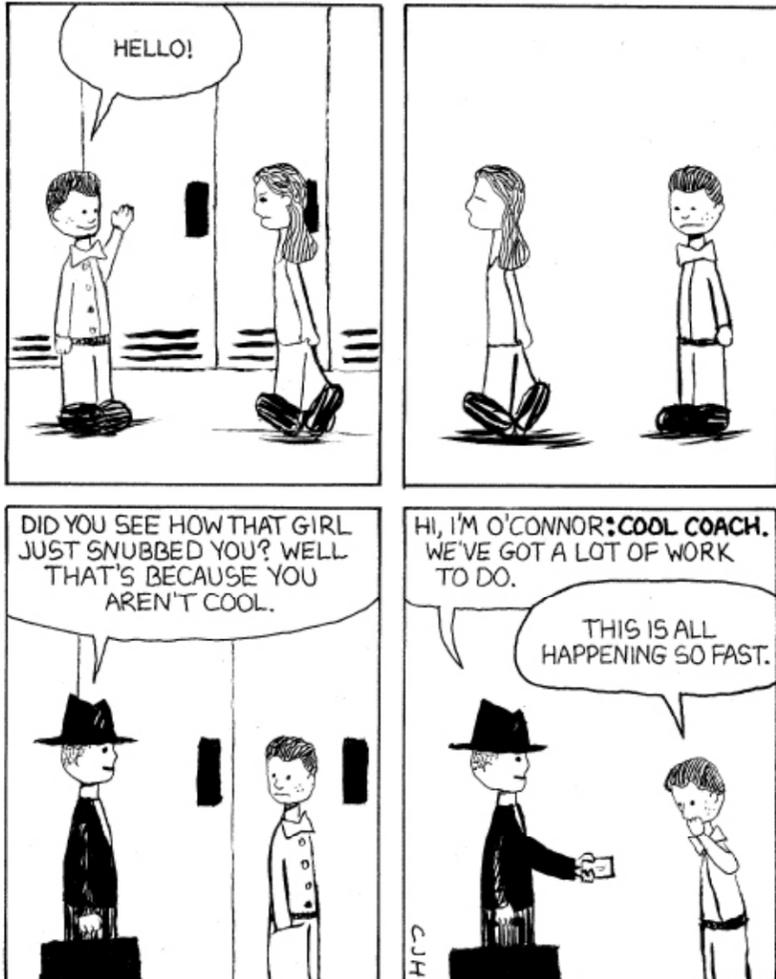
The Schreiber Times would like to express its condolences and support for the Yedid family on the death of their loved one, Michael Yedid. Michael, a former student at Schreiber High School, passed away on Oct. 18, 2010. He was 20 years old.

"Whenever I saw Mike, he would always have a huge smile on his face and was always striking up a conversation," said senior Sela Grabiner, a friend of the family. "He was such a great guy and we will all miss him."

At the funeral on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010, his family spoke of Michael's many positive characteristics, including his fun personality and kind heart. He will be sorely missed by his friends and family in the Port Washington community.

His parents, Elyse and Robert, and three brothers, Alan ('06), David ('10) and junior Jake, have established "The Michael Yedid Memorial Fund" in his memory to support prevention and treatment of substance abuse issues. To make a donation, checks can be mailed to Chase Manhattan Bank, 115 Main Street, Port Washington, NY, 11050, Attention: Dara or Rose.

The Hart Knock Life



Times Policy Statement

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

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

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

We will print letters to the editors if judged to be of sufficient quality and importance on a space-available basis. We will not print letters that are obscene, libelous,

or contain unfounded charges. The Times reserves the right to shorten letters if doing so does not alter their meaning, and to choose a representative letter from a group of related ones. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors. We will not print any anonymous letters.

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

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

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

Popcorn no longer popping in Soundview Marketplace

Closing of cinema adds to number of vacant buildings around town

BY **Katya Barrett**

Features Editor

Due to high rents around town, vacant spaces have been unable to find new tenants, and familiar institutions have been forced to close down. One of the most noticeable closings is that of the Clearview Cinemas in the Soundview Marketplace.

"I think it's very sad that the cinema has closed," said senior Andy Lieberman. "For as long as I can remember, it has been an important feature of Port Washington, and it's definitely weird that it's not there anymore."

A disagreement about rent renewal between the landlord and the cinema led to the closure of the theater. Because an agreement could not be reached, the cinema showed its last movie, *Going the Distance*, on Sept. 26.

While many residents were sad to say goodbye to the old movie theater, they are now more concerned with the issue of overcrowding at the Clearview Cinemas on Main Street. Because of Clearview Cinema's extremely popular "Free Movie Tuesdays," people are worried about having only one theater. Movies will sell out faster and there will be more competition for parking.

"The theater is going to be ridiculously crowded," said senior Tommy Doyle. "Especially on Tuesday nights and during the weekends, the traffic on Main Street is going to become much worse. Having only one movie theater is clearly not an ideal situation for anyone."

The two Port Washington movie theaters were popular not only with town residents, but also with people from neighboring areas. Because of the number of screens that the two theaters had to offer, it was usually possible to find a wide variety of movies being offered at any time. Even non-residents displayed dismay at the closing of the Soundview theater.

"I always come to Port Washington on Tuesday nights because there is not a Clearview Cinemas near my house, and I love the opportunity to see a free movie,"



Harry Paul

The Clearview Cinemas board in Soundview Marketplace, which once provided movie titles, now displays notice of the theater's closure.

said Rockville Center resident Ms. Joy Hanson. "I was so disappointed when I found out that Soundview Cinemas had closed—it was just such a surprise. It was a nice theater, with many screens and very good parking. I've only been to the Main Street theater a few times, but the parking is definitely not as good up here."

The closing of the theater was felt

not only by patrons of the increasingly crowded Main Street theater, but also by the remaining businesses in the Soundview Marketplace.

"There has definitely been a noticeable decrease in business," said Bellissimo Pizzeria owner Mr. Matt Cam. "Tuesday nights, because of the free movies that Clearview Cinemas offers Cablevision

customers, used to be one of our busiest times of the week, but now there is just no one around."

The atmosphere of the Soundview Marketplace is much more subdued now without the many people that were drawn to the theater, especially during the weekends.

"It was the place that really attracted people, from couples to kids to families, into the shopping center," said Carvel owner Mr. Kevin Liu. "There is just no foot traffic here anymore, particularly in contrast to what it used to be like on Friday and Saturday nights."

While the movie theater is probably the most missed by members of the community, it is not the only vacancy in the Soundview Marketplace. The Little Gym, a draw for families with young children, relocated to Greenvale this fall. The spaces that used to feature Blockbuster, Mace's Closeout City, and a Hallmark Gold Crown Store have been empty for years.

"It seems like every year there are more and more empty spaces in the Soundview shopping center," said junior Meghan Ferris. "Now that there's no movie theater anymore, I feel like there are going to be fewer people, especially teenagers, going there."

Other vacancies that students may have noticed include those in the shopping center on Port Washington Boulevard, which was updated and refurbished during the summer months. Because of its proximity to the high school and middle school, many would assume that businesses would flourish in this shopping center. However, while it contains popular stores such as Rite Aid and Saint Honore Bakery, there are currently more than five empty spaces on the strip. The developer of the shopping center declined to comment regarding the plan to fill these vacancies.

"It would be great if more stores moved into those spaces," said junior Genevieve Bellon. "It's kind of depressing to walk past because there are so many empty spaces even though it was just redone this summer. There are a lot of different types of stores that I think would do well in that space because students would really appreciate how near it is to school."

Research materials or art supplies: what do students pay for?

BY **Kaia DeBruin**

Staff Assistant

The school's budget is often a source of conflict, and in some cases, the lack of money has forced students to pay for their own supplies. Some classes give students the necessary supplies, but, in other classes, students often have to pay out of their own pockets for basic ones.

In some art classes, students have to buy supplies themselves when there is not enough money to pay for everything. For some of these classes, students are obliged to buy multiple sketch pads, paintbrushes, and specialized pencils.

Junior and senior science research students are each given \$100 to pay for their projects for the year. If they work together, they still get \$100 each and get to share the funds.

However, if a student goes over their \$100 limit, they may have to pay for the difference. Sometimes, the school is able to reimburse them, but it is not always

possible.

"If the equipment they get is reusable, then it's generally acceptable to reimburse the student," said science research advisor Ms. Marla Ezratty. "For example, last year, a lot of students were buying tanks, and so, they went over their limit. But, since we'll be able to use those again, they got reimbursed."

It's possible for science research to have a bigger budget, and spend more, because it does not just receive money from the school.

"We really have a usable income," said Ms. Ezratty.

Each research program has its own budget to supplement the money that is budgeted by the school to go towards them. In addition, the program is awarded money when students win the Intel Science Talent Search, since \$1,000 is given to the school of each semifinalist. The program also receives grants from time to time, but has not for awhile now.

"I think that since there is money allocated specifically for the research

program, it has a larger budget which is fine," said senior science research student Michael Graf. "I know that some art classes have trouble with getting enough money, but our supplies are worked into the budget."

Art students face supply problems often because art classes use many of their supplies rather quickly. Photo I and II students, along with AP Photography students must purchase their own film and photo paper. Their ability to print images is also limited, since printer ink is so costly.

Photo I and II students are usually required to supply their own 35mm camera, as the school does not have enough for everyone. Students who cannot get their own paper or film are able to obtain these supplies from the teachers, but they are only available in limited quantities.

AP Photography students are supposed to have their own cameras, though there are a few digital SLR cameras available to students who want to shoot during class.

The school also provides Photoshop CS5 on all of the computers.

Photography is an expensive class to teach though, and besides the film and paper, classes also need chemicals to develop film along with costly equipment for the darkroom.

"It's too bad that we have to pay for supplies, but it's not too big of a problem and we can usually borrow things if we have to," said senior AP Photography student Kristen Courage. "I don't think that it's really a problem for most people."

Students who take Drawing and Painting have to get their own small spiral sketchbook, portfolio, drawing supplies, and brushes. Some other supplies are provided in class.

A few other art classes require students to provide some of their own supplies as well, but in most cases, they provide the majority of supplies.

"I just think that we're lucky to have such a good art program, so I don't really worry about having to buy supplies," said junior Elyse Belarge.

In the 21st century, nothing seems to be private anymore. Through the Internet, social networking sites, text messaging, and other such technological interactions, accessibility to others' information has increased drastically in every walk of life. This invasion of privacy may involve the serious issue of cyberbullying or an act as simple as forwarding a text message. In either circumstance, technology has empowered students to commit immoral acts which might not have occurred face-to-face.

"Technology has outpaced what we

Online Interactions

In the wireless age, perhaps the most significant issue of technological privacy involves online interactions. With so many online venues, including Facebook, Twitter, Formspring, and MySpace, students are constantly transmitting and receiving information. The accessibility of so many sites has led people to think that they can do whatever they please on the Internet without any ramifications.

"Teenagers do not understand the long term consequences of what they do on the Internet. They are leaving written records

"A person can find out just about anything about someone online, like their phone number, where they go to school, and even their address. This can be very dangerous," said senior Jason Hubsher.

Uploaded photos are especially permanent. While on Facebook students do have the option of "untagging" themselves, these photos will always be on the site and forever be on the Internet. At times, students may upload compromising photos of others as a form of harassment. In other instances, these photos may innocently be uploaded, only to result in dire conse-

"People either have to make an effort or just deal with the loss of privacy. I understand that many are busy and it takes time to go into the privacy settings on Facebook and change them to make it secure, and some are not willing to do this," said Dr. Bester.

Cyberbullying

From the issue of online privacy stems the often shrugged-off topic of cyberbullying. Many students either find it to be a

THE NEW PRIVACY: THE CHANGING FACE OF TECHNOLOGICAL SAFETY

know about privacy," said psychologist Dr. Joan Bester.

Recent events across the country have come to epitomize the power of technology to infiltrate personal security. After his private acts were filmed and then uploaded online, Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi committed suicide by jumping off the George Washington Bridge. This is an extreme case of cyberbullying in which one begins to question how far is too far and wonders what limits society has, if any, on respecting privacy.

While events such as this may seem distant to Schreiber's seemingly welcoming atmosphere, such concerns do plague this school as well.

"Aspects of technology have hurt our school. Kids do not treat each other nicely on Facebook and through texts," said Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald. "Cyberbullying has been going on for several years and a couple of cyber privacy issues have occurred, including instances of sexting. I have also heard from students about kids taping classroom interactions and putting them on Youtube."

With the Internet and a phone always at one's fingertips, it has become hard to escape technology and the consequences that come along with it. Whether it's a matter of privacy or a matter of cyberbullying, technological safety has become an international issue, affecting people of all stages in life, especially high school students.

that can be evidence," said Dr. Bester.

Facebook has become a phenomenon in the last decade. Hundreds of Schreiber students access their accounts each day, uploading photos, writing on others' walls, and updating statuses.

While many of these communications are positive, others can be too revealing or personal. One can often scroll through a person's profile page, and discover the student's actions of the previous week. Of course, no student is forced to reveal such information, but the apparently safe environment of Facebook has convinced students that there is no harm, and rather, it has become a mode of social networking.

"You can literally stalk someone on Facebook based on what they put on it," said senior Rachel Rozeen. "While this information that students post online is okay to an extent, sometimes it can be too much. This might be okay now, but we are all going to college or work, and we have no idea who will have access to this information."

"I am amazed by what kids post, especially on Facebook," said Dr. Bester.

While Facebook may be the most popular, other online interactions have the same implications. Students believe they are in a safe environment, and so they upload and share personal information. This can make them easily identifiable through a search on Google or Facebook.

quences.

Last year, Blue and White Night was cancelled. This decision was made when a contract between all participants and their parents was breached. The administration was made aware of this breach after pictures of the girls involved with illegal activities were posted online.

"The contract was violated and it was easier to prove with the evidence of pictures," said Dr. Bester.

"Blue and White Night was cancelled since online photos of kids drinking at parties were seen. Students did not expect that their online pictures would be sent to their school administrators. Students always think what they do in their private life does not affect school. Yet, often schools can end up having disciplinary actions if what was done outside of school affects in-school interactions," said Dr. Fitzgerald. "This was the last straw of Sports Night. In this case, privacy enabled the school to discover something."

In response to various online breaches, sites have constantly been upgrading privacy settings, enabling students to be as safe as possible. However, in the end, the release of personal information is ultimately up to the individual student and many do not seem concerned with securing their privacy settings.

petty, childish concern, and others believe it to be over-played. However, it is this indifference that has made cyberbullying such a critical and dangerous concern today.

"I think it's actually a huge problem, although other students may play it off as if it's no big deal," said senior Yeon Lee. "I just feel like we're growing up in a world where online bullying is the norm because of all of this new technology, but it still leads to devastating results, like suicide."

With so many different ways to stay connected — AIM, videochat, Facebook, Twitter, and texting, there are also so many different venues through which people can be bullied and targeted. Most students are not without their cell phones for even a minute. The new policy at school even allows students to now use their cell phones in the hallways, which has not been the case in previous years.

"Kids can't seem to help themselves from responding and leaving texts unanswered. It is now so much easier to bully and say hateful things that they would never have the nerve to say in person," said Dr. Bester.

It is this supposed empowerment that has led many to harass others without direct contact. Additionally, online interactions are relatively secluded from



other students and family members, and therefore, there are often no immediate consequences. In the past, students only had one phone to communicate with other peers, and the entire family could hear their interactions.

"Cyberbullying has increased in recent years because students can no longer be protected by their families. This degree of seclusion gives a greater opportunity for students to make poorer choices and to cross lines," said Director of Guidance Mr. Hank Hardy. "Interactions online also provide a more available, easy format than regular bullying."

"When kids were bullied in school they used to at least be able to come home to a safe haven and support system, but now kids will just turn on Facebook and be subjected to virtual bullying where they have no chance to escape it or have any privacy," said Dr. Bester.

Without public recognition of the acts of bullying, the harassment can continue for many days. More often than not, students do not want to be labeled as "tattle-tales," and they try to ignore it. Another, less addressed issue, arises from the fact that both parties, the bully and the bullied, are at fault.

"Students do not want to make an issue of cyberbullying, and it will escalate to a point where it is harder to be controlled. It's much easier to deal with the situation in its earlier stages. Also, at times both parties have crossed the lines, and therefore, students do not want to say anything," said Mr. Hardy.

Then there is the issue of how involved the school can get with these issues that occur outside of school. While many students believe that what happens at home is separate from what happens during school, this is not the case.

Online bullying can receive just as much disciplinary action as bullying during the school day.

"It used to be the case that it was difficult to monitor what happens at home, but this is no longer our stance. I, personally, have gotten involved and there are firm consequences for cyberbullying," said Dr. Bester.

Academic Privacy

In addition to student-student interactions, academic records and college communications have recently gone paperless. Applications to college, transcripts, and student recommendations are now posted and transmitted online.

Since the Guidance department is responsible for saving records of students' transcripts and other academic information, it is especially necessary for this information to be kept secure and private.

"We keep our written and electronic records secure. We make sure to shut the doors, hold private conversations, and

consider the privacy issue sacred," said Mr. Hardy.

While guidance strives to maintain confidentiality, ultimately it is partly in the hands of the individual student and how careful he or she is with passwords and information.

"In the end, it is how safe you keep your password. Information is only as accessible as someone makes it. If students are open about their information, they run into such risks," said Mr. Hardy. "As soon you give your password to one person, it is no longer protected."

Despite the guidance department's intention to maintain confidentiality, in the past few weeks, several seniors have seen the transcripts of other students in the guidance office, and have spread this information among the student body.

"Sometimes students find out information about others just by being in the office. I know cases this year in which students have known other students' GPAs solely because they saw transcripts in the office," said senior Andy Lieberman.

Such invasions of academic privacy have manifested themselves into forms of harassment. In fact, the guidance department has dealt with issues where students received the username and password of others for college applications and sent inappropriate information to colleges.

One serious issue involving the abuse of academic privacy occurred two years ago. A senior created a fake Gmail account impersonating another senior. This student then sent antagonistic emails in the name of the other student to the regional admissions counselors of the colleges to which the victimized student was applying. The emails were intended to sabotage the student's acceptance to college.

When the admissions officers realized that the tone of the emails did not match that of the applicant, the incident was investigated and the perpetrator was caught. He was arrested in May by the Nassau County District Attorney's office and charged with the misdemeanors of falsifying records, criminal impersonation, and aggravated harassment.

This case was recently highlighted in an effort by the Nassau County District Attorney's office to increase awareness about the consequences of cyberbullying. Nassau County Assistant District Attorney Anne Donnelly has already visited schools, including Manhasset and Bellmore, as part of the "STOP then Send" program, which was created to educate students about Internet safety.

"What students don't realize is that such forms of cyberbullying and misuse of other students' academic information can go outside of the school and can have legal implications. If the issue is serious and egregious enough, there might be a need for law enforcement and civil action," said Mr. Hardy.

In-School Education

In an attempt to caution students about the dangers involved, Internet safety and cyberbullying are discussed in school, both to students and parents. Schreiber's curriculum is unique, as it does not simply follow the 0.5 credit requirement of health education for New York State, but instead mandates a full 1.0 credit.

"The health teachers are very involved, and they are constantly looking for ways to improve the curriculum," said Mr. Hardy.

These issues are discussed in health classes, and are primarily addressed in freshman classes, but mentioned again to juniors. There are two lessons in the 9th grade curriculum that address cyberbullying and cyber safety. The consequences that these dangerous online acts have on the victims are also addressed, including suicide, depression, and eating disorders.

"We tell students that their cyber reputation is the same as their school reputation, and if they think they can hide behind their computer, they're wrong. Students have no control about how what they say will be interpreted by someone else," said health teacher Ms. Janine Kalinowski.

While the district educates students through health classes, programs are also held to get parents involved. In the Fresh-

man Parent Experience program, social awareness is emphasized to parents. During this program, the issues of cyberbullying and inappropriate texts are addressed. While some programs attract parents, others are not as popular. Three years ago, the guidance department ran a program on relational aggression, which covered the topic of cyberbullying.

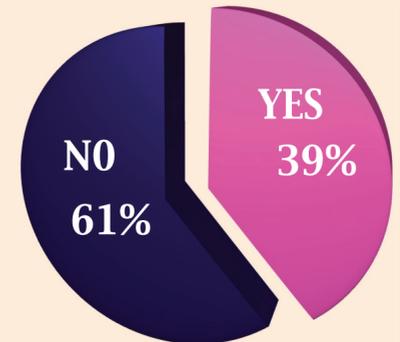
"While other such programs have had wonderful attendance, only seven people showed up to this one. Schreiber offers programs that give out much information, but even more can be done in the future. Additionally, if more people attend, we will make a greater impact," said Mr. Hardy.

In addition, all administrators and teachers are set on a consistent school policy when it comes to online safety. While the guidance department does not decide upon disciplinary action, it often brings various issues to the administration.

"This generation has grown up in the technological age. There are going to be more online safety issues in the future, but in the long-run, it will all be for a better, safer cyber-world," said Dr. Fitzgerald.

By Sahil Doshi and Leah Nash with additional reporting by Katya Barrett and Sophia Jaffe

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INVOLVED IN A CASE OF CYBERBULLYING?



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR PRIVACY WHILE USING:

PHONE	
VIDEO CHAT	
INTERNET	
ONLINE CHAT	
= 20 PEOPLE	

A student's reaction to the Rutgers University tragedy

Respect. Does this word even exist in the world today? It's quite hard to tell. Ever since the inception of the Internet and the creation of websites such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, and YouTube, respect of individuals' privacy has taken a dreadful downfall. Once you post something on the Internet, it's there forever and virtually anyone can see it.

In the recent spate of teen suicides, there have been many cases of bullied gay teens whose privacy and individuality were targeted. These teens were bullied to such a harsh extent just for who they were. A death under these circumstances disgusts me because it is something that can so easily be prevented.

The recent high profile case at Rutgers University involved freshman Tyler Clementi who committed suicide just days after his roommate secretly filmed and uploaded a video of him with another male student.

Tyler's roommate obviously did not respect Tyler's privacy. The old cliché "treat those the way you want to be treated" does have a strong meaning that everyone should understand and apply to their actions on a daily basis. Tyler's death was no accident; his peers bullied him and did not accept him just because of his sexual orientation.

The last time I checked, the constitution stated that all men were created equal and that all American citizens have the freedom to say, think, and be whoever they want as long as it's not against the law: being gay isn't against the law.

Why then did Tyler have to die? The answer is simply due to the insensitivity of his peers. Bullying, especially psychologically, arouses fear and uncomfortable feelings within the victim. Psychological bullying cannot be taken lightly because it is through this type of bullying that individuals feel insignificant and that the world would be better off without them.

However, this is certainly not so. The world goes beyond just one town, one school, or a couple of bullies. It is our job as active citizens and peers to constantly remind each other of that. If we forget to, the world can seem like a lonely place to some people, but it doesn't have to be. With the "It Gets Better" campaign, celebrities and ordinary people have been posting videos online simply stating that if you are a victim of bullies, life does get better. There's always a light at the end of the tunnel. I couldn't agree more with this campaign, especially since it is able to reach people everywhere.

Most people think that intense bullying could never happen at their school or that the one person who is constantly bullied won't ever snap and take out his rage on himself or others, but this is a completely false assumption. You see and hear it on the news all the time, yet there's always that sense of impossibility that something like this can happen here at Schreiber in a suburban town. Although our school doesn't tolerate such behavior, bullying does happen every day in many different forms.

My message to all students is to respect each other and keep in mind that you make up a strong community that should work together to bring out the best in one another and not ridicule each other. The truth is, you never know what kind of mood people are in and even a seemingly harmless joke can be perceived with great offense. Also, be a progressively active citizen. If you see something, then say something. It's that simple. Bullying is just as likely here as anywhere else. The thing is that it can so easily be prevented and stopped if we all just work together.

~Daniela Di Caro

A look at the creative activities of lesser-known clubs

by Reid Mergler

Senior Features Editor

Before the bell rings each morning and after it rings every afternoon, the school bustles with students taking part in the many student-organized and teacher-advised clubs. Some, such as Key Club, are very well known, while others are much less prominent. Four of the latter clubs are the Art Club, Bridging the Gap, the Human Relations Club, and the Radio Club.

The Art Club

The Art Club meets every Monday afternoon to organize a variety of projects. On a local and global level, students create art to benefit others. With the guidance of Assistant Principal Dr. Bradley Fitzgerald and art teacher Ms. Marisa DeMarco, the students also select works of art for the rotating in-school exhibitions.

This year, Art Club is led by senior Melissa Rivera as president, junior Jessica Boyd as vice president, senior Isaac Batabayar as treasurer and sophomore Tori Brown as secretary. In addition to working with the Schreiber community, the Art Club hopes to engage in opportunities outside of school. Boyd is working to make contact with the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center so that the members of the club can create works of art to give to patients. Later in the year, the members plan to make Valentine's Day cards for women in Africa.

"Art Club members are encouraged to come and create personal works of art and explore various materials," said Ms. DeMarco. "Members can work on their projects from art class as well or simply

gain extra help. This club is open to both art and non-art students."

Bridging the Gap

In contrast to the Art Club, which cherishes the general concept of artwork, Bridging the Gap has a more specific purpose: to promote diversity and acceptance within the school community based upon race, religion, nationality, and gender. Through art and photography projects, the members are able to express their points of view.

The club was officially founded last year, but students have participated in such projects for the past three years. The projects were funded by the Port Washington Education Foundation (PWEF). The club meets every other Tuesday afternoon in Room 207 and is advised by the two photography teachers, Ms. DeMarco and Ms. Kris Murphy. The group also plans exhibitions to be shown in school this spring.

Leading the club is senior Emily Lugo as president, junior Faith Jackson as vice president, sophomore Alyssa Lugo as treasurer, and sophomore Amra Brown as secretary. These students are in charge of planning the club's activities for the year.

A variety of events are already scheduled for this year. To promote diversity, Ruby Bridges, a civil and human rights activist will visit Schreiber and Daly Elementary School for a day in March. This lecture is funded by the PWEF. The club members also plan to host a fundraiser that raises global awareness of a particular cause and donate the proceeds to those in need.

The Human Relations Club

The Human Relations Club is another club that focuses on charitable activities. Last year, they donated money to OxFam



www.portradio.org

Senior Josh Park and sophomore Stephen Silver discuss music and entertainment on their radio show, "Park and Silver," at the WDOT station.

and the Heifer Foundation and awarded the new Human Relations Scholarship Fund to a senior. They also gave Christmas presents to an underprivileged family. Their main goal for the year is to raise as much money as the club did last year.

Social studies teacher Mr. John Davis and guidance counselor Ms. Nori Cerny are the club advisors. The club, which meets in the main office conference room on Wednesday mornings, strives to have its members involved in a variety of events. This year, club members have already worked at open house night, the club fair and Pride in Port, where they served senior citizens lunch. In addition to selling food and coffee for fundraising, they also sell t-shirts for Autism Awareness.

"We have a wonderful group of students who are helpers at heart," said Ms. Cerny. "No job is too small. Everyone pitches in and the satisfaction factor is tremendous."

The Radio Club

Bringing news and discussion to the school community, the Radio Club has existed for the past five years. The station was made possible by a donation from Dot and Ed Slade of Port Washington. The WDOT station began in 2005 to give students the opportunity to play music and explore communications.

This year, they hope to attract more listeners and in the first month of school, the website, www.portradio.org, has received 1,000 page views. Although the Radio Club has no specific meeting time, the shows go on before and during school everyday.

Some of the DJs include seniors Al Ades, Andrew Arnstein, and Dan Miller and juniors Nick Catrone and A.J. Friedman. Various shows include "Haus Party" and "Al and Arnstein."



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 Free Debit Card with no annual fee
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 No monthly service fees

HURRY IN BEFORE THE NEW YEAR!! COME INTO OUR BRANCH (ACROSS THE PARKING LOT) FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE MENTION THIS AD WHEN YOU COME INTO THE BANK

Students never have resource scarcity issues

BY Nicole Zwiener

Contributing Writer

The bell rings and fifth period is over. Teachers get up from their desks and gather their things for sixth period. The teachers, however, are not alone.

Students also scrape back chairs and gather their things as they prepare to leave one of the many departmental resource rooms found in the building.

There are various resource rooms for each subject of study located around the school, such as the math, science, social studies, English and foreign language departments.

Each resource room has its own unique and individual characteristics and has something to offer to every student, no matter what they are looking for.

For most students, a quiet atmosphere is a primary concern when choosing a study space to focus on their work.

Although the noise level in all resource rooms fluctuates, the science resource rooms tend to be the quietest with the fewest number of teachers and students.

While the math resource room is relatively quiet during the majority of the day, it can become crowded and noisy during lunch, especially when students congregate to ask last minute questions before afternoon tests.

Still, during lunchtime, all of the rooms are filled with conversing teachers and an increased number of students.

The main purpose of a resource room is to provide help to students, and this is perhaps their most valued feature around the school.

The math resource room is visited not only by students because of its comfortable chairs, but also because it has the particular advantage of most of the teachers being able to help students on almost any topic.

“The foreign language office is one of the best places in the school to make up tests and quizzes,” said junior Alexis Fessatidis. “The quiet atmosphere allows students to concentrate and focus on what they’re doing, and a lot of the teachers even keep treats on their desks to give to students.”

The ability to get help from almost any teacher makes the math resource room a popular destination during free periods.

“It’s really easy to ask for help with math homework from any math teacher that is available—they’re all very approachable,” said sophomore Victoria Brown. “It is always beneficial to have another point of view on a specific math topic.”

The same holds true in the social studies department, where at least one teacher of a certain class can almost always be found.

“I like the social studies room because all of the teachers are always willing to help students, even if they’re not in their classes,” said senior Al Ades.

Students looking for help from a variety of teachers also flock to the science



Harry Paul

During their off-periods, students often go to the social studies resource room to finish homework or missed tests. The main table and the computers in the back provide an effective working environment.

resource rooms.

Because the science department has various different offices in which the teachers are grouped by subject, there is usually a lower concentration of students, even during the busy lunch periods.

However, finding a teacher can become difficult if he or she is not at his or her desk.

“It can just be kind of confusing because there isn’t just one resource room like all of the other departments,” said junior Morgan Nelson.

Students seeking help from the English department can also visit the Writing Center, where peer responders are available during lunch periods to help revise and edit any type of written work, whether it is a college essay or creative writing assignment.

“Even though I think people don’t usually associate the Writing Center with the English resource room, it can be another great place to get help during an off period,” said junior Isabella Goetze. “It’s another resource that students can use when completing a project or paper, especially if they don’t have the time or opportunity to meet with their own teacher.”

During free periods, many students meet with teachers to discuss an upcoming quiz or to go over a graded test. To make the process of choosing a time to meet much easier and effective, each resource room posts the schedules of all of its teachers.

The Languages Other Than English (LOTE) resource room is often one of the quietest and calmest spaces to meet with teachers in.

“The foreign language office is one of the best places in the school to make up tests and quizzes,” said junior Alexis Fessatidis. “The quiet atmosphere allows students to concentrate and focus on what they’re doing, and a lot of the teachers even keep treats on their desks to give to students.”

Another main objective of students during off periods is to obtain a

computer. As teachers for their classes frequently reserve the computer lab in the library, students often head to the resource rooms.

The English department offers a separate computer lab, although students are only allowed in if they have permission from a teacher or if a teacher is present.

The social studies department offers computers for student use, although not before school.

There is no guarantee that these computers will be available, particularly during the lunch periods, when students rush to print out assignments and finish essays.

“It can be really difficult to find an available computer to work on during the school day,” said junior Ashley Oelbaum. “I know a lot of people end up using the computers in the social studies room, even if the work they’re doing is for a different subject.”

Additionally, many students take their free time as an opportunity to start or complete their homework.

Most, however, do not want to bring heavy textbooks to school each day.

To this end, many resource rooms have a collection of textbooks that they allow students to borrow.

At the main table in the math resource room, there is a selection of different textbooks that students can use, provided they stay within the room. Depending on the supply, students can obtain foreign language textbooks from the LOTE resource room.

Alternatively, the social studies resource room allows students to take textbooks out of the office, as long as they sign them out and return them by the end of the day.

“I think a lot of students really appreciate the social studies department’s textbook policy,” said junior Robin Mehta. “That way, even if the table in the resource room is full of students making up tests, it’s possible to just do the work in another place.”

The fuel behind the fire(drill)

BY Carolin Berendsen and Nagisa Ozaki

Contributing Writers

Every student has had the experience of sitting down in a class, only to be ordered to hurry outside by the piercing trill of the fire alarm. While it may seem a trivial event to most students, each fire drill actually requires an enormous amount of effort and planning by the administration.

The drills are coordinated by Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller. In order to practice proper evacuation procedure, students and teachers are instructed to take the drills seriously and remain quiet and respectful to their teachers and the administration.

While this forced silence may seem inconvenient to students who want to catch up with their friends, the quiet is key in making sure that the drill is carried out correctly.

“Overall, the students are very well behaved,” said Mr. Miller. “They take the drills seriously enough.”

The New York Education Code mandates that Schreiber execute 12 fire drills every year.

As the coordinator, Mr. Miller has to balance scheduling the right number of drills in the school year while ensuring that the drills occur at different times on different days in the cycle. The drills are usually scheduled in the morning because the majority of classes meet before 11:20 a.m.

Students and teachers may complain that it is frustrating that the fire drills happen so frequently in the beginning of the year. Yet, the administration schedules the drills during the autumn months when it is comfortable, so that students aren’t forced to go outside in cold winter weather.

“Yes, the drills can be a bit of a distraction from class time, but they’re very necessary,” said English teacher Mr. Corey Block. “Because of the good weather, it’s better to get them over with now.”

The administration understands that timing is important to the teachers for their class plans. Therefore, when the administration schedules a fire drill, they e-mail the teachers ahead of time, so that teachers can take the shortened periods into account as they plan tests and quizzes.

To students, however, the fire drills are often a surprise. Sometimes, they are not viewed as beneficial and rather annoying and inutile.

“Fire drills distract from and shorten classes, and I think it is very hard for students to focus once they come back inside,” said junior Haeun Ro. “Some teachers give students advanced warning of the fire drill, which I think defeats the purpose, because everyone is ready to walk outside. The drills should be unexpected so that they are more realistic.”

Other students, however, enjoy the short class break that fire drills offer students, as it gives them the opportunity to get some fresh air and stretch their legs.

“I think they are great, because it’s always a nice surprise to be able to miss a few minutes of class,” said junior Lauren Mishan. “Getting up and moving around during a fire drill actually helps me concentrate when we return to class.”

Restaurant Review Battle of the Two Diners

BY Georgia Goodman and Alexa Pinto

Contributing Writers

Familiar food, welcoming staff, efficient service: these components make up the perfect diner. Students in Port Washington are lucky to have two such diners located only minutes away from school. The only downside: having to choose between Port Washington Diner or Haven Diner.

Throughout their four years of high school, students often become committed to their favorite diner. But how do they choose?

Port Diner, renovated and reopened in 2009, is located in a central and easily accessible spot on Main Street. It is open seven days a week, from 6 a.m. until midnight.

It is also spacious and has seating for up to 95 people. Port Diner is usually one of the busiest restaurants in town, for both adults and students alike.

An extensive menu mixes typical diner fare such as eggs, pancakes, waffles, and burgers with more interesting dishes, such as fried calamari, quesadillas, and nachos.

The Chef's Choice section offers mostly Greek and Italian specialties, including gyros and pasta dishes.

For those looking for something a little more sweet, the dessert menu includes many tasty delights such as cheesecake, pudding, and pies. The diner also has its own bake shop and sells a variety of homemade treats such as muffins, brownies, and cookies.

"Port Diner is definitely one of the best diners on Main Street because of the tasty food and the friendly service that can be found there," said junior Paul Kagan. "Every time I go, I order the delicious burgers or pancakes."

The portions at Port Diner are more generous than those served at many other restaurants in town, but for those who are unable to finish these very large portions, the diner staff is happy to wrap up leftovers.

Still, Port Diner is on the more expensive side when compared to many other diners. The prices range from around \$6 to about \$15 dollars, with the Chef's Choice and Neptune's Masterpieces being the most costly sections of the menu.

"My favorite diner in town is the Port Washington Diner because I love the large variety of food that is offered," said sophomore Caitlin Whittaker. "Whether you choose to order a few chocolate chip pancakes or a big juicy burger, you will always leave the restaurant feeling



Katya Barrett

Recently renovated Port Diner is often crowded, particularly with teenagers on Friday nights and families on weekend mornings. In addition to the menu's variety, the particularly large portions attract many to the restaurant.

satisfied."

The other popular diner among students is Haven Diner. It is located a block off Main Street, across from the train station. The interior of the restaurant resembles what many picture when they think of the typical diner, complete with stools at the counter and vinyl booths.

Because of its slightly less central location and the fact that it can only sit 50 people at a time, Haven Diner is usually a little quieter than the Port Diner.

"Haven Diner definitely has a different, more quiet atmosphere than that of other restaurants," said junior Dan Preston. "The staff is extremely friendly; I eat there so often that they recognize me and my friends. One of its best features is that you never have to wait long for your food."

The menu at Haven Diner offers everything from breakfast essentials to full dinner meals, including the usual diner staples of grilled cheese, pancakes, waffle fries, and French toast.

They also offer an assortment of 10 different kinds of burgers, and a wide selection of omelets and sandwiches.

"Haven Diner has the best chicken nuggets and milkshakes in town," said junior Ashley O'Reilly. "It's not a very modern restaurant, but being at Haven Diner makes you feel at home."

More diverse options include a variety of Italian food, such as eggplant parmesan, and many seafood options.

Greek foods like moussaka, chicken kebabs, and gyro platters also appear on the menu.

The menu also includes a special low-calorie section entitled Diet Delights for those who are watching their weight. This section includes healthy foods such as green salad, tuna salad, honey mustard chicken, and turkey burgers.

While the restaurant does not look like anything special from the outside, students throughout the years have come to find that the authentic and inexpensive menu makes Haven Diner worth returning to time and again.

Overall, it seems that while Haven Diner is great for a quick, cheap, and casual meal, Port Diner should be the destination for those seeking a complete



Katya Barrett

Haven Diner, which is normally less chaotic than Port Diner, offers reasonable prices for quality dishes.

Local stores provide Halloween spirit with spooky costumes and props

BY Hannah Zwieg

Contributing Writer

Luckily for those students who have put off (or are still putting off) buying the perfect costume, there are a variety of stores in the area that meet all Halloween demands.

The most convenient of these stores is Spirit Halloween, which is located in the Soundview Shopping Center.

The store is decked out in Halloween finery. Fake cobwebs and spiders span the length of the ceiling throughout the surprisingly large store to get shoppers in a Halloween mood.

Spirit Halloween, a temporary store that will be open through the beginning of November, has an extensive collection of costumes that is well-organized by both age and theme.

One side of the store is entirely devoted to teen and adult costumes, while the

other features costumes for children and infants. While the children's department is somewhat sparse, the teen and adult departments have a wide variety of costumes.

In addition to the typical costumes, such as vampires and pirates, there are also many creative ones, including characters from the popular TV show *Jersey Shore*.

While the wide variety of costumes is an obvious plus, the prices are on the more expensive side, averaging about \$35.

In addition, Spirit Halloween sells a variety of decorations, including several high-tech gadgets with motion detectors and speakers.

Costumes from the store can also be purchased on its website (www.spirithalloween.com).

Another costume-friendly store is Party City, although its location in New Hyde Park makes it somewhat less convenient for students. It is possible, however, to buy costumes online at www.partycity.com.

partycity.com.

Upon entering the store, it is clear to the shopper that Party City takes Halloween very seriously, as the entire store is decorated in everything from cobwebs to black and orange streamers. Even some of the employees are dressed in costumes.

"Party City sells basically everything," said sophomore Kayla Conway. "It is great to shop there because they have a really good selection of costumes and props."

Because Party City sells a wide variety of decorations and outfits, and has such an immense stock, the store can become somewhat disorganized in the busy weeks leading up to Halloween.

The majority of the store focuses on costumes. There are aisles of props and the entire back wall is covered with pictures of outfit options.

Despite the many costumes for sale, there are not as many truly funny,

interesting, or scary ones, especially in the teenage girl department.

The outfits, however, do tend to be slightly less expensive than at Spirit Halloween, with an average price of about \$20.

While the store usually does become slightly chaotic in the weeks leading up to Halloween, the employees use a well-thought out and effective system that allows shoppers to try on costumes in their size.

Halloween decorations are also available at both Raindeew and Michael's, which are both located in Manhasset.

While neither of these stores sells pre-made costumes, they each offer a variety of items, such as blank t-shirts in a variety of colors, face paint, and fabric pens, which can be used by students looking to create their own costumes.

They also sell many craft materials that could be used to create homemade decorations.

arts & Entertainment

Strong acting and directing make Actoberfest a big success

BY **Morgan Quigley**

A&E Editor

Each year, students show off their talents in "Actoberfest," a series of one act plays directed and performed entirely by students. Each vignette is completely independent of the others and is a vehicle to display the talents that wander the halls of our high school.

Actoberfest opened with *A Case of Anxiety*, written by Mark Harvey Levine and directed by junior Christopher Falcioni. Simply put, it was a play about living life spontaneously.

Robert (junior Michael Schweitzer) is married to Marissa (freshman Yvette May), and Marissa stands by as Robert appears to have died trying to accomplish relatively simple tasks such as brushing his teeth, putting on a shirt, and putting his shoes on.

Each time Michael "dies," the inspector (freshman Sabrina Brennan) appears announcing his death. As the inspector, who is portrayed as a man, keeps on returning, Marissa begins to fall in love with the inspector and wants to run away with him.

In the midst of all of this, Robert is attacked by pirates (senior Holland Meyer, sophomores Tamara Hoffman, Veronika Onischenko, and Annie Rubin) and is

forced to fend them off with the help of his wife. This experience teaches Michael to live life instinctively and to just take life as it comes.

This was a nice way to open off the night. It provided some humor combined with a good life lesson, and great performances were turned in by Schweitzer and May.

Most of the plays throughout the night were fairly comedic. In fact, all but the last play were meant to be comedic. The next four plays, *Anxiety: Kitty*, *(Laura) Gets the Call*, *In Bed With Kafka*, and *Fifteen Minutes*, all provided some comedy.

The program started to seem repetitive after a while, but the best of the first five plays was definitely *Fifteen Minutes*.

Nancy (freshman Sydney Ronis) is conducting a late night talk show called *Nancy After Dark* with her husband, Anthony (senior York Kitajima), sleeping next to her and the one man audience (senior Andy Lieberman) going crazy with nearly everything Nancy says. Lieberman did an incredible job acting as the crazy fan that many such talk shows have.

The talk show focused on infidelity, and brought in Libby (sophomore Ashley Larsen), a woman who confessed to have cheated on her husband. What made this comedy so effective was that it did a good job mixing in small moments of drama with the comedy.

It also had the feel of a real talk show, bringing in a psychologist, Dr. Bledsoe (freshman Margaret Golder) to help with the case.

As the show goes on, we learn that Anthony was the one who was having an affair with Libby and the entire thing was set up by Nancy. The acting was great by every member of the play, each performing their part to perfection.

(Laura) Gets the Call was humorous with a good lesson. Laura (sophomore Ani O'Hanlon) dreamed that she met God (junior Jaelyn Cohen). God is not portrayed how people generally think. For lack of a better word, she is ditsy. She is very forgetful. And she is very obsessed with her body.

Although slightly sacrilegious, the portrayal did not stray into inappropriate areas which were a fear when "God" first came on stage. Though it was funny, the show lacked substance.

Petra (freshman Lylia Li) was God's nosy assistant. She was constantly in Laura's face. Despite the lack of substantial plot and character development in the middle of the play, each actress did a great job with her parts.

The message in the play was that uniqueness is a good thing. God was the perfect example of this. She was not what you would expect, and that is why the world is such a unique place. The play delivered

its messages through humor though they were a bit heavy handed.

The shows that started and ended "Actoberfest" were complete opposites. In what was probably the best play of the night, *Sorry, Wrong Number*, was scary as opposed to funny. The play portrayed Mrs. Stevenson (sophomore Julia Bain) as a sick woman in bed by herself. She spends the night trying to reach her husband, which keeps coming up as busy.

On her first attempt, she overhears a plan between two men (senior Liam Higgins and freshman Harry Paul) talking about a murder they are about to commit. She assumes this to have been a wrong number, and spends the rest of the night frantically trying to have these men tracked down.

Then, in a mature bit of plotting, Mrs. Stevenson realizes that it was not in fact a wrong number and that her husband was hiring men to kill her in an attempt to avoid the burden of having to take care of her.

Mrs. Stevenson is killed in bed by George (freshman Harry Paul) and ends the play and the night with a very deep and eerie "sorry, wrong number."

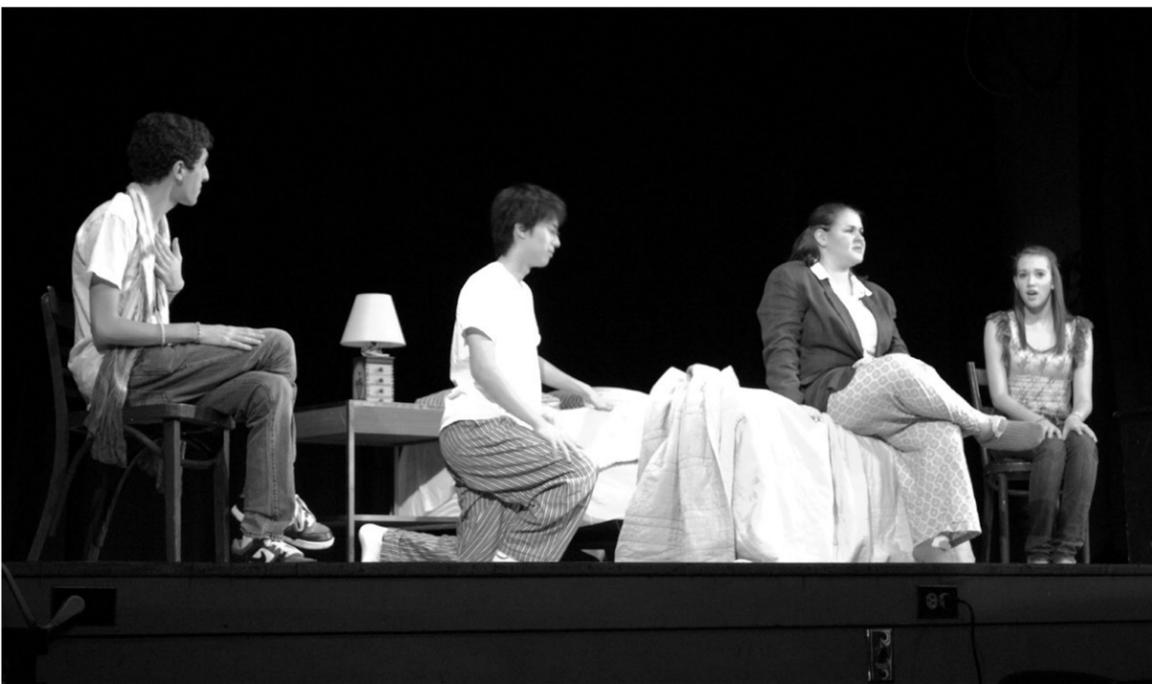
Bain, by far, delivered the best acting performance of the night. She was in bed throughout the play but was not limited by the lack of mobility. Effectively showing emotion through terror while she was screaming and crying, Bain did not fall into the trap laid in many horror stories. She was able to portray emotions other than fear and even her fear was obviously pure terror.

The two other comedies were probably the weakest two plays of the night. *In Bed with Kafka* and *Kitty* showcased how even strong acting can not make a weak script better.

Neither of the two scripts was especially good, and both were confusing at times. *Kitty* was about a man, Mr. O'Brien (freshman Nate Krantz), eating at a restaurant. A series of different waitresses come out, none of them appearing to know of the previous. The first one, *Kitty* (junior Katherine Heinlen) is mistaken for a cat and euthanized along with Mr. O'Brien at the end.

In Bed with Kafka portrayed a sick man, K (freshman Eric Roseblatt) and his wife, F (junior Emi Chadwell), both being told that they are dying by Doctor X (junior Sage Viscovi). They go through the typical good-news-bad-news schtick for the entire play and is hard to follow. By the end, this show was very confusing and hard to watch.

The acting was great across the board. Most of the scripts were very well written and it was impressive that students were able to produce entire plays. Direction was competent but sometimes confusing. Still, Schreiber should eagerly await the next "Actoberfest" for another chance to see original work.



Loren Giron

Libby (Ashley Larsen) confronts Anthony (York Kitajima) for the first time after their affair in the play *Fifteen Minutes*, directed by junior Kalia Lay.

the night trying to reach her husband, which keeps coming up as busy. On her first attempt, she overhears a plan between two men (senior Liam Higgins and freshman Harry Paul) talking about a murder they are about to commit. She assumes this to have been a wrong number, and spends the rest of the night frantically trying to have these men tracked down. Then, in a mature bit of plotting, Mrs. Stevenson realizes that it was not in fact a wrong number and that her husband was hiring men to kill her in an attempt to avoid the burden of having to take care of her. Mrs. Stevenson is killed in bed by George (freshman Harry Paul) and ends the play and the night with a very deep and eerie "sorry, wrong number." Bain, by far, delivered the best acting performance of the night. She was in bed throughout the play but was not limited by the lack of mobility. Effectively showing emotion through terror while she was screaming and crying, Bain did not fall into the trap laid in many horror stories. She was able to portray emotions other than fear and even her fear was obviously pure terror. The two other comedies were probably the weakest two plays of the night. *In Bed with Kafka* and *Kitty* showcased how even strong acting can not make a weak script better. Neither of the two scripts was especially good, and both were confusing at times. *Kitty* was about a man, Mr. O'Brien (freshman Nate Krantz), eating at a restaurant. A series of different waitresses come out, none of them appearing to know of the previous. The first one, *Kitty* (junior Katherine Heinlen) is mistaken for a cat and euthanized along with Mr. O'Brien at the end. *In Bed with Kafka* portrayed a sick man, K (freshman Eric Roseblatt) and his wife, F (junior Emi Chadwell), both being told that they are dying by Doctor X (junior Sage Viscovi). They go through the typical good-news-bad-news schtick for the entire play and is hard to follow. By the end, this show was very confusing and hard to watch. The acting was great across the board. Most of the scripts were very well written and it was impressive that students were able to produce entire plays. Direction was competent but sometimes confusing. Still, Schreiber should eagerly await the next "Actoberfest" for another chance to see original work.

Running Wilde is all over the place with its script

BY **Dan Bidikov**
Contributing Writer

With a history of great comedies like *Arrested Development* and *That 70's Show*, Fox's newest series was expected to be a hit as well. *Running Wilde*, a comedy series focusing on an arrogant billionaire who is under the impression that the world revolves around him, is the newest edition to the network's formidable slate of comedy shows.

The show stars Will Arnett (*Arrested Development*), who has the role of Steve Wilde, the conceited, clueless billionaire. Most of Steve's actions revolve around besting his neighbor, Fa'ad (Peter Serafinowicz), in their excessive displays of wealth.

Fa'ad is an over-the-top character with unreal amounts of chest hair, a ridiculous accent, and a Fez-wearing servant. Both he and Steve are stereotypical portrayals of two aging, floundering trust-fund babies.

The pilot opens with Wilde's reception of an award for his achievements as a humanitarian, which he has given to himself. His friend Migo (Mel Rodriguez), playing one of two sane voices in the series, sends an invitation to Wilde's high school crush Emmy (Keri Russell). She is a fervent activist who lives with her daughter, Puddle (Stefania LaVie Owen), who is also the narrator of the series. This is one of the few bright spots in the series.

Emmy and her eco-terrorist fiancée, Andy Weeks (David Cross), vehemently oppose Steve's father's company, Wilde Oil. Although she was raised with just

one material possession, Puddle is upset with her minimalist life in the Amazon and wants to live a normal, pampered life as an American schoolgirl. When both Emmy and her daughter decide to return to the States, the show kicks into gear.

Eventually, the audience is able to see more of Steve's character. He is insecure and daft, with a mild drinking problem. While Steve may seem like a typical playboy, he is not the least bit clever or successful with women.

We learn that he seeks attention from others because of the lack of care he receives from his family. Although he is a grown man, he depends on his sensible yet quirky assistant Mr. Lunt (Robert Michael Morris) to keep his life in order.

By putting the characters in exaggerated, but still believable situations, the show disconcerts the viewer. Although there is bad history between Emmy and Steve, these opportunities are shrugged off in favor for more lighthearted exchanges between the characters.

Moments like these make it hard to determine the direction that *Running Wilde* wants to go in. Many scenarios in the series would be effective if presented more dramatically.

We will have to wait to find out if *Running Wilde* decides to continue developing its strong characters or pursue a path of ditz humor.

In an attempt to make himself seem



New Fox comedy *Running Wilde* filmed many scenes in the Sands Point Preserve, including the one shown above.

philanthropic, Steve flies a jet down to Peru to move the entire tribe that lived with Emmy into a luxurious hotel. This just adds to the lack of humor in the show.

The stupidity of *Running Wilde* escalates even more after the fiasco which follows a conversation between the two of them. It is hard to tell if the show is blundering into wit or succeeding in being dopey.

If some scenes from this show seem familiar, they probably are. During August, much of the show was filmed in the Sands

Point Preserve, which adds a little bit of a local flare to the show.

One thing is for certain, it is not doing a good job of emulating *Arrested Development*. Mitchell Hurwitz, the creator of both series, is trying to cash in on an audience that has been promised an *Arrested Development* movie.

Running Wilde does not reproduce the wit or the satirical characteristics of *Arrested Development*. Quite the opposite, its most humorous moments are also its most juvenile.

Law & Order has a brand new city with the same old plot

BY **Bethia Kwak**
Assistant A&E Editor

After the cancellation of the original *Law & Order*, upset fans were able to find solace in the anticipation of the new series *Law & Order: Los Angeles*. As the name implies, the show focuses its police cases in Los Angeles and is the first *Law & Order* series that is not set in New York

City. The show airs Wednesday nights at 10 p.m. on NBC right after *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*.

Revolving around the scandal and allure of Los Angeles, the show has been rumored to parallel actual events in history and in the media. The first episode was based on a group of young robbers that are somewhat like the recent "Bling Ring" that stole items from celebrities' houses.

The show has big shoes to fill and it is

difficult to say whether it has impressed or disappointed. Unlike the other spinoffs of *Law & Order*, such as *Law & Order: SVU* which focuses more on detective work and sexual assault crimes, *Law & Order: Los Angeles* is more of the same and very unoriginal.

The concept is almost an exact copy of the original *Law & Order*. It seems like the creator, Dick Wolf, is using this show to continue his original cancelled series with a different set of characters.

Yet, as a *Law & Order* show, there are certain features that must be expected which surprisingly happen to be missing. The regular title sequence of the *Law & Order* franchise is absent in this show. Instead, it's now rather awkward and doesn't build up the excitement one feels when a new episode is starting. In the first two episodes, an opening narration was not included as well.

Even though it is only the beginning of the season, it is already clear that the characters in this show won't be memorable.

Audiences tend to grow a bond with characters on shows because of either their dynamic personalities or their background stories. Unfortunately, in *Law & Order: Los Angeles*, neither of this can be said for any of the characters.

Still, the actors do the best they can



Despite being set in a new city, *Law & Order: Los Angeles* does not provide much variation from the original series.

with the scripts they are given. In fact, Detective Rex Winters (Skeet Ulrich) and Deputy D.A. Joe Decker (Terrence Howard) are well played by the actors, but the characters themselves are what lack substance.

There is also an apparent lack of chemistry between the cast, which makes some of the dialogue appear forced.

While the creators of the show were hopeful after 10.6 million viewers tuned in to the show's premiere, the ratings dropped significantly for the second week.

Only time will tell the success of this new show. *Law & Order* was cancelled due its drop in ratings. Will this fate be awaiting *Law & Order: Los Angeles* as well?



Even though *Law & Order: Los Angeles* is similar to the original series, it lacks the intensity needed to hook viewers in.

The change from studio to jail makes a difference for Lil' Wayne

BY Chris Verdi
Contributing Writer

Although Lil Wayne is not the first artist to release music while incarcerated, he is the first to release a number one album while in jail. Wayne's newest project, *I Am Not a Human Being*, shot straight to the top of the Billboard and iTunes charts.

Despite the fact that it has been described as only a warm-up for the highly anticipated *Tha Carter 4*, it still offers Wayne's fans plenty to listen to until next year when his next album is scheduled to be released. We've seen Wayne do this before when the release of *The Leak* preceded *The Carter 3* in 2007.

Whenever Wayne's name is mentioned in a release, expectations are high. *I Am Not a Human Being* does many things right, but at the same time disappoints in other ways. With a short tracklist, Wayne has very little room for error but does not make optimal use of all of the track spots. At the same time, the tracks that do succeed, impress.

Some might argue that Wayne has strayed from the old dependable verses that made him who he is today to a mere few punch lines per verse that can be stale and mediocre. While this is mostly true, Wayne has found, perhaps, his best match to compliment his musical style. Lil Wayne's raspy, line-by-line approach to rap is accompanied perfectly by Drake's

smooth tone and consistent verses. On each of Drake's four features, the duo is very successful at balancing each other out.

Unfortunately when Drake is absent, there is generally not enough substance for Wayne to carry each song. On the title fourth track, "I Am Not a Human Being," Wayne temporarily revisits the rock and roll influences that fueled *Rebirth*, his previous album.

Unsurprisingly, this song does nothing but bring back bad memories for listeners.

The features by artists other than Drake were good but could not stand up to what Drake was able to do on songs, such as "Right Above It" and "With You." These were undeniably the album's most successful tracks.

Lil' Twist puts together a decent hook for "Popular" but fails in matching Wayne. Nikki Minaj features on "What's Wrong With Them" with one of her better hooks on any track that she has done, but the song as a whole does not succeed because of Wayne's weak verses.

Wayne's closest attempt at his original persona was on the album's final song, "Bill Gates." He is successful in piecing together three verses that do not lack substance accompanied by a hook sung by Wayne himself.

Even casual Wayne fans will notice that his mentality as a rapper has changed. This is evident by the title of the album itself. Rather than referencing

his roots in New Orleans, Wayne has taken a different approach by claiming that he is not even from this planet let alone his hometown. The motivation behind this change is still unclear to Wayne's fans but it will most likely be answered after Wayne releases *Tha Carter 4*.

Clearly the problem with *I Am Not a Human Being* is Wayne's apparent inability to produce rhymes that worked so well on his previous mixtapes and albums before *Rebirth*. Overall, *I Am Not a Human Being* is successful in that it provides fans with assurance that Wayne's rock and roll experiment has come to the end after the

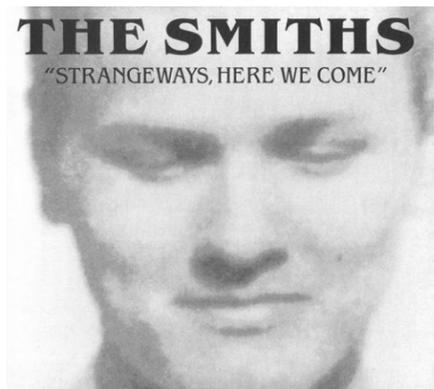


www.ubnation.com

Lil Wayne performs a hit single from his album *I Am Not A Human Being*, which is a success among his fans.

disaster that was *Rebirth*. If this is what Lil Wayne has planned for his next album, then his fans will surely be satisfied.

Classic Album: Strangeways Here We Come



BY Kerim Kivrak
Staff Writer

Throughout the more than two decades after they emerged on the scene of British independent music, The Smiths have been a band unparalleled in originality and excitement. In 1987, the band, despite escalating disagreements between frontman Jim Morrissey and guitarist Johnny Marr, was determined to go out with a bang and released *Strangeways Here We Come*.

Morrissey's falling out with Marr made it clear that the band was in its final moments. Marr was critical of Morrissey's enthusiasm for covering classic pop and went on to form his own significantly less successful band. Neither member could have left the band without costing the group a signature sound: both Morrissey's one-of-a-kind voice and lyricism or Marr's distinct guitar-playing that had defined the band's style. Although their arguments drove the band apart before the album could even see its release, there is one thing every member of The Smiths has unanimously agreed on—*Strangeways* was the best record they have ever released.

Strangeways epitomized every aspect of The Smiths' style. Morrissey's vocals saw almost no change throughout the band's unfortunately short life, but in this album we see the first and only instance of Morrissey playing the piano in "Death of a Disco Dancer."

The lyricism of a generation of angst-driven teenagers was still in full swing in tracks like "Unhappy Birthday," the aforementioned "Death of a Disco Dancer" and the ironically upbeat and campy "Girlfriend in a Coma." Despite their personal divergence, Morrissey and Marr unite to demonstrate their musical chemistry through Morrissey's vocals and Marr's mastery of establishing an atmosphere through his guitar playing.

Regardless of the album's excellence as a whole, only one song is remarkably exceptional and worthy of historical mention. "Stop Me If You Think You've Heard This One Before" is the lyrical and instrumental peak of The Smiths' work. While catchy, the lyrics retain some of the meaningfulness that has come to be associated with Morrissey. Marr contributes a simple but memorable guitar background to create one of the best tracks not only of The Smiths' career but of the 1980s as well.

Morrissey has admitted that much of the band's music was an attempt to achieve the wonderful feeling that The Beatles' legendary *The White Album* had invoked in him, but that *Strangeways* was a step in a different and original direction. In accordance with the times, the band took this opportunity to subtly experiment with synthesized saxophones, strings, and a drum machine.

Although it is often lost in the common adoration of *The Queen is Dead*, *Strangeways* is worthy of its own praise. It is one of a few rare occasions in which a band gets the send-off it deserves.

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Despite an untested cast, *The Social Network* wins

by Jess Greenwald

Staff Writer

Even as *The Social Network* opens in a Boston pub where Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg), founder of Facebook, is being dumped by his girlfriend Erica (Rooney Mara), the audience already sees Zuckerberg's dark sense of humor along with his social arrogance. Enraged and fueled by the break up, he goes back to his apartment and blogs about his ex.

After a few too many drinks and along with the help of roommate Eduardo Saverin (Andrew Garfield), Zuckerberg creates the website "Facemash" where the female students of Harvard are compared to one another based on looks. Once a user logs onto the site, they are presented with two photos and are prompted to choose which student they believe is more attractive, and after doing so a new pair appears. The site becomes so popular that it crashes the Harvard servers and jump-starts Zuckerberg's now-famous road to infamy.

Showing the creation of Facebook, *The Social Network* periodically focuses on Zuckerberg's two legal settlements between Saverin and the Olympic rowers Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss (Armie Hammer and Josh Pence with

both Hammer's face and voice edited onto Pence's body). The initial spark for Zuckerberg's Facebook emerges when the twins approach and ask him to write codes for their latest online social network called "The Harvard Connection." Initially agreeing to help write the codes, Zuckerberg fails to communicate with the twins on the progress of their website as the movie continues.

With the help of Saverin, Zuckerberg starts to create a site of his own where he plans to put the entire college experience online.

"The Facebook," as it is first called, soon catches the attention of Napster entrepreneur Sean Parker (Justin Timberlake). Zuckerberg awes the slick and smooth Parker, creating tension between his and Saverin's business and personal relationships.

Surprisingly, Zuckerberg does not care about the money involved with Facebook. Similar to Napster's Parker, Zuckerberg is more enticed by making a "cool" worldwide phenomenon. Never willing to admit it, he desperately wishes for the approval of his peers. Having gotten a perfect score on the SATs and breezing through Harvard's difficult courses, he decides to drop out of college. Following Parker's advice, Zuckerberg starts to create a future \$25 billion corporation with



www.transpyramid.com

Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) marvels over his creation, "The Facebook," not knowing that it is about to take over social networking.

Saverin's money. However, Zuckerberg's rapid success appears to come crashing down at one point. After being accused of stealing the Winklevoss' website idea, Zuckerberg is threatened by both the twins and his best friend Saverin and is forced to lawyer up.

Eisenberg gives an incredible performance, straying away from the Michael Cera type roles he is used to playing in movies such as *Zombieland*. Timberlake is both convincing and charismatic in his portrayal of Parker. The biggest surprise of the movie is the acting of Garfield, who gives an excellent performance as Saverin. The cast of *The Social Network*, which was not filled with well-known actors, gives many notable performances that will hopefully get many first time Oscar recognitions.

What makes the film so interesting is that the creator of Facebook was an anti-social and arrogant 19 year old. The real Mark Zuckerberg, the youngest billionaire

in the world, claims that *The Social Network* is a piece of fiction. While this may be true, there are many who claim that Eisenberg's portrayal of him is spot on. The film, although trying to be an accurate biography of Facebook, spotlights Zuckerberg in a very negative manner.

Many people will walk out of the movie feeling disgusted by the sleaziness and callousness behind social networking; however, *The Social Network* is a nearly flawless film with a perfect script and a perfect cast.

Many Facebook users will be fascinated by the development of the social network as it slowly turns into the website phenomenon known today. Its quick and quirky dialogue makes the two hour running time fly by. *The Social Network*, a potential Oscar nominee for best picture, is perhaps the best movie of 2010 so far.



www.allmoviephoto.com

In the opening scene of the movie, Erica Albright (Rooney Mara), is breaking up with Zuckerberg. This event is significant in the creation of *The Social Network*.

Kind of an unfunny story: Galifianakis struggles to float a sinking movie

by Katie Fishbin

Staff Writer

Still riding the success of his very well received performance in *The Hangover*, Zack Galifianakis stars with Keir Gilchrist in *It's Kind of a Funny Story*, a film that has certain humorous moments but seems to lack in many areas.

The film centers around a 16 year old kid, Craig (Gilchrist), extremely stressed over the constant pressure from his overbearing parents (Jim Gaffigan and Lauren Graham) to "better" his life by creating a tedious entrance essay in order to be accepted into an expensive and acclaimed summer school program. This starts to create unnecessary stress on his life.

Unable to cope with the pressure from his parents, Craig contemplates suicide, but is able to suppress his emotions in order to call a self-help hotline. The operator advises Craig to check himself into the nearest hospital, and he does so.

Upon entering the hospital, Craig is forced into the adult wing after learning the adolescent ward is under construction, and meets a lovable yet quirky and mentally unstable patient named Bobby

(Galifianakis).

The film continues with much of the comedic situations that one would expect, including a ping pong game between the two, conversations with other patients as well as most of Galifianakis' dialogue, most notably his advice on how to ask out an attractive female fellow patient.

Galifianakis' performance is definitely the highlight of the film, blending both the outlandish and off color comedy that brought him success as a comedian and actor, as well as the elements of a depressed father who is unable to live outside of the hospital, channeling emotions that will undoubtedly tug at a viewer's heart strings.

However, the film in general is not a successful one. It seems to border on a sub-par *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, aimed at a younger audience. Not to mention that the teen angst and cheap, easy laughs centered around wacky mental patients are overused and a bit boring.

The film has constant "day dream" sequences aimed to allow the audience a better look into Craig's psyche.

But the dream sequences seem to fall into the same boring category, including one particular sequence involving the

characters lip-synching "Under Pressure."

Though the film effectively presents a few heart warming scenes and well delivered performances, the film's biggest failure is in its realism, which leads us to care very little about the protagonist.

What is most frustrating is how quickly Craig seems to overcome his depression, as well as inspire other patients.

In the span of a mere five days, we are led to believe that Craig was ultimately able to bring himself and several other patients to a happier state of mind, a better outlook on life, and a hopeful perspective for the future.



www.imdb.com

Craig (Keir Gilchrist), Bobby (Zach Galifianakis) walk down the hallway of the hospital where Craig meets new people who change his perspective on life.

It seems that Craig was able to do in less than a week what doctors could not do in months, which makes viewers ask the question, was he really ever depressed to begin with?

Newest team looks to begin its season

After a great deal of effort, the Friends of Port Rowing have started a crew team

BY **Aaron Brezel**

Contributing Writer

This past summer, "The Friends of Port Rowing," a committee of active rowers, approached Schreiber High School with the hopes of starting a crew, or rowing, team. After several meetings with the school, the group worked out many of the kinks associated with forming a new team.

"Friends of Port Rowing has been working very hard over the summer to find avenues we need to take to make this a reality at Schreiber," said Director of Athletics Ms. Stephanie Joannon, who spearheaded the planning stages. "There has been such great community and student support for a crew team in Port Washington and we are hoping to get Schreiber rowing started this spring."

Despite the help that the fledgling crew team is receiving from the school, it still needs many things to complete the program. Before the team can truly get started, it will need to find ways to acquire certain essentials.

The team must obtain funding, rowing boats, and off-season training equipment. The team is also searching for a coach, as well as a place to use for practices.

So far the prime location is Man-orhaven Park, because it is very easy to access for students.

The Town of North Hempstead has already given positive feedback regarding

the use of the park. The team is also negotiating with one of the yacht clubs and there is talk of setting up introductory programs with Chaminade High School, a school with a well-established crew team, to teach the fundamentals of rowing to interested students who wish to join the crew team.

As with other spring sports, crew requires intense winter practices before the season begins. These winter workouts are in the process of being organized as well. Part of this process involves the crew team's need to purchase two rowing machines to use during its pre-season practices.

By the spring, the Friends of Port Rowing hope to obtain several usable four-person and eight-person rowing boats. One four-person boat has already been secured.

Practices are slated for two days a week, but there are plans for future seasons to have practice five days a week like most other sports teams.

Ms. Joannon hopes that the crew team will begin to participate in competitions, but it is more likely that in the beginning, the team would compete as a non-scoring competitor for the experience.

At this time, those involved with the movement are working to establish Friends of Port Rowing as a tax-deductible organization. This will hopefully bring in donations that will strengthen the program.

Interestingly, many staff members have

a history with the sport of crew. Mathematics teacher Ms. Elizabeth Carstens was a member of the crew team at the University of Vermont at the time when it came in fourth out of 58 in the Head of the Charles competition.

"It changed my life," said Ms. Carstens, referring to the event.

Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss also rowed in college at Washington University in St. Louis.

"You get to experience the effect of teamwork first hand," said Mr. Weiss. "You can do much more together than individually."

There is already growing interest in a crew team at Schreiber.

"I think it would be so fun to participate in a new and unique sport," said sophomore Emma Brezel.

Over 75 students have already signed

up for the new team, perhaps spurred by the assurance that no prior experience is needed. Such support is a good indicator of the success of the organization and the project's future. If there is more interest and a larger team, donations and funding will be easier to find.

Because of the support the team has received, it will be less likely that the team will be shut down like other sports teams that were terminated due to a lack of involvement in the past. The Friends of Port Rowing are the ideal group to jump start a team at Schreiber High School, and their efforts will not be under appreciated by the team members.

"This is simply amazing," said Ms. Joannon. "I'm excited at the enthusiasm of the students, and some even have prior experience."



Courtesy of Aaron Brezel

Chaminade's crew team provided a demonstration to Schreiber's new team, and the Friends of Port Rowing. Schreiber's crew team is set to start next season.

Captain's Corner: Jamie Koopersmith

Dan Miller chats with senior girls varsity volleyball captain Jamie Koopersmith about the season, television and good eats:

Dan Miller: Good evening, Koop.

Jamie Koopersmith: Hey there.

DM: The team came storming out of the gate and currently has an 11-1 record and is second in the division. How were you ladies able to overcome the space and coaching challenges made from boys volleyball's switch from spring to the fall?

JK: Honestly, we have to give it up to the coaching staff. They've done an amazing job making this chaotic switch seem flawless. Our team has had to work through some confusing practice schedules but the overall attitude is just to make this work.

DM: What was the most confusing moment you've experienced this season?

JK: Confusing? Probably when I came back from a weekend away and realized we had a game. I only packed clothes to practice in... talk about problematic.

DM: Uniforms can indeed be troubling. Off the court, you're known to be a huge football fan as well as one who enjoys *Grey's Anatomy*. What were to happen if the Giants played a game on Thursday night?

JK: Oh come on, is that really a question? Big Blue over *Grey's* any day.

DM: I'm glad you answered so patriotically. I've also heard you dabble in the culinary arts. What's your newest creation?

JK: Actually, last week I made this insane panini with grilled chicken, sautéed onions, sautéed peppers and jack cheese drizzled with homemade garlic sauce. It was delicious. But, if you want to hear about a real treat, just ask my co-captain Kristen Courage. I make a grilled cheese to die for.

DM: I'll take you up on said grilled cheese once I finish a few more college apps. Getting back to volleyball, if the playoffs started today, how far will this team go?

JK: We'll bring home that trophy. We've been in the gym working hard every day. This is a team that wants to win, and will do what is necessary to achieve that goal.

DM: That's one confident answer, Jamie. I can't wait to hear what happens and I wish you girls the best of luck for the remainder of your season.

JK: Thanks Dan, I appreciate it. And whenever you want that grilled cheese, you know who to come to.

Port fencing team cut

BY **Dan Miranda**

Staff Writer

The Vikings fencing team has always had a roller-coaster existence. Just last year, the team was cut yet again. There were two main reasons for this: first was funding; the other, the number of participants.

"Starting a fencing team presented a few issues," said Director of Athletics Ms. Stephanie Joannon. "Besides the money, which was going to be \$25,000 a year for equipment such as strips, blades, and padding as well as transportation, the other was interest in the team."

Last year, the team had five total members with three girls and two boys. The district mandates that fencing teams must have 12 boys and 12 girls, with three of each gender participating in each of the three different types of fencing: foil, sabre, and epee.

The team was able to run the previous year because Nassau County provided for incomplete, or independent, teams. These teams were made up of athletes from different schools over Nassau County that did not have enough team members to meet requirements.

Although the students officially competed as individuals, they were treated as one cohesive team.

"The sports that are usually affected are swimming, gymnastics, and fencing," said Ms. Joannon. "The fencing team had members from around nine schools, including Syosset, Roslyn, North Shore, Oceanside, Southside, Levittown, and our own school."

Two years ago, a majority of the fenc-

ers from this inter-high school team qualified to the state championships, including '10 alumnus, Will O'Neill. Last year, alumni Rachel Burke, Zachary Brandt, Daniel Goldfeder and others from the high schools of this team made it to counties as well.

However, by April of last year, Nassau County abolished independent teams for all sports. That left Schreiber with two options: find enough students to make a fencing team or combine with another school's squad.

"We actually knew this was coming since January of last year," said Ms. Joannon. "The thing is, by April, we couldn't guarantee that we could have twelve boys and twelve girls, let alone the \$25,000 needed."

Currently, rumors are swirling around the athletic department that Schreiber is going to have the team brought back next year.

"We're all very excited for the possible return of the team," said junior Sara Rodrigues, varsity co-captain of the team in the 2009-10 season.

However, it is certainly no lock that the school's fencing program will return in 2011.

"It's unfair to say yes or no to the question of whether or not we're bringing the team back next year," said Ms. Joannon. "We haven't even discussed next year. If the interest is there, though, we certainly would look at bringing the team to Port Washington."

For now, it remains to be seen whether or not the fencing team can possibly be revived.



Athletes



of the



Month



Timo Santala

BY Chad Edelblum

Staff Writer

Along with deriving original math formulas and creating art masterpieces, senior Timo Santala has been playing soccer since kindergarten. He entered club ball in 3rd grade, and has been involved with playing for the Vikings soccer team since 7th grade.

"I like soccer for combining endurance with minute skills. Soccer probably has the most 'tricks' to be mastered of any sport," said Santala.

As defensive central-midfielder, his job is to match up with the best player on the other team and to ensure that his opponent never has the chance to attempt a goal.

"In each match, I'd say I'm most effective at stealing the ball from the other team and setting up plays for goals," said Santala.

Along with being a superior defender, he also has the offensive ability to score goals. To pump up his teammates, he drove half the length of the field by himself in a game against Herricks in the seventh minute on Oct. 13th.

As the only senior captain this year, Santala has been a huge boost to the varsity soccer team. He is responsible for warming up the team by going through laps, dynamics, and stretching, and organizing its members into drills for practice sessions.

"Timo has exhibited all of the most desirable attributes of a high school athlete. His consistently high work rate, athleticism, and willingness to sacrifice personal accomplishments for team goals are

highly valued," said Coach Don Fish. "In short, he is an exemplary team captain. He helps to make his teammates better."

Not only does Santala lead by example, but he is also a great on-field leader for the team. This season, Santala has notched one goal and two assists.

He has also been an excellent on and off the ball defender. Because of his great speed and endurance, Santala has the ability to stick with any scorer that he marks.

With the Vikings season coming to a close, Santala has expressed his desire to push into the playoffs.

"Our current record is 4-3-3. We actually have a very solid team," said Santala. "While our defense is incredibly solid and we have great possession of the ball, we lack goal-scorers and that has held us back."



Noah White

Senior Timo Santala (left), has played soccer since kindergarten. His work ethic and willingness to sacrifice has brought the varsity team far.

Alex Bricault

BY Will Zhou

Sports Editor

Senior Alex Bricault is the captain of the girls varsity swim team. This is the best season that the team has seen in a long time and Bricault is excited to see it through.

"My favorite part about the team is that even though it's a competitive sport, we've come together a lot as a family," said Bricault. "This year, we've seen a lot of that."

Bricault has been swimming for the team since seventh grade in such events as the 200m medley relay, 200m freestyle, 200m individual medley, the 500m individual, 200m freestyle relay, and the 400m freestyle relay.

Bricault has been captain of the team for two years, and is not a member of any other sports team; she chooses to focus on this one sport.

Without the support of Coach Joe Lennon, Bricault could not have become what she is today.

"I really like him," said Bricault. "I think that he, other than just being someone there to tell us what to do, is a very supportive figure for the whole team."

As a coach, Lennon is also very proud of Bricault's many achievements over the course of her swimming career as part of the Lady Vikings.

"Alex is one of the hardest working athletes I have had the honor to coach, said Lennon. "Her flexibility has led her to swim almost every event in season with great success. She is first in the pool and often last out, and is a six time divisional

qualifier as well as five time county qualifier. Most importantly, she can be counted on in all situations."

She has qualified to counties five times in her swimming career, yet she has never attended swimming camp. She also swims outside of school for the Manorhaven Red Devils and the Flying Fish.

The Lady Vikings placed 17th at last year's county championships with 63 points, but Bricault has high hopes for this year.

"We're 7-2 this season, and I would say this is probably the first year that we've had such a great season," said Bricault. "We have a lot of middle schoolers on the team, so we also have a bright future ahead of us. I really hope that we can make it to counties, and I'm really proud of all of us."

The girls team has racked up some of the highest points at swim meets this year compared to other teams, with 114 points on a Oct. 21 meet against East Meadow, and 98 on Oct. 19 against North Shore.



Alex Bricault

Swimming for the varsity team since seventh grade, Bricault pushes herself in the freestyle event. She has high hopes for the rest of the season.

Junior Jake Froccaro looks forward to college lacrosse at Princeton

BY Drew Friedman

Assistant Sports Editor

Long Island, known as one of the most prominent locations for lacrosse nationwide, has produced several premier players over the past few years. These Long Islanders have made an impact on the sport since their high school careers. In fact, professional players such as Matt Danowski of the Long Island Lizards and Chris Unterstein of the New Jersey Pride have come from Farmingdale and Shoreham on Long Island.

"I am thrilled that I will be able to play with my brother Jeff again; it will be just like old times," said Froccaro. "The only difference is we are playing against the best in the country."

Schreiber recently learned that such a player is among its midst. Junior Jake Froccaro of the Vikings lacrosse team fits the criteria for a lacrosse success story just like these. Froccaro, who is ranked sixth

among America's Top Young Guns on Insider Lacrosse, has already been accepted to Division I Princeton University in October of his junior year, an impressive feat that deserves attention.

At Princeton, ranked seventh in the nation for lacrosse, he will play alongside his older brother, Class of '09 alumni Jeff Froccaro.

His older brother, who has been playing midfield for the Tigers for the last two seasons, was a second team Ivy League selection.

"I am thrilled that I will be able to play with my brother Jeff again; it will be like old times," said Froccaro. "The only difference is we are competing against the best in the country."

Froccaro did not become what he is today without help from his family and his elite coaches. He has been playing lacrosse since he was five years old through the local sports organization Port Youth Association with Coach Harvey Cohen. His brother and uncles Vinny and Stephen Sombrotto were also very influential back when he was a novice player.

For the last six years, Froccaro has been traveling to tournaments over summer vacations in order to stay in top shape for the upcoming seasons and so he can play the sport he loves.

"Travel lacrosse is a huge commitment for my family and me. My parents are always and have always been willing

to sacrifice their time to help me improve my game," said Froccaro.

Froccaro was able to make the Long Island Empire State team this year. He played an important role in the team's championship game at Buffalo against Central.

"Winning the gold medal was definitely the biggest moment of my career thus far," said Froccaro. "We were down late in the game to a great Central team, but we fought back hard and were able to rally to win. There were hundreds of fans in the crowd along with a whole bunch of college coaches. It was an all-around amazing experience."

Not only did Froccaro succeed on the summer team, but he was also one of the top scorers on the Vikings' 9-7 season last year.

Froccaro led the team in face-offs, winning 106 of 155 last season, goals with 48, and offensive points with 71. He was also elected to All County.

His biggest game last season came against Locust Valley where he had eight goals and an assist during the Vikings' 14-8 win.

"The best advice I can give is that there is no substitute for hard work. If you put in the time and effort it will really show on game day," said Froccaro.

For his remaining time at Schreiber and his future ventures at Princeton University, Froccaro not only wants to be

a successful athlete, but also a good role model.

"The most important thing for me is to get a great education. Then second comes lacrosse," said Froccaro.



Courtesy of Jake Froccaro

The Vikings leader in goals and face-offs last season, Jake Froccaro, plays for his summer team the Long Island Empire State team

Amidst constant sports injuries, Z stands ready to help

Athletic trainer Rick Zappala reflects on his eight years at Port

by **Brett Fishbin**
Sports Editor

For every athlete, there is a fine line between being hurt and being seriously injured. For many who tread that line, it is easy to over-practice or push too hard and fall into the injured category.

When this happens, student athletes often wonder how they can get better in the most efficient and healthiest way. The answer is almost always found in a visit to the school's athletic trainer, Mr. Rick Zappala.

Mr. Zappala, commonly known as Mr. Z to many Vikings athletes, is in his eighth year as the school's full-time athletic trainer.

Those who do not participate in sports rarely come into contact with Mr. Zappala, but he provides medical help to over 20 student athletes every Monday through Friday.

"Back when I was in high school in Winchester, Massachusetts, I worked with the athletic director for a year," said Mr. Zappala. "Because of this, I became interested in the field and did it in college as well."

Mr. Zappala has now been an athletic trainer for over 30 years. He has worked at many colleges, and even with the American team at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Although he works throughout the school year, Mr. Zappala is certain that the Fall is the busiest season in terms of

student injuries.

"The fall season is usually the worst, not only because of the fact that the greatest number of teams play in the fall, but that there are more contact sports such as football," said Mr. Zappala.

But Mr. Zappala does not mind the heavy traffic; rather, he truly enjoys what he does for students.

"Sometimes kids come here to talk; it's not even for their injuries. They're just comfortable here, and if I can help them, I think that's great," said Mr. Zappala.

While Mr. Zappala's role as both an athletic trainer and friendly figure certainly can be rewarding, there have been some difficult moments when it comes to the safety and health of student athletes. He believes that the most serious injury a young adult can experience is a concussion.

"Because of the knowledge we have in how harmful concussions can be to students, I am very sensitive to making sure that these students get taken care of," said Mr. Zappala. "I really enjoy helping people to get over injuries and getting back to doing what they love."

Over the past few years, the Port Washington school district has taken many positive steps in order to ensure a higher degree of safety for all student athletes. Besides simply maintaining a full time athletic trainer (which only two schools in Nassau County have, and as many as 25 schools throughout the country lack), many new facilities have been built with safety in mind.



Elana Galassi

Mr. Rick Zappala tapes junior Elyse Belarge's ankle. He has been working as an athletic trainer for Port since 2002.

"The new track and turf are excellent," said Mr. Zappala. "I have seen a lot less splints from runners, and other related injuries because of these developments, which goes to show how much the district is trying."

Mr. Zappala works extremely hard to

ensure that student athletes feel safe from permanent injuries.

While the issue of student safety will never be totally solved, Mr. Zappala strives to help keep students as safe as they can possibly be.

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VIKING SPORTS

Cross country teams celebrate record season *Both boys and girls varsity teams win the title of Division Champions*

BY **Juliana Beall**
Contributing Writer

Both the boys and girls cross country teams made history this season. For the first time in Vikings history, both the girls and boys varsity teams finished as Division Champions.

The Lady Vikings defeated all but one of the teams in their conference. The team is made up of 21 runners; however, the varsity roster includes only the top 10 runners: seniors Sara Giraldo, Sarah Shlafmitz, Reid Mergler and Blake Mergler, sophomores Allegra Maldonado, Dian Lin, Ashley Pollack, Gisella Snailer and Nicole Ziv, and freshman Nicole Boyd. Giraldo's top time for the 5K race is 20:33 minutes.

The JV roster is composed of the remaining 11 girls. Some of the team's victories include triumphs over teams from Oceanside, Freeport, Massapequa, Herricks, MacArthur, Hicksville, Uniondale, and East Meadow. Their only loss came against Farmingdale.

However, the success of this team does not stop at league meets. At the Burnt Hills Invitational in Saratoga State Park, the 14 girls who ran for the Vikings all achieved their personal best times. Although this was a huge success for the individual girls, the spirit of the group also grew as the team stayed together overnight.

"Everyone raced amazingly on Saturday, and many of us set outstanding personal records," said Snailer. "The trip was also a great bonding experience, and it helped turn our team into a close-knit family."

Previously in the season, both the Varsity and JV teams came in second place in the Village Restoration Meet on Sept. 25 and the Suffolk Coaches invitational on Oct. 9.

Team captains Giraldo, B. Mergler, R. Mergler, and Schlafmitz are all extremely proud of the team's recent accomplishments and the effort everyone has put in throughout the season.

"The team is amazing this year," said Shlafmitz. "We're having the most success we've ever had. I'm so proud of everyone on the team, we've all worked so hard and we have definitely earned our success."

The girls' win on Oct. 19 is proof of this hard work and personal motivation. With the girls' defeat of East Meadow (a



Courtesy of Reid Mergler

The top ten runners on the boys and girls cross country team pose for a picture with coaches in Bethpage. Below: boys varsity runners race toward the finish line at the end of the 5k race at Bethpage on Oct. 19.

previously undefeated team), Schreiber was awarded the title of Division Champions for the first time in school history.

"This is a very big moment for us because the team has only been going on for five years," said Giraldo. "So it is really quite incredible how we were able to prove ourselves so early."

The girls owe at least a portion of their success to coach Robin Cooper, who holds the team together and constantly reminds the girls that they are all there for the same goal.

"I can't find a way to describe Cooper," said Giraldo. "I've had many coaches in the past, but none like her. She is always trying to think of ways to make us better. She had this season all planned out before it even began."

The girls' team is not the only one to have accomplished a great deal this season. Despite the loss of some key runners from last year's graduating class, the boys varsity cross country team, coached by Jeremy Klaff, has not fallen short of ex-

pectations.

The varsity captains are senior Dean Goodspeed and juniors Paolo Bertolotti, Ryan Schwartz, and Taylor Titcomb. As captains, their job includes running warm-ups and keeping the practices running smoothly by working alongside Coach Klaff.

"Klaff has a good sense of humor, and he keeps the entire team in good shape with fresh practices," said senior Chun Liu, a varsity runner on the team.

The leadership of Klaff and the four captains, as well as the ambition of all the runners, is the reason why the boys cross country team tends to meet and even exceed expectations.

"The team has been considered an underdog for the past three years now but for the past three years we have won the county title, so we'll see if we can do it again this year," said Bertolotti.

Many have speculated about how the team will fare without the presence of key runners from last year, who were of-

ten considered the backbone of the team. With only one division loss to Massapequa and the subsequent victory and reception of the title of Division Champions, the team's strong bond and motivation has proven that this year's varsity roster is able to achieve the same success of last year's.

The top ten varsity roster, includes Titcomb, Schwartz, Bertolotti, sophomores Sid Kakkar, Nick Sapountzis, James Gallagher, Shoki Yamada, Jackson Lanthrop, and Julian Faccibene, and freshman Leo Potters. To be qualified for a varsity position, the boys must complete the 5K event in under 20 minutes; top long distance runner Titcomb's record for the season is 16:29 minutes, and sophomore Kakkar claims second with 16:51.

The top runners include (in addition to Titcomb and Kakkar): Nick Sapountzis (17:40), Ryan Schwartz (17:42), James Gallagher (17:48), Leo Potters (17:52), Shoki Yamada (17:53), Paolo Bertolotti (18:05), Jackson Lanthrop (18:07), and Julian Faccibene (18:45).

