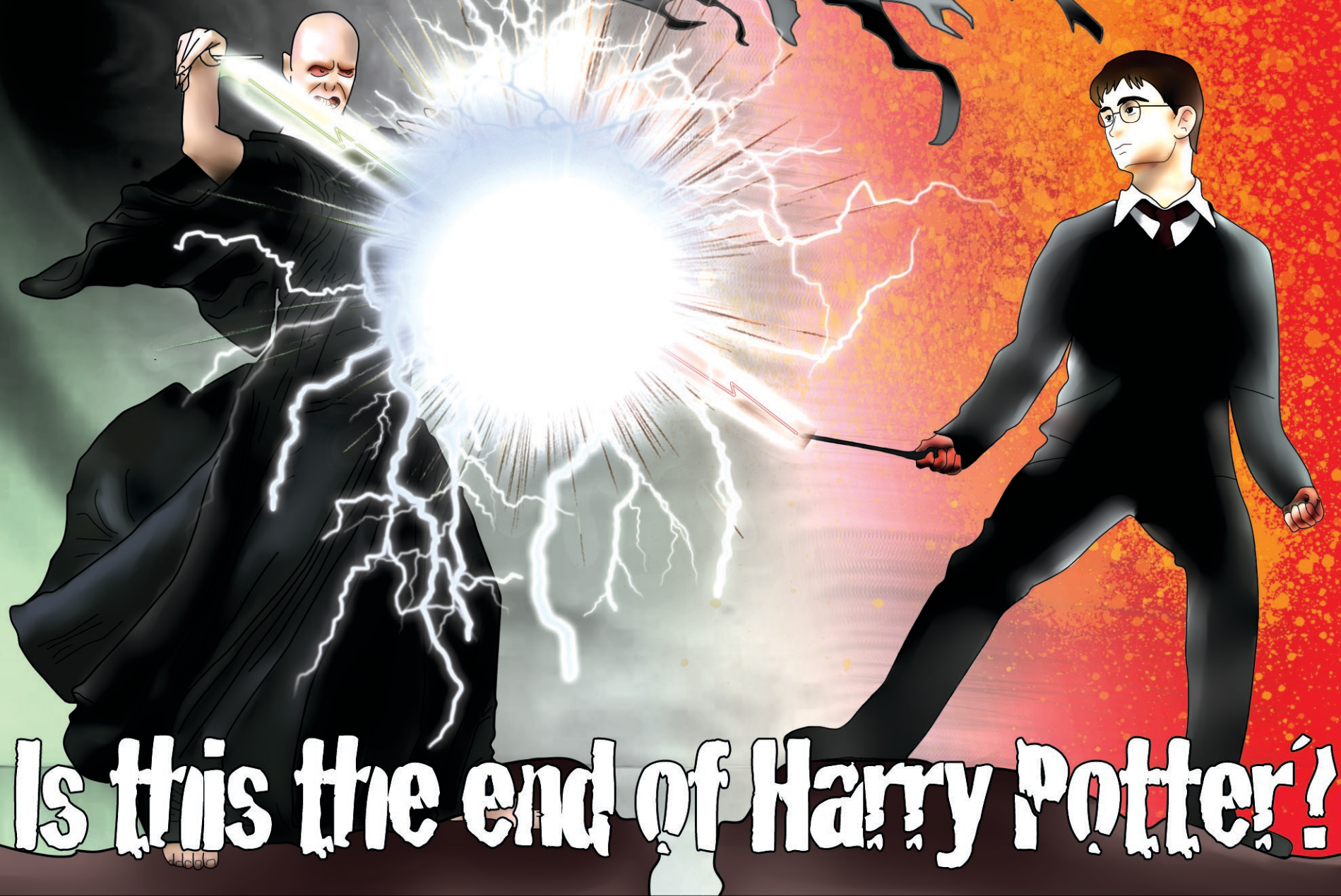


THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXI No. 3 November 2010

Dark forces are gathering...



Is this the end of Harry Potter?



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-Features-



Health Class
Requirements
-Opinions-

Drug Abuse Assembly
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Senior Rachel Lazar took this photograph over the summer while waiting for her subway. She found the contrast between the blurry, speeding train and her clear and calm subjects intriguing. Lazar took the photo for her AP Photography course.

NEWS BRIEFS

Student Council blood drive

Working with the New York Blood Center, the Student Council recently organized a blood drive for the school. On Nov. 9, students and teachers came to the new gym to donate blood for those in need of transfusions.

Although 125 people filled out the paperwork, 30 individuals were not able to donate due to the donor restrictions of the New York Blood Center, which include medical limits such as height, weight, and iron levels, and limits on what donors have done in the last year, such as traveling in malaria-endemic regions. Because of the number of people who were barred from participating, the drive was 12 pints short of its goal of 113 pints.

"Donating blood is one of the best things you can do. With a little time and almost no pain you can help people right when they need it most," said senior Alison Ehrlich.

The Student Council prepared for the day about two and a half weeks prior to the drive, which lasted from the beginning of school to 1:45 p.m.

This preparation included advertising to enable students to submit their required forms in time for the event. Members encouraged students to sign up for blood donations in the week leading up to the

drive. Also, to make the process run smoothly, the Student Council enabled students to submit the forms required for participation before the blood drive.

For future blood drives, Student Council is discussing the merits of a system that would record who donated and at what times. This would better help teachers and administrators keep track of when students are at the blood drive.

~Matt Heiden

Robotics Competition

The robotics team participated in the Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST) Robotics Competition, which was held at Central Connecticut State University. In its first competition of the year on Oct. 24, the team competed against 18 other schools.

Although the team did not end up qualifying for the finals, the students had the opportunity to test their designed robot. The team had less than seven weeks to build a robot using only the box of materials provided.

"It was a ton of fun preparing for the competition and building robots from scratch," said sophomore Sydney Mott.

The robot was designed to sort defective and non-defective goods by picking up items that ranged from golf balls to eggs,

flipping a cone, placing the object within the cone, and covering the cone with a Frisbee. Students on the team began designing the robot on Oct. 13 and subsequently met every Tuesday and Thursday to complete the design and build the robot. The team was also required to prepare an engineering log, a display board, and a presentation.

BEST was originally scheduled on Nov. 7, but the team lost practice time when the competition was moved up two weeks.

"We did very well for a young team," said Mr. Don Schaefer, the robotics club advisor. "The robot performed like we wanted it to, but we could have used more practice in picking up balls, eggs, and the cone."

The robotics club will soon begin preparing for the US FIRST Robotics Competition, which is another major event for the team this year.

"FIRST is a really fun competition because there are a lot more schools. I know we will do well since we have much more time to prepare," said sophomore Brittany Cohen.

The US FIRST regional competition will take place in March at Hofstra University.

~Minah Kim

ERRATUM:

In the October 2010 issue, Kyle Manzione was not credited for writing "Kind of an unfunny story: Galifianakis struggles to float a sinking movie."

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Former NYPD detectives lead drug awareness assembly

Students shown reality of drug abuse through interviews with recovering addicts

BY **Kristin Yu**
Staff Assistant

Natalie Ciappa was two weeks away from graduating from Massapequa High School when she died of a heroin overdose. Ciappa’s father discovered her after a party amid beer bottles and paper plates that the host was in the middle of clearing, stepping over Ciappa in the process.

An average suburban girl, Ciappa shows the true face of drug addiction. To promote drug abuse awareness and prevent more cases like Ciappa’s, members of the Strategic Protection Group visited on Nov. 9. Students in all grades were required to attend the drug awareness assembly. The presentation was repeated for the health classes later in the day.

The presenters were three former New York City detectives who had worked in the Narcotics Division. Two members of the team, Michael Zotto and Jim Murphy, spoke of the nationwide substance abuse problem.

The assembly emphasized the ability of informed individuals to make intelligent decisions for themselves.

“We want kids to be empowered to do the right thing and make good decisions, to not fall into the crowd mentality,” said Zotto. “They probably won’t get information as raw as this, so here it is.”

“We want kids to be empowered to do the right thing and make good decisions, to not fall into the crowd mentality,” said Michael Zotto. “They probably won’t get information as raw as this, so here it is.”

The presentation featured photographs of drug addicts at numerous stages in their addictions. Among the photos were mug shots of repeat crystal methamphetamine users, drug users smoking, snorting, and passing out, and celebrities indicted on charges of drug abuse.

“It’s kind of in your face, but we want to show that it doesn’t just go away,” said Zotto. “Once you’re an addict, you’re always an addict.”

A short film by John Lazarro explained the circumstances behind Ciappa’s death. It emphasized that the abuse of serious drugs such as heroin and cocaine often begin with marijuana use.

The two presenters explained that users of these substances often do not think that they have a problem; a common misconception.

“The biggest lie you’ll ever hear or tell yourself is ‘I can stop whenever I want,’” said Murphy. “People might say, ‘I just didn’t know. I had no idea I would get here.’”

More than 1,000 Long Islanders enter rehabilitation or detoxification facilities each year for drug abuse, a number indicative of rising addiction rates.

The presentation included recorded interviews with recovering addicts that demonstrate how addiction affects every aspect of an addict’s life.

“Socially, I lost all of my friends,” said Sarah Kash, a recovering drug addict. “I didn’t go to school and financially, you just have no money. You have to sacrifice yourself in so many ways. I’m 18 years old and I have collapsed veins.”

Murphy and Zotto cited several reasons why teenagers begin using drugs. Peer pressure was hailed as the most common influence, followed by desires to fit in, boredom, rebellion, and curiosity.

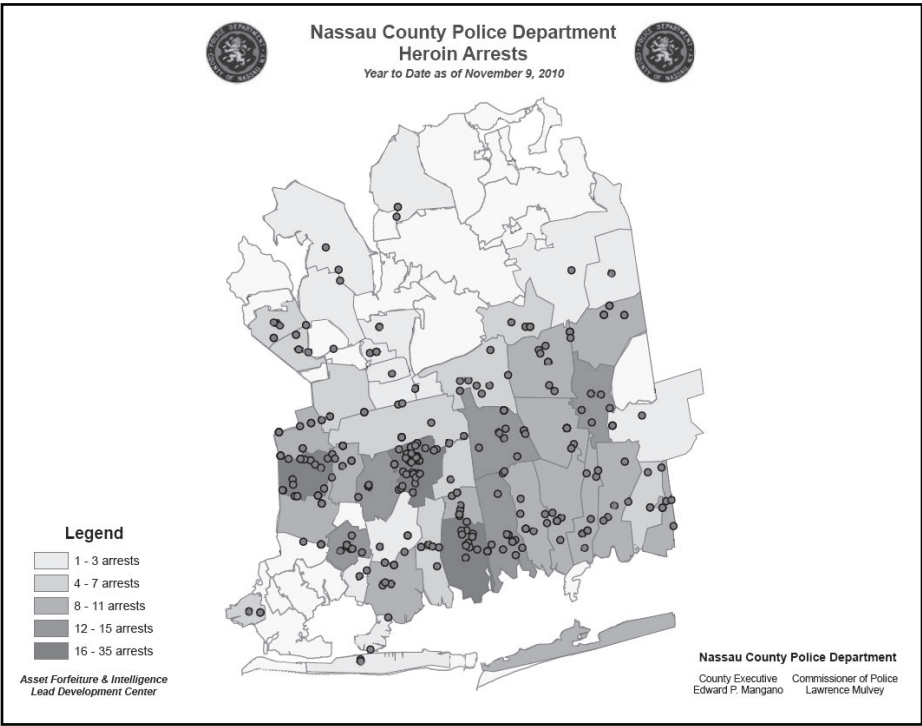
A common theme surrounding teenage drug use was a lack of parental supervision. Zotto encourages parents to check their children’s belongings. However, he warns that this action may not be enough due to the easily concealable nature of drugs.

The presentation was met by mixed reactions from the student body.

“I thought it was very informative, but everyone seemed to be laughing and didn’t take it seriously,” said junior Alexandra Sater. “I wouldn’t do drugs before but now I definitely won’t do them.”

“The presentation was helpful, but slightly biased,” said freshman Natalie Martinek. “I felt like they were too one-sided. It wasn’t realistic. I thought they should have mentioned other ways to stay away from drugs.”

Still others were not affected by the information presented.



The map above represents the number of heroin arrests in Nassau County as of Jan. 1 2010. The shading of each region shows the quantity of reported arrests in each town. Each mark on the map indicates the location of each arrest for heroin possession.

“I thought it was a useless presentation,” said sophomore Michael Krellenstein.

Members of the Strategic Protection Group such as Murphy and Zotto travel and present to schools around Long Island. After the Channel 11 News televised a similar presentation in Islip, other school districts asked if the group could deliver the same message at their schools.

“There aren’t enough programs out there that touch upon these topics in the way we do,” said Zotto. “There aren’t enough resources for kids. Even though academics are important, life skills are even more important.”

Zotto worked for the NYPD for 22 years in the Narcotics Division and has been working undercover on Long Island on the drug issue for almost 10 years. He knew Murphy, a former supervisor of the Narcotics Division, from their days together in the NYPD. During his 21 years on the force, Murphy arrested hundreds of addicts.

The issue of drug abuse is personal for Zotto, whose cousin is a recovering drug

addict.

“Everybody has something out there that they can relate to this,” said Zotto. “A lot of kids come up to us to talk privately. They’re very open about things going on in school or in their families. We do what we can for them.”

Despite the health risks, there is a wide array of illicit substances ready to be abused. Prescription drugs are among the most frequently abused substances, as are members of the opiate family such as heroin. The purity of marijuana has increased, as percentages of the drug’s active ingredient, THC, have increased from six to 37 percent since the 1960s. Date-rape drugs such as ecstasy, rohypnol, and GHB are also frequently abused.

With the sole intentions of informing, the presentation ultimately left the choice to the individual.

“There was nothing like this out there when I was growing up,” said Zotto. “They said, ‘Say no,’ but we didn’t know to what. Now, you have no excuses.”

Quiz Bowl team goes up against Syosset in televised trivia competition

BY **Katie Garry**
Contributing Writer

Rather than merely attending the monthly Quiz Bowl trivia match held at Great Neck South High School, Schreiber’s team performed in front of a much larger audience this November. The team competed against Syosset High School on MSG Varsity’s game show, *The Challenge*, which was played back live on News 12 on Nov. 14 and is still available on HBO’s On Demand TV.

Although entry to the Quiz Bowl team is open to any student, not every student who attends meetings is able to compete in matches. Like athletic teams, an exceptional performance during Monday morning practices is crucial for participation in the monthly competitions. However, open tryouts were held, giving

those who weren’t in the club a chance to participate.

Four students, club captain senior Hilary Mogul, seniors Jai Sajnani and Timo Santala, and sophomore Elana Galassi were chosen to compete on *The Challenge* against Syosset through tryouts that were open to all students. These members were selected by the club advisor, social studies teacher Mr. Jeremy Klaff.

At competitions, team members are expected to answer questions from a variety of academic and cultural categories.

“It was a great experience overall. It wasn’t too nerve-racking as the live audience was a moderate size and the questions were fairly easy,” said Sajnani.

Although Mogul is the club’s captain, Sajnani acted as captain for the show. The captain’s responsibilities include verbally answering a question for the team if

the opposing team answers a question incorrectly. The team captain is also required to answer all of the questions in the St. Joseph’s Lightning Round.

The team competed in four rounds of questions of different categories, each worth a different number of points. Round one was the only multiple choice round, with categories ranging from basic algebra to British poets.

The remaining three rounds consisted of one lightning round, in which the teams had only 60 seconds to answer each question, and two regular rounds of questioning. In the lightning round, Schreiber answered all 10 questions correctly while Syosset only answered seven correctly.

“Teamwork allowed us to reach the point we reached. This could be seen especially in the 10 question lightening round,” said Sajnani.

Schreiber lost the competition with a final score of 365-285, but Mr. Klaff and the team were satisfied with the performance.

“We did very well but lost in the last round of questions,” said Mr. Klaff. “It’s not just what you know; it’s how quickly you hit the buzzer.”

“The final score didn’t really show how great a game it was. The judges even came and shook our hands, talking about how they had never seen a game like that. Even though it was pretty tough to prepare for it, I think we really pulled through as a team,” said Mogul.

Team members agreed that the final few questions, which were worth more points, were easy, and were disappointed by their loss.

“As we demonstrated in our match versus Syosset, we have the answers, but we have to work on our quickness in hitting the buzzer,” said Santala.

Annual Vegetarian Dinner

Treehuggers prepare feast without meat products

BY **Hannah Fagen**
Assistant News Editor

In an effort to publicize the negative impacts of the meat industry on the environment, and provide an opportunity for students to join together for a meal, the Treehuggers Environmental club recently held its fifth annual Vegetarian Dinner.

On Nov. 17, approximately 80 students and staff members convened in the cafeteria to share a meatless meal of pizza, pasta, salad, desserts, and other vegetarian dishes.

Although the event brought in funds for the club, the main goal was to spread awareness regarding the dangers of the meat industry to the environment.

“Factory farms are extremely detrimental to the environment. In fact they produce more greenhouse gasses each year than all the cars, trains, and busses on earth combined. Not to mention their contributions to air and water pollution,” said junior Alison Peraza, co-president of the Treehuggers club.

The club members made a short presentation educating the attendees about the importance of reducing meat consumption to help the environment.

“We realize it’s not realistic to ask everyone to become a vegetarian, but the less meat you eat helps a lot. You can think of going vegetarian a day or two a week equal to riding your bike instead of driving somewhere, or starting a carpool. Every little bit helps,” said Peraza.

To help attendees understand the problems with the meat industry, they showed a short clip.

“During the dinner, we show ‘The Meatrix,’ a short cartoon that explains how the meat industry harms the environment

and offers healthier alternatives,” said ESL teacher Ms. Julie Barbieri, club advisor for the Treehuggers.

In preparation for the event, the club prepared flyers and made a large banner during club meetings. They sold tickets in the lobby during lunch throughout the week leading up to the event. Each member cooked at least one dish to bring to the event and arrived early to decorate and set-up the buffet.

“We start preparing about a month or so in advance, when we choose the date. The vegetarian dinner is a five year long tradition, so by now we have the planning down to a basic formula, so it’s relatively easy,” said Peraza.

All students and staff in the school were invited to attend. This year, the date happened to coincide with the dress rehearsal for the school’s fall musical.

“I think the event gave a great sense of community feeling. Everyone learned something new about the benefits of decreasing meat intake,” said senior Sarah Paul, a pit member in the musical.

In fact, many members of the cast, crew, and pit decided to come to the dinner instead of ordering out. This provided them with many food choices at a lower cost than most takeout restaurants and gave the club a wider audience.

“It is a worthwhile, fun evening that we plan to continue,” said Ms. Barbieri. “Students at Schreiber who are vegetarians appreciate the event and others realize that even cutting back on meat consumption helps.”

In the near future, the Treehuggers are looking to refurbish a water fountain or two in the school so that they produce water that is cold and filtered and have water bottle-accessible spouts. Some of their other goals are to aid in a campaign



Courtesy of Port Light

Attendees sampled a wide variety of homemade and store-bought vegetarian dishes, which were served buffet style. Dishes included pastas, pizza, salads, and desserts, and were all-you-can-eat, for the price of five dollars.

against the use of plastic water bottles and to increase the amount of compost materials collected from the school to make fertile soil for our vegetable gardens.

“Right now several faculty offices compost their waste, but relative to the size of our school the amount of waste we compost is infinitesimal. We’ll soon be collecting from the teachers’ cafeteria, as well as collecting from the student body on a small, manageable scale,” said Peraza.

Some other initiatives of the Treehuggers club have included Earth Day activities, weekly compost collections, a climate action rally at the Landmark, and an organic vegetable garden.

“The Treehuggers club strives to highlight the importance of environmental issues and to educate students and the community about simple measures we all can take to keep our planet healthy,” said Ms. Barbieri.

Digital Video and Production classes visit set of new Fox show *Running Wilde*

BY **Max Kraus**
Assistant News Editor

When residents think of movies or television shows that have been filmed in Port Washington, the famous scene

from *Meet the Parents* at the local seafood restaurant Louie’s comes to mind.

This year, a new television show has moved its set to feature a specific part of Port Washington. *Running Wilde*, a comedy series broadcast by Fox, utilizes the Sands Point Preserve’s landscape and

castle to depict a wealthy man’s property. To find out about the show and about television production in general, Mr. Peter Koch’s Digital Video and Production class took a field trip to the set.

“It was really a once in a lifetime opportunity and at first I wasn’t going to attend, but Mr. Koch convinced me,” said junior Jenna Lipman. “Getting to see what it was actually like on the set of a TV show helped me to take another look at my future and my own personal goals. All in all I think everyone had a great time and found what they saw to be extremely interesting.”

When the TV show came into town, Mr. Koch believed it would be a great way to teach the students about television production. Local police detective, Mr. Tony Guzello, was on set and reportedly arranged the visit for the production class.

“Officer Tony had connections and knew that Mr. Koch had students that were really interested in this business, so the crew offered to give us a little tour,” said junior Carly DiMaggio.

Once on set, students were given a tour, talked to crew members, and even met actors from the show including star Will Arnett, who is famous for his work on *Saturday Night Live*, and Keri Russell, who has appeared in several films and television shows in the past. Students were able to see the differences in the Sands Point Preserve and how the crew transformed it to fit the show. On

set, students saw how the crew added a treehouse and even how some of the landscape was altered to match the show’s atmosphere.

“We spoke to cameramen, crew members from different areas, the make-up artist, costume designer, the writer, the producers, the director, and of course the actors,” said DiMaggio. “We also got to experience what the director of photography does which was my favorite part. He was a really welcoming guy.”

The trip had educational value, even for students who didn’t watch the show could take something away from it.

“I did watch *Running Wilde* before the trip,” said DiMaggio. “Not my kind of show, but that didn’t matter or affect my view of the trip. It was still amazing.”

Students were exposed to the rigors of the television business and some were even surprised by what they saw.

“Most of the people on set said they didn’t start off planning to have the exact roles they did, but that in reality the whole business is about connections and that if you don’t have any, it’s difficult to succeed,” said Lipman.

At the end of the day, students from the class believed that the trip was both informative and fun.

“I definitely think the trip was worthwhile. By far, it has been the best trip I’ve ever been on,” said DiMaggio. “It was an experience that I will never forget.”



Dan Miller

The Digital Video and Production Class watches as the crew of *Running Wilde* puts a shot together. The crew works at the edge of the Sands Point Preserve to take advantage of the beach and the ocean.

Alcoholics Anonymous members recount struggle with addiction

by **Matt Heiden**
News Editor

On behalf of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), a non-profit support organization to help alcoholics achieve sobriety, five guest speakers told their stories of struggling with alcoholism to health classes.

Presented in the style of an actual AA meeting, beginning with the customary “My name is _____, and I’m an alcoholic,” the speakers showed students what addiction was actually like. The speakers visited the 9th grade health classes in addition to the 11th grade health classes from Nov. 16 to Nov. 19.

The school is not always able to bring these speakers in to talk about their stories because coming to classes may conflict with their work schedules. Health teachers find them through an alcohol and drug abuse counselor who recommends the speakers.

“Our main goal is having students listen to them and get an understanding about how the disease of alcoholism affects friends and family of someone who suffers, and understanding the addiction cycle,” said health teacher Ms. Janine Kalinowski.

Two of the five presenters, whose names have been changed to protect their anonymity, had addictions that progressed quickly, and both led lives so destroyed by alcohol that loved ones brought them to AA by their early twenties. “Joe” and “George” decided to reevaluate their lives and stay away from alcohol and drugs



Danie Santadonato

Two of the five speakers who battled their alcoholism with emotional support from others in AA are shown facing away to protect their identities.

after joining AA, attending meetings, and following the 12 steps, a program that emphasizes becoming sober through spiritual experience.

“I didn’t expect them to be alcoholics when I saw them,” said junior Genevieve Bellon. “The stereotype wasn’t accurate, which shows that anyone can be an alcoholic.”

Although students praised the speakers

and their stories, not all of them felt that the visit was necessary.

“I thought they were very genuine and interesting,” said junior Emily Nicholson. “But after a month of learning the effects of alcohol, it gets really tedious and repetitive.”

Joe’s first experience with alcohol came in the fall of seventh grade, when he and several others had alcohol in a

friend’s basement.

“The only reason I can look back on it and see that I was different was that my friends were there,” said Joe. “To describe my alcoholism as a whole, especially at the beginning, when I would start to drink, my body would crave more. I would only stop drinking when I either blacked out, passed out, or threw up.”

By the time Joe entered high school, he began using marijuana in addition to alcohol and started to take to lying about and hiding his habits from loved ones.

“Alcoholics can take many forms. I didn’t have a traumatic experience or abuse, I was just born with it. Nobody else in my family is an alcoholic,” said Joe.

George’s alcoholism, built on his insecurities and dissatisfaction, took a similar path.

“I really didn’t see the point in feeling discomfort,” said George. “My worldview became increasingly distorted to justify my relationship with alcohol.”

When he went to college in upstate New York, his addiction rapidly progressed. George was jailed for 48 hours before turning to alcohol and other drugs once again. He battled suicidal feelings when the drugs did not have the same effects on him as before. His family intervened and took him to an AA meeting where he related to alcoholics to see his own life more clearly.

“AA was powerful, I heard myself in their stories. It really resonated with me on a level that I was not used to,” said George.



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Point

Counterpoint

Should we only take one semester of health class?

BY Daniela DiCaro

Staff Writer

It might surprise you to know that by the time you finish high school, you will have taken double the amount of health education than that required by the New York State Board of Education. The minimum requirement for health in New York State is one-half credit, equal to one semester in health education. However, Schreiber's requirement totals to two semesters, a total of one semester in freshman year and another in junior year.

Officials may argue that health education is vital during both years due to the changes that occur during our adolescent lives. However, others argue that the second semester of health is worthless. Although health education holds great ethical value, it has proven to be an inconvenience for students trying to construct their already busy schedules with an extra class, not even required by the government.

Junior year piles the academic pressure on students to an all-time high. Those who have aspirations to continue education after high school may wish to add some more challenging courses to their school transcripts in order to impress universities.

Because all students take health in freshman year, what's the use of taking the same class twice? Most students are tempted to skip out on health during their junior year because of the rich array of challenging classes Schreiber has to offer, such an offer that is not so simple to pass up.

I can sympathize with students who decide to take that extra AP or honors elective in place of health in cases where both classes just wouldn't fit into a single junior-year schedule. In these circumstances, health education is taken in senior year.

Without a doubt, an AP or honors elective would be much more impressive to a college admissions board than a health class which by state law, we are not even required to take. If other students in neighboring towns are given that opportunity to go the extra mile, shouldn't the junior class in Port Washington be allowed to as well?

It is almost as if with each successive year in high school, more pressure is added. Therefore, some seniors may find it even more difficult to add health class to their schedules had they not fulfilled the second requirement in junior year. Upperclassman years do tend to get much more hectic as well, so a couple more off periods in place of health could be an extremely helpful alternative for students who would use the free time effectively either by seeking extra help from teachers or by catching up on some work in the library.

Cutting the second Schreiber requirement for health does not necessarily have to mean cutting health awareness. There

are other ways to incorporate the health education curriculum into other class's curriculums. For example, physical education need not emphasize just exercise, but a couple units could be focused on including healthy eating or the dangers of substance abuse on one's body. Such topics could easily still fall under the title "physical education" because in all honesty, we would still be learning about proper care of the human body.

New York State also requires junior drivers to take a "Drivers Education" class before being eligible to obtain a license, and many juniors take this class. I have found firsthand that health class topics, such as the dangers of operating a vehicle while under the influence of substances and decision making regarding vehicle safety, are already thoroughly taught and discussed during Drivers Education.

Throughout Schreiber, many have found health to incorporate very similar material each year. It has come to the point where it has become overly repetitive.

"My seventh, eighth, and ninth grade health classes all had the same exact lesson plans," said junior Michelle Gil.

Devoting an extra semester of health education just doesn't seem to add that much benefit. There are other effective ways to bring the message of health education to students without actually having an extra health education class.

Efforts could be placed into hosting more assemblies regarding the issues of substance abuse or decision making, similar to the assembly that took place several weeks ago. If more of these types of assemblies or various health related activities were incorporated into other classes, then satisfying health education standards could be reached without actually having to incorporate a non-required class into our schedules.

BY Daniel Bialer

Staff Assistant

Although the average student may rather have an off period than a health class, health education is a crucial part of the high school curriculum. Not only does health prepare students for life outside the classroom, it instills important values and teaches students that they are responsible for their own decisions.

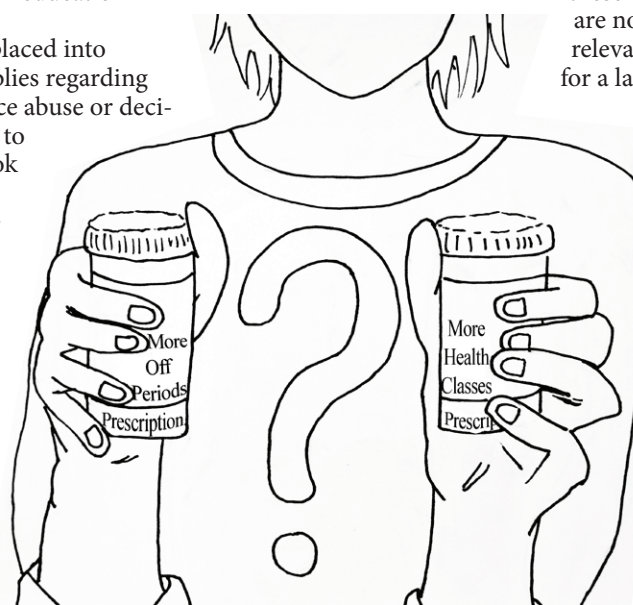
New York State requires that each student receive a half-credit of health education by graduation; however, Schreiber takes this requirement one step further. Instead of a single half-credit bearing class, the school requires that students take health once in ninth grade and once in either eleventh or twelfth grade, for a total of one credit.

This requirement, while annoying to some, is an important step in guaranteeing that students receive a thorough education.

Health class in ninth grade is very informative. Not only does it help students grow accustomed to the pressures of high school, it teaches them about important issues that they might encounter throughout life, like drinking and driving, sex, and drugs.

Although exposure to these issues is important for a ninth grade education,

these issues are not yet relevant for a large



Loren Giron

SchreiberSpeaks

"Teaching us material we already know just doesn't seem effective."
-Emma Wall, junior

"Having health freshman year teaches you that you are growing up and have to make decisions. Having health in junior or senior year is also effective in reviewing concepts before we leave Schreiber and enter the real world."
-Sela Grabiner, senior

number of students.

However, by eleventh and twelfth grade, sex, drugs, and alcohol have become a larger, or more relevant, part of the average students' life. Whether an upperclassman participates in these behaviors or not, he or she likely knows that they occur among classmates. As a result, knowledge of health safety becomes more important in order to know how to deal with these pressures.

Even if one does not experience anything health related during high school, one needs to be prepared for life after high school. At many colleges, health-related issues are much more prevalent than in high school.

By the time one reaches college, a ninth grade health education is not sufficient. Even if a student actually remembers what was taught in ninth grade, the teaching methods used to communicate it are often irrelevant to older students.

One should expect that a junior or senior would know the potential consequences of his or her actions. However, many do not. After a two-year gap of no health, many students forget what they had learned previously in ninth grade.

However, even if a student does remember his or her health education from ninth grade, he or she likely believes that nothing bad or controversial could possibly happen to him or her or friends. Through the introduction of guest lecturers and movies, however, eleventh and twelfth grade students get a better understanding of what can happen as a result of poor decisions.

While ninth grade health has a focus on general education, eleventh and twelfth grade health focuses more on the consequences of negative decisions that students make. Instead of simply stating the dangers of negative decisions, guest speakers are able to illustrate the dangers and consequences clearly to the students.

As a result of the different functions of the two health classes, each plays a very important role in the high school curriculum. Each health class targets students at a different place in their teenage development.

The increase in health education helps students better understand the dangers of unhealthy decisions and the risks they can have on the rest of their lives. Too many young individuals have lost their lives by involving themselves with behaviors that were already known to be dangerous and that could have been prevented with more effective and extensive education.

Through the strong education that Schreiber currently offers, students are more aware of the consequences of their actions and the responsibility that they have for their own futures. Cutting health classes would be putting our student body at risk.

Reading classics in a modern fashion

BY Celine Size
Contributing Writer

Along with the movement from print newspapers to online multi-media journalism, books and scholarship may be following suit. People accustomed to reading hard copies of books and other literature are now able to access thousands of books in a handheld device. E-readers like the Kindle, a product of Amazon, and other devices like the iPad are wireless reading devices that enable people to download e-books and immediately start reading. With over 725,000 available e-books, there is no problem finding the book you need.

In fact, the growing popularity of such devices is promoting interest in reading books. Some students in Schreiber are already using Kindles and iPads in classrooms to read novels in English class and to help them take notes in other classes.

E-readers offer many benefits to students. Instead of passing out paperback books, English teachers could potentially be distributing electronic files. Such technology facilitates and encourages reading by having a built-in dictionary and the abilities to annotate in the text and to bookmark key pages.

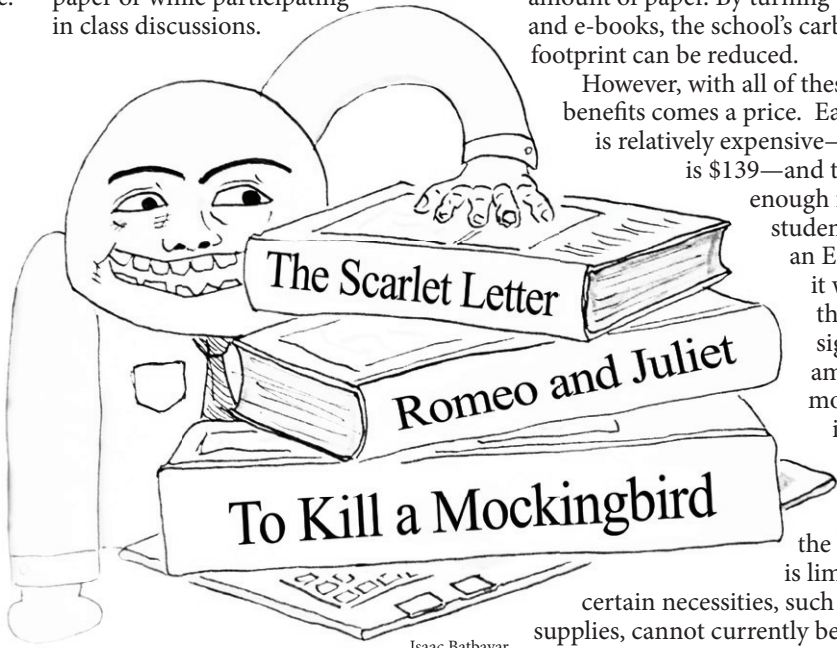
“The Kindle is useful for research and features an easily accessible dictionary to quickly define unfamiliar words in context,” said junior Noah Reisman.

Currently, when teachers ask students to read and annotate in a novel, students tend to do more underlining than writing because there is simply not enough room in the margins. Students are forced to cram words onto the page, which makes it difficult to read later. Also, the copies are mostly school-owned and will be used in future years, and therefore, students cannot write on them.

It seems that education is moving in the direction of inserting technology into nearly every subject. Going along with this trend, the school should consider investing in e-readers at some point.

With e-readers, students can highlight and write as many notes as they want throughout the book. It also allows

students to bookmark pages they think are important. So instead of sticking post-it notes throughout a novel and folding pages over, students can just use their readers, and so make their notes and thoughts more organized. Additionally, such readers retain all the annotations and bookmarks that the reader makes so he or she can have easy access to them when preparing to write a paper or while participating in class discussions.



All of these features make e-readers extremely user-friendly and help students gain greater insight while writing essays and doing homework.

Because readers are more modern and incorporate advanced technology, they are more accessible to students since they are surrounded by technology in their everyday lives.

“Since the Kindle is similar to things we are familiar with, such as computers and cell phones, students would be more comfortable reading from it than regular books and can show a greater desire to read,” said junior Ashley Oelbaum.

Teachers and the school can also reap benefits from student use of e-readers. With the introduction of electronic readers to Schreiber, English teachers, who currently struggle to have students take interest in class novels, would have an easier time encouraging their students to read.

Furthermore, by using them, the school would be actively supporting a more eco-friendly environment. The school is already devoted to promoting a cleaner environment, as evident from the recycling and composting bins posted throughout the school, so it is fitting to try to shift to a greener method of reading. The books and necessary handouts used in classes consume a great amount of paper. By turning to e-readers and e-books, the school’s carbon footprint can be reduced.

However, with all of these great benefits comes a price. Each e-reader is relatively expensive—the Kindle is \$139—and to provide enough for all the students who take an English class, it would cost the school a significant amount of money. This is a huge expense, especially since the budget is limited and certain necessities, such as art supplies, cannot currently be provided to students.

“I love the idea of students using Kindles to read novels but as far as the school supplying them, I don’t think it’s realistic in this economy,” said English teacher Ms. Eileen Mills.

It is evident that while the economy is still suffering, replacing books with e-readers is unrealistic. Yet, if the switch from paperbacks to e-readers ever occurs, the school will profit in the long run; although the initial cost of them would be expensive, they will help the district save money by not having to replace easily damageable paperback books. It would be the responsibility of the students not to damage or lose their e-readers and if this does occur, the student would have to replace it.

Because the e-reader offers countless advantages and benefits over traditional paperback books, replacing old books with this technologically advanced device should be considered in future budgets.

If you see your friend cheating...

BY Shari Meltzer
Contributing Writer

If you were in class taking a test and you saw somebody cheating, what would you do?

Let’s face it, high school can be stressful. With all the work we get, maybe we don’t have enough time to study, or we just completely forget about a test. As a result, many students tend to resort to cheating on an examination.

The fact is that in America, 80 percent of high school students at the top of their classes cheat, but not only that; 95 percent of those students say they haven’t been caught (Source: *US News and World Report*).

Those statistics are pretty shocking and high in percentage, and much higher than they used to be.

Judging from these high percentages, you may come across a situation where you see a friend cheating. These situations can be dilemmas and you might not know what to do.

Should you risk a friendship and do the right thing by telling a teacher, or should you stay quiet and be a bystander to wrongdoing?

“If it was my friend, I would go and talk to them first and then talk to the teacher about it,” said freshman Chloe Margulis. “But if it was just a classmate, I would just go and talk to the teacher about it. You should let the teacher know before they give back your grades and, no matter what, believe what you see. In the end, it doesn’t come down to losing your friendship.”

Asking your friend, though, could be risky and cause major drama. You also have to consider that they could lie, make up excuses, or try to persuade you not to tell. Therefore, it would probably be more appropriate to notify the teacher in private.

“After class, the student should ask to talk to the teacher privately,” said health teacher Ms. Jeannine Kalinowski. “They should explain what they saw and ask to remain anonymous. In order to ensure academic fairness, the teacher can now talk to the accused student and handle the situation. If a student finds this too awkward, they could use Report-it.com.”

If you see someone cheating in class, you should go and tell the teacher what you saw. The cheating student probably thinks that he or she cannot get caught because he or she has done it before without any consequences.

By speaking up, you are actually helping this student improve upon this grave misconception that can become very detrimental in the future.

“Chances are if they are cheating in one class, then they are cheating in others,” said Ms. Kalinowski. “In college you are kicked out the first time you are caught cheating.”

If the student is not called out by the teacher for inappropriate testing methods, it’s not fair to the other students in the class. Even if it is your friend who is cheating, you should inform the teacher. By doing so, you are doing your part to help the student.

Businesses are busy friending on Facebook

BY Emma Zampino
Contributing Writer

“Oh, that’s kind of creepy...” Many experience a similar reaction when they see that they have a friend request on Facebook from a business or restaurant.

Generally, profiles that are specific to a business, store, or restaurant are fan pages. When someone “likes” a page on Facebook, he or she has access to information on whatever the page is promoting. The group that runs the fan page can provide its followers with information that will appear on the follower’s news-feed.

Recently, local businesses, such as Let There be Bagels, Linda’s Gifts to Go, Louie’s, Ayhan’s Mediterranean Restaurants, and Entree, have ditched the fan page method and brought their advertising to a new level—creating personal Facebook profiles to promote their business.

You can interact with the business’

profile the same way you would a friend’s Facebook profile; you can add them as a friend, message them, write on their wall, and comment on their pictures. However, I can’t help but question: is this really an appropriate business strategy? In theory, it seems to be so. But many feel violated that businesses have become a part of an even more personal aspect of our lives.

“I don’t want Let There be Bagels to see my pictures,” said junior Jesse Weil. “And I don’t want Denny’s to see my videos.”

This is a sentiment shared by many Facebook users. Just how safe is it to let these companies ‘be your friend?’ You don’t know who is behind these profiles; therefore, you don’t know who could be looking at your pictures or who may be reading your wall-to-walls with your friends. It is not to say that the people running these profiles are necessarily harmful, but it is just a precautionary matter of privacy. If you wouldn’t add a stranger on Facebook, then why should

you add a company?

“These businesses shouldn’t need to friend me to advertise. The point of Facebook is to talk to friends, not businesses,” said junior Rachel Cohen.

This is a good point: there is no reason for us to “be friends” with these companies on Facebook. The purpose of these profiles is to offer coupons and inform their “friends” about special deals. But, the businesses can do the same thing on a fan page, so why is a personal profile really necessary?

Adding businesses on Facebook may offer beneficial information, but it really is not appropriate. The same information that businesses offer on their personal pages should be shared on a fan page.

This way, you do not have to worry if companies can see your pictures or read your information, especially if you do not know who is running the profiles. Ultimately, businesses have crossed the comfort line, and they do not need to create personal profiles.

Seniors can inflate the grades that they hate

BY **Noah Reisman**
Contributing Writer

The beginning of senior year is notoriously difficult. Students take standardized tests, visit prospective colleges, hold leadership positions in extracurricular activities, and complete extensive applications for college. Consequently, one of the last things seniors want to worry about is maintaining high enough grades to stay competitive for their target schools. However, the coursework for many twelfth graders is more challenging and time-consuming than it was in previous years. More students begin to take Advanced Placement and Honors classes, and a combination of these difficult courses with everything else causes the pressure to build.

Some students may be inclined to slack off, while others struggle to maintain high grades in difficult classes while managing the rest of their stressful lives.

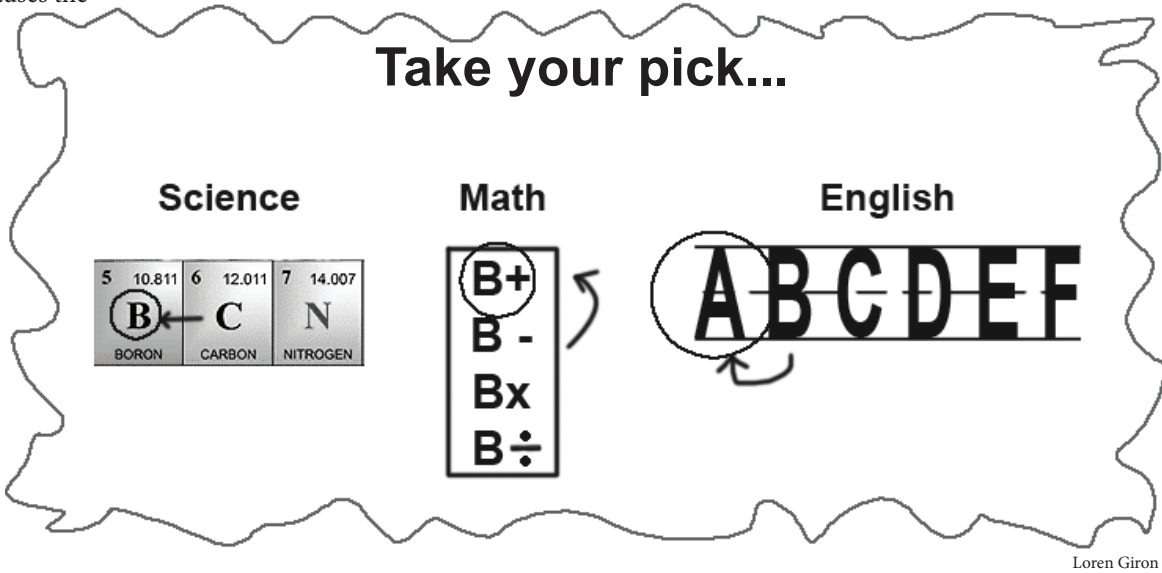
Moreover, college admissions are becoming more competitive. Ivy-level schools continue to lower their admissions rates below the 10 percent line. As the *Washington Post* reports, the number of “highly competitive” schools in the country has grown from 146 to 193 in the 12-year period between 1994 and 2006. The number of “noncompetitive”

schools dropped from 429 to 299 in the same period. Schreiber students are at a potential disadvantage in terms of grading because of the intensely rigorous curriculum that our school offers as compared to many other schools. In order to give seniors a little bit of a break, certain teachers are beginning to allow seniors the option to inflate first semester grades in more challenging classes. In exchange for this temporary boost, the student’s second semester grades are lowered an equivalent amount. Because the practice is potentially controversial and the administration may not be fully supportive, specific teachers cannot be named. One teacher explained that he or she understands the hard work that

seniors put in, and feels that seniors are responsible enough to make a reasonable decision about their own grades. This practice has a multitude of implications; perhaps most important is that it gives seniors a push to get through the beginning of the year. Students applying to competitive schools are aware that their earlier grades matter more. However, receiving a letter revoking admission due to inadequate senior year performance is any student’s worst nightmare. To reinforce this idea, one teacher gives his or her senior class copies of a letter addressed to a student who had been accepted to an Ivy League school. This letter informs the student that his acceptance has been revoked due to inconsistent senior year grades.

Despite this fear, students shouldn’t be discouraged from taking challenging, college preparatory classes. In order to get the most out of high school, students need to give their best effort all the way through, by taking classes that they feel will best prepare them for the future. For grade inflation practices to work, it needs to be established that only students who make a respectable effort should be eligible for grade inflation. One clear issue with the practice is that if a senior opts to raise his or her earlier grade at the expense of a grade in the future, he or she may end up doing poorly later on in the year. Because later quarters weigh more, temporary grade inflation would inevitably lower certain students’ final grades. However, yearly grades matter

much less in the college application process and having strong first semester grades for both early and regular admission is more important. Such a grading system also encourages students to work harder later in the year, when college application work is no longer a concern. Although such temporary grade inflation might cause a bit of stress, seniors in difficult classes must be responsible enough during the whole year to be held accountable for their decisions to raise or keep their grades.



Loren Giron

Care to be politically aware?

BY **Brendan Weintraub**
Staff Writer

As many of us know, elections took place on Nov. 2. But still, all of us may not know what the results were. Some students know that the elections were to decide the seats in the Senate, House of Representatives, governors’ offices, and state legislatures, but that shouldn’t be all that they know. Many do not know the important outcomes that go along with the elections, such as which party took a majority position in the Senate or the House. Although this information may not have direct importance in a student’s day-to-day life, it affects us in ways we do not realize. A lot of us overlook political elections and do not get involved with the politics that do affect each and every one of our lives, whether we realize it or not. Being politically aware will help you in the long run. We all know that we are not going to be in high school forever. It is a good idea to be politically aware when going to college because this is the time that most people become old enough to start voting. Also, questions asked at many interviews for colleges and jobs may be about politics. Schools and employers are looking to see if you know about political issues because they seek people who are knowledgeable of national and world affairs. “It’s important for students to be involved with politics in the real world because it prepares them for when they are older. By being aware of certain actions

that occur on a daily basis, we are able to better understand concepts such as taxing or voting,” said junior Isha Gupta. Even if you’re not going to college, it is still a good idea to be politically attentive because it makes you a better conversationalist. You are able to better contribute to conversations about current events in the world that can be a major concern to you or people you know. More importantly, we should be aware of what is happening so we can make educated decisions when we are able to vote. Being engaged in politics allows students to explore their own beliefs so they are ready to vote as soon as they are eligible. For example, what do you think when you see campaigns about topics such as capital punishment, abortion, health care, or global warming? You are forced to evaluate your personal beliefs. Do you agree or disagree with what each party is supporting? “Without knowledge of your surroundings and how you can change them, you are a voiceless American without a say in your neighborhood, county, state, and country,” said junior Emma Wall. Students don’t necessarily have to be engulfed by politics; rather, they should have a general idea of what is happening at the local and federal level. If you are informed on what different political figures are doing in your community, you can support your own beliefs and, consequently, know who you should vote for in the future. So, just remember every once in awhile, it’s important to put down the remote and pick up the newspaper.

Purell cleans up our hygiene

BY **Heidi Shin**
Contributing Writer

Schools are one of many public places where contagious germs thrive. As a result of constant exposure from friends and peers, teenagers are more susceptible to the H1N1 virus, the common flu, and an array of other illnesses spread by interpersonal contact. In order to prevent the spread of such viruses, the school has taken action by placing a Purell station in the front lobby. Some teachers also help by providing students with Purell when needed. Likewise, many students carry around small cases of Purell attached to their backpacks, keys, or wallets for themselves and others to use. “It’s convenient especially after gym class and before eating your lunch. Also, you’re able to reduce the amount of time and effort of having to go to the bathroom to wash your hands,” said junior Ashley Oelbaum. While the Purell in the lobby does remind people to prevent the spread of germs, it should be placed in other areas across the building to further support student hygiene. “I do believe that we could be doing more by placing hand sanitizer dispensers in every classroom in the district,” said health teacher Ms. Pat Kosiba. “This, however, may not be possible without all the financial concerns our district faces. We purchased hand sanitizers through our health education budget and other departments could do this as well. In our health classrooms, we keep them on

our desks. We encourage students to use it especially during our CPR unit when they’re practicing on the mannequins.” Since the installation of Purell dispensers in every classroom might be too expensive, we should consider placing them in prime locations across the building. This could be in the cafeteria, the commons, and main hallways in the school. The use of Purell is important mainly before and after eating, and therefore, these locations would be especially important. If this possibility is unrealistic for the school district under current financial stresses, students should consider carrying Purell or frequently washing their hands. They should be extra careful as winter approaches and people are more likely to get sick. Everyone should wash their hands before leaving the bathroom to minimize the spread of germs. “It is a good idea to use it after sneezing or coughing especially since so many people still do not sneeze or cough in their arm, and do so in their hand, and then proceed to touch doorknobs and handles,” said health teacher Ms. Meghan Harding. Practicing good hygiene is especially important in public places where there is more contact with germs and when one is sick. In addition, people should use Purell or wash their hands before eating or drinking as a means of preventing germs on one’s hands from causing harm. For now, students and teachers should do their part by carrying Purell and promoting healthy hygiene until the school has the capacity to install more Purell stations.

Editorials

Taking pictures and videos in class

Recently, a video of a Cornell professor, taken without his knowledge, appeared on the internet. The video caught Professor Talbert’s angry outburst after a student was caught making a yawning noise during his lecture. Taken out of context, this occurrence seems absurd, and sheds the professor in a negative light; however, if viewers of the video knew what was actually occurring in the classroom, they might have sympathized with and even supported the professor.

The Schreiber Times believes that this event should serve as a reminder to students. Taking what one believes to be funny videos and pictures of teachers without their knowledge and awareness is unjust and unfair to teachers. While it might seem tempting to take a picture on one’s cell phone if a teacher is doing something that may seem to be funny, it is inappropriate and impolite. All too often students in high school and college will take a picture or video of a teacher that presents him or her in a negative manner, while the teacher might just be doing his or her job.

For example, in health class, certain teachers, to emphasize the effects of alcohol, pretend to act under the influence of alcohol; while this is perfectly okay as an appropriate teaching method, if pictures or videos are taken of these teachers, they could be misinterpreted and result in many consequences. Just like taking certain pictures or videos of friends out of context could lead to confusion, taking pictures or videos of teachers out of context could bring about serious consequences for the teacher, who would have to explain his or herself.

Recognizing the serious consequences of one’s actions, students should be aware

that taking videos or pictures of teachers without their permission is not something to be laughed about at the lunch table or discussed on Facebook. As young adults, we must realize how detrimental this behavior could be.

Abuse of substance assemblies

Last year, the school was greatly criticized for its selection of our annual substance-abuse assembly. The presentation was unrealistic, stereotypical, and even at times condescending. It seems as if the school paid close attention to the students’ reactions, and opted for an assembly that was not only more realistic, but much more educational this year.

The Schreiber Times applauds the school for its selection of a much more serious assembly and the two presenters who discussed various substances and their consequences on individuals. The assembly was definitely more effective in fulfilling its purpose this year, as more students were influenced by its message. While there are always complaints, it was a much needed improvement after the almost comedic, and completely superficial, one the previous year.

Hopefully in the future, more such assemblies will be presented to students. Bright pictures and loud music are not needed to capture the attention of students; real stories and accurate information are sufficient enough.

However, there are always those who believe they are above such assemblies, and figure out a way to skip them. Especially today, when the issue of substance abuse across Long Island is becoming a much more serious issue, it is disappointing to see so many students avoiding these presentations.

Students fail to recognize that the

school is spending its valuable time and resources for their benefit in organizing these assemblies. *The Schreiber Times* believes that if such important information is freely available to students, it should not be taken for granted. Rather, it should be used to its full potential. After all, skipping such assemblies will only give students an extra hour of free time. Would it hurt that much to simply attend?

Many students are quick to say that such assemblies are pointless and that they already know all the information that is presented. However, two faults arise from this misconception. Primarily, if students are so knowledgeable about substance abuse, then why do so many issues continue to arise? Surely, there is some discrepancy. If students let go of their closed-mindedness and gave these valuable assemblies a chance, it is likely that they would not only learn from them, but would also be positively influenced by them.

Additionally, without attending these assemblies, students cannot judge the information that is presented. They have no idea what the presenters have to offer, and they could miss out on a truly noteworthy experience.

So, the next time the school devotes its limited resources to bring another such serious presentation, please change your rigid attitudes and try to take advantage of this opportunity. You never know what you may learn.

Lack of preserving in the Preserve

Port Washington is set apart from other towns on Long Island for many reasons. Among them is the Sands Point Preserve. The Preserve fills many niches in the community.

It is a bastion of nature, a historic property full of beautiful architecture and it is home to Schreiber’s annual Gambol. The Preserve, however, is undergoing drastic changes that may not be for the best.

The Schreiber Times would like to call attention to the Sands Point Preserve and the recent destruction of many trees and

areas of woodland. The organization in charge of the Preserve, until recently, was The Friends of the Sand Point Preserve, which had made efforts to increase the Preserve’s popularity and usage.

This group began construction of various nature centers and other buildings on the property. However, in the creation of these admittedly worthwhile buildings, the group allowed many trees to be cut down.

While *The Schreiber Times* realizes that such buildings are valuable in learning about the nature and history in the preserve, the decimation of old and endangered trees, such as a copper beech tree, is inexcusable.

These trees are beautiful and should be preserved at any cost. It is rare that a town would have as amazing and beautiful a park as the Preserve, and to mar its natural beauty and historic landscape is an egregious error.

The group responsible should not cut down any more trees. The Preserve is an integral part of Port Washington, and to desecrate it with chain saws and more buildings is unnecessary.

For many children in generations to come, the Preserve will not be the beautiful vestige of wilderness that it was to so many of the current high school students and other adults in the community. Indeed, the Preserve is one of the remnants of the historic Port Washington that many of us forget exists.

If the Friends of the Sands Point Preserve are indeed the Preserve’s friends, they should work around the natural beauty of the land. *The Schreiber Times* is in support of more education programs at the site so that people can get in touch with the natural majesty and historic depth of the Preserve, but clearing away trees is not acceptable.

We wish to alert students to these quiet but drastic changes in the Sands Point Preserve and to urge students to make their voices heard about this matter.

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on Dec. 2. All new writers are welcome!

The Hart Knock Life



Times Policy Statement

The SchreiberTimes’ 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.

A time to complete puzzles, eat tamales, and give thanks

Students and their families put a unique twist on classic holiday traditions

BY **Hannah Zwieg**
Contributing Writer

The leaves are nearly done falling and the world has turned into a whirlwind of red and burnt orange. With the changing of the leaves, and the cold weather, comes the holiday season, and with it, many traditional celebrations. But aside from the classic traditions of eating turkey and watching football, many students have different experiences during this holiday season.

“My parents did not celebrate Thanksgiving before they came to America,” said senior Daniella Tejeda. “As a means of assimilation, they adopted the traditional holiday, but they always include certain foods to maintain their heritage.”

Many of the most popular family traditions involve making food, which can be a multi-generational activity. “It’s something my dad did when he was a child and we brought it to my family,” said sophomore Ali Peltz, explaining her family’s tradition of creating a candy

turkey. “We always start out with a foam base, shaped like a turkey, and proceed to put in pixie sticks for the tail, lollipops for the backside, and an assortment of fall colored candies around the rest of the turkey’s neck and body.” Some families make the preparation of the meal, or just an interesting component of it, a fun activity in itself. “Every year, to keep all the cousins in my family entertained, we make our own butter,” said junior Katie Gennusa. “All of the kids are given their own container of heavy cream that they shake until the butter forms. Once we sit down to eat it’s great to know that we all helped contribute to the celebration.” With people from all over the world at Schreiber, many describe an assimilation of traditional cultural foods into their Thanksgiving buffet. A traditional Italian holiday, according to English teacher Ms. Mariantoniette Morello, generally does not include turkey, but instead seven different types of fish. Other cultures, especially those that do not usually eat meat, adapt the typical Thanksgiving meal to their own heritage. Sophomore Nathan Lefcowitz, who is half Indian, has both Indian foods as well as the traditional American foods on Thanksgiving day. In addition to having turkey, they have vegetarian options for those family members who do not eat meat. Senior Daniella Tejeda has tamales, churritos, and ham at her family’s Guatemalan-style Thanksgiving. “My parents did not celebrate Thanksgiving before they came to

America,” said Tejeda. “As a means of assimilation, they adopted the traditional holiday, but they always include certain foods to maintain their heritage.” Of course, the other main aspect of Thanksgiving is seeing family. Unlike Columbus Day and Christmas, almost everyone is given vacation time for Thanksgiving, which allows people to travel to visit each other. Therefore, games and other fun family activities have become Thanksgiving traditions as they can really bring people together. Biology teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty has a very unique yearly tradition with her family. On the morning of Thanksving, they begin a large jigsaw puzzle in the morning and people come and go and add on to it throughout the rest of the day and night. “Generally people start to get more interested in the puzzle when it’s almost finished, and no one can move because they are so stuffed,” said Ms. Ezratty. “It’s inevitable that my brother will steal the last piece!” Teachers, however, are not the only people with creative family traditions. Sophomore Kayla Conway’s family makes a Thanksgiving book every year. The book includes a page made by each of her cousins and also describes what everyone is thankful for. The book that is made during the preparation of the meal, however, is not the one shared during dinner. Throughout the year, the pages from the previous Thanksgiving are bound together in a book and shared at the next year’s dinner. At the dining table,

they look at books from previous years and reminisce. “It really brings all of the members of my family together, and it’s great to help my little cousins make these books that we will be able to have for so many years to come,” said Conway. Other students, and their families, are involved in activities that give back to the community. Junior Noah Reisman, as part of his Thanksgiving day celebration, goes to a church to make sandwiches for Long Island’s hungry. “There is nothing like seeing a simple act of kindness and only a few hours of time and work make so many people happy,” said Reisman. “It definitely brings my family closer together and makes us remember that we are fortunate to have simple things like a warm home, plenty of food, and people we love to share them with.” Many of students’ other favorite holiday traditions are celebrated as a community. Some close-knit blocks have neighborhood football games on Thanksgiving morning, and there is the annual Turkey Trot, a five mile race in which many Schreiber students participate. “The Turkey Trot is a great annual tradition in Port Washington,” said senior Chun Liu. “It’s a thrill to be able to run alongside friends and family.” When it comes right down to it, Thanksgiving it is about appreciating what and who you have around you, eating a great meal, and most importantly, engaging in unique family bonding activities.



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***Benefits that
will make
college both
affordable &
convenient!!!**

Student Artist Feature: Payal Doshi

Outgoing senior expresses talent in children’s book

by Nicole Zwiener
Contributing Writer

Senior Payal Doshi is well-known throughout the school for her boisterous personality.

Many students, however, may not know about her artistic passion and achievements, qualities possibly hidden behind the big-rimmed black glasses that she often wears.

During the past few years, she has worked on a number of artistic projects both in and outside of school.

One of the major projects that Doshi has been working on is a children’s book called *Makalo the Monkey*.

The book is about a monkey who is trying to discover who he really is, but he has a hard time finding himself when he comes across three other animals.

The story begins with Makalo’s older brother winning a prize, and the jealousy that Makalo feels about his sibling’s achievements. In the end, however, Makalo realizes that he is happy just the way he is.

He tries not to be influenced by the other animals that he meets, including Pavannah the porcupine, Amasai the aardvark, and Thanos the tiger.

After every encounter and repeated attempts to blend in with these various animals, Makalo ends up back where he began.

The story, which Doshi wrote and illustrated using colored pencils, is meant to teach children to always believe in themselves and to not worry about fitting in with those around them.

“I wrote this book because I believe everyone goes through a lot of changes throughout their lives,” said Doshi. “It is important to always remember who you are and that you don’t have to change for anyone.”

Doshi worked on the book throughout this past summer. Currently, the children’s story is self-published, but Doshi is in the process of talking to publishers with hopes of eventually selling it.

Illustrations are not the only type of art that Doshi creates. She tends to use oil paint in the majority of her artwork, but she also uses various other materials.

She often uses mixed media, and especially enjoys creating collages and

then painting or drawing on top of the works.

“One piece I did was a collage of the sports section of a newspaper, and then with sidewalk chalk and paint, I drew a figure on it,” said Doshi. “I really like using mixed media and am open to using basically any type of material.”

Doshi also enjoys working on a very large scale, something possibly inspired

work, Doshi admires many disparate artists. However, she says she has never really found a specific artist who has inspired all of her work.

Doshi’s free-spirited approach to life is also clear in her artwork. She prefers to work mainly from her imagination and has studio space in a back room in her house.

“I don’t like working from a structured

assignment or in a structured environment,” said Doshi. “My workspace gives me artistic freedom and I can work from random thought and imagination which is something that I really enjoy.”

In addition to her private artistic endeavors, Doshi has also used her artistic talents to serve the community.

The summer after her sophomore year, she created three murals in Costa Rica while on a community service trip.

Two of the murals portrayed a soccer theme, because the sport was very popular in the community, while the other was a food pyramid in a school cafeteria.

“It was the least I could do,” said Doshi. “The locals taught me so much about their culture, lifestyle, and also about myself. I thought that murals were a way that I could contribute back to the people I met.”

Doshi has also honed her artistic abilities in classes outside of the high school.

She began taking classes at the Huntington School of Fine Arts this past summer and has continued to attend classes there.

Although it may be time-consuming, Doshi finds the class enjoyable with her peers.

“Going there is a full commitment, especially because it’s a long ride. But, all in all, it is rewarding to be around people who share my passion for art,” said Doshi.

In the future, Doshi is unsure of where her artistic abilities will take her.

She is sure, however, that she will always keep art as a major part of her life. Still, she does not plan to go to art school next year as she leaves Schreiber and begins college.

“Honestly, I have no idea where I will end up,” said Doshi. “Outside from a strict art field, I want to meet other people and leave room for inspiration and learn new and different things from other students. But, as of right now, art has become a big part of my life.”



Payal Doshi

Top: This drawing was based on a photograph taken in earthquake stricken Haiti by a volunteer for Doctors Without Borders. Payal Doshi used graphite to create this piece in March.
Bottom: The elephant, originally in the three primary colors of red, yellow and blue, was a three-hour project that Doshi completed in July. Using oil paint on a large canvas, she painted from her imagination.

by the huge works of some of her favorite artists, such as Kehinde Wiley.

“I like working on large surfaces,” said Doshi. “I usually find plywood or rosewood really interesting because materials have a completely different look on wood than they do on canvas.”

In addition to enjoying Wiley’s

Motion control moves market

by Dan Miller
Assistant Features Editor

When the current generation of videogame consoles was released, Nintendo took a risk.

Both Microsoft’s Xbox 360 and Sony’s PlayStation 3 were released touting high-definition graphics and high-quality online gaming.

In lieu of creating a console similar to those offered by its competitors, Nintendo, the company that is responsible for popular games including *Mario Bros.* and *Pokémon*, promised the future of gaming when it released the Wii.

Though it lacked the high-definition graphics and the online presence of its competitors, the Wii presented consumers with a unique experience: motion-controlled gaming.

Though many believed the idea of motion-controlled gaming would never catch on, Nintendo’s console appealed to gamers, both young and old, and has moved an astonishing 75.8 million units worldwide since its Nov. 2006 release.

Only 44.9 million Xbox 360s and 41.6 million PlayStation 3s have been sold worldwide since their respective Nov. 2005 and Nov. 2006 releases, according to www.vgchartz.com

The magnitude of the Wii’s success has led to the recent release of motion-control accessories for Playstation 3 and Xbox 360.

Sony’s PlayStation Move is comparable to the Wii Remote in its vertical wand-like design, but while the Wii uses infrared to sense direction, the Move has a sphere on top of it, which is tracked by a PlayStation Eye camera.

In addition, the Move also has a supplemental controller for the other hand called the Navigation Controller, which shares many similarities with the Wii’s Nunchuck controller.

Microsoft’s answer to the Wii comes with a campaign to ask players to rethink videogame control, echoing Nintendo circa 2005. Microsoft Kinect for Xbox 360, a horizontal bar designed to be placed directly above or below a television set, requires no controller at all.

Using a camera, depth sensors and a multi-array microphone, Kinect can perform “skeletal tracking.”

This function locates where joints are in the player’s body and tracks movements accordingly.

This technology is the reasoning for Kinect’s space requirements (about 6 feet between the television and the player).

Kinect also responds to your voice and can be used outside of games. For example, saying “pause” aloud to pause a movie.

Launch games for Move and Kinect include genres made popular on Wii including table tennis, dancing and fitness.

While the reviewers of the Move claim it currently features tighter control than the Kinect and has about a one month head start on the market, the Move is lagging in sales.

In contrast, Microsoft is reporting one million Kinect sales in its first ten days.

The holiday sales rush is sure to boost sales, and Microsoft is predicting 5 million Kinect sensors will be sold by the end of the year.

CURTAINS

“Putting on a musical has got to be one of the most fulfilling things a person could ever hope to do,” says one of the characters in the musical *Curtains*. And as the show progressed, it became clear that the humorous and enthusiastic actors and actresses of Schreiber have already embraced this concept.

Curtains, an award-winning musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb, is essentially a show within a show. Like many murder mysteries, it opens onto a seemingly innocuous scene. On opening night of the play *Robin Hood*, the show within *Curtains*, lead actress Jessica Cranshaw (junior Kalia Lay) mysteriously dies. To further complicate matters, the show’s producers, Georgia Hendricks (senior Molly Ronis), Carmen Bernstein (senior Sara Lyons), Aaron Fox (senior Andy Lieberman), and Oscar Shapiro (junior Kevin Roberts) wake up the next morning to find that many local newspapers, such as *The Boston Globe*, have published extremely critical reviews. The cast’s troubles intensify when Lieutenant Frank Coiffi (junior Jesse Weil), a theater enthusiast who is a member of the Boston police force, arrives and announces that Cranshaw has been murdered and each member of the cast is now a suspect in the investigation.

Although the story inside a story concept could have been potentially difficult to convey to the audience, the cast explained it well within the first scene, by clearly defining the difference between the performance of *Robin Hood* and the behind-the-scenes aspects of the plot.

Tension builds as the cast of the play is put on lockdown within the theater while having to continue working on the play that none of them seem particularly invested in. As they no longer have a lead actress, the producers must decide who will fill the role of the late Cranshaw. Seemingly out of nowhere, Georgia is given the part over Cranshaw’s understudy, Niki Harris (sophomore Julia Bain). With this issue resolved, the eager director Christopher Bellington (junior Christopher Falcioni) focuses on reworking the play. *The Globe* reporter Daryl Grady (senior York Kitajima) has agreed to write a new review of the show once he sees the revised version.

From here, the play is a whirlwind of romance, song, dance, and of course, mystery. To exacerbate

an already stressful situation, additional crimes occur on set—the hanging of producer Mr. Sidney Bernstein (sophomore Liam Marsigliano) who is actually blackmailing the cast, the murder of stage director Jenny Harmon (senior Annabelle May), and the accidental non-fatal shooting of actor Bobby Pepper (senior Tommy

would be assumed that the question of who committed the crime would be a constant thought in the minds of everyone in the audience. *Curtains*, however, is not a traditional murder mystery as it



Harry Paul

In one of the most memorable scenes of the play, senior Molly Ronis led the cast in a spirited rendition of the song “Thataway.”

Doyle). As he also works to help fix the show, Lt. Coiffi slowly solves the murder. In a dramatic scene, Lt. Coiffi reveals that the murderer is not a member of the cast, but is instead Mr. Grady, the reporter. The fact that the theater critic had not been a main suspect throughout the show added to the shock-value of the announcement.

Those who thought that the mystery was over, however, were to be further surprised; Lt. Coiffi also reveals that Carmen is responsible for the death of her demanding and unfaithful husband Sidney. The play finally comes to a close with the resolution of all the major problems: there are no more bad reviews and no more surprising murders.

Curtains was intriguing, first and foremost, because of its differences from many of the plays performed by the Department of Performing Arts in the past. Both the complexity of the show-within-a-show concept and the suspense of the murder mystery plot contributed to the ever increasing interest of the audience. It is a testimony to the plot that everyone, from students to teachers and from young children to senior citizens, was both engrossed by the mystery and entertained by the comedy throughout the show.

Because it is a murder mystery, it

show’s main problem: its length. Especially towards the end of the three hour show, it seemed like things dragged on unnecessarily, specifically after the murderer was revealed, as the crowd would have been happy to end the show on that note. Trying to resolve too many plot lines on a positive note, however, took away from the show instead of adding to it.

From the beginning of the musical, it was clear that humor would be consistent throughout the show. Although her role as Jessica Cranshaw was short-lived (literally), Lay did a lot with those few minutes on stage. Her exaggerated personality set a high level of humor for the rest of play.

The comedy was maintained by the always funny Weil, whose quirky dance moves, Boston accent, and quick comments made Lt. Coiffi one of the most multi-dimensional characters in the show.

“It is in no way an easy show, but I think that the cast really worked hard in order to develop interesting and likeable characters which made it work,” said Weil. “I consider myself very lucky to have been given the opportunity to portray such an interesting character and to work with such a talented cast and crew.”

The show would not have been continuously funny without the over-the-top outrageousness of Falcioni’s Christopher. The ever-present, ever-ridiculous director of *Robin Hood* never failed to get a laugh from the audience.

In a show full of twists and turns, one of the biggest surprises was the involvement

of Schreiber band director and pit orchestra director Mr. Mark Brenner.

As the pit orchestra played to open the second act, Mr. Brenner turned to face the audience and, seemingly out of nowhere, began to sing. This unexpected, but highly appreciated, participation drew the audience into the second act.

One of the more comical duos in the show was Lyons and sophomore Taylor Eisenberg, who played Carmen and her daughter, aspiring actress Bambi Bernet, respectively. Lyons’ portrayal of a tough middle-aged woman was both funny and convincing and Bambi added spunk to much of the show. Their amusing bickering added a human element to the crazy theater business, and all ended happily for the two when it is discovered that Carmen had always put her daughter down only to ensure that no one would ever accuse Bambi of succeeding in theater because of nepotism.

Lt. Coiffi also became easier to connect with as the show progressed because of his relationship with Bain’s character, Niki. Bain, in her first lead in a Schreiber musical, shined as she sang and danced opposite Weil throughout the show.

“The older members of the cast absolutely served as mentors. I’m so grateful I got to work closely with them because they are all so incredibly talented, and I’ve really never met a nicer, more welcoming group of people,” said Bain.

The love story that the viewer could not help but fall in love with is the one between Georgia and Aaron. As former lovers, they were reunited to compose the lyrics and write the music for *Robin Hood* together. Georgia initially appeared to

be involved with Doyle’s suave Bobby Pepper. The constant bickering between the exes is humorous, until the audience discovers that Aaron is still deeply in love with Georgia, as he sings the song “I Miss the Music.” This more serious and sentimental song was a pleasant break in the chaotic hilarity of much of the show. The heartache felt real, and Lieberman’s performance was both endearing and heartwarming.

It seemed that there were happy endings both on and off stage.

“I especially love the moments on stage when most of the cast is on stage together. It is such an amazing feeling to be with the whole cast, and we have such a powerful sound all together,” said Ronis. “Being apart of the musicals at Schreiber create a real family between the cast and crew. We have a great group dynamic, especially because we are always relying on one another both on stage and off.”

“We’d be a tough act to follow, a tough act to follow, I know,” sang the cast of *Curtains* in their finale. Despite the lengthy show, the talented cast managed to successfully convey the show-within-a-show concept while keeping the audience invested in an array of plot-lines and relationships.

So yes, it seems that *Curtains* will definitely be a tough act to follow.

Written by Katya Barrett
and Sophia Jaffe



Harry Paul

After reading countless bad reviews of its play, the cast sang “What Kind of Man,” an impassioned song describing its

Despite many benefits, employment is not a priority

Majority of students content without the responsibility of having a job

BY **Kaia de Bruin**
Staff Assistant

For many students, jobs are a way of gaining independence. In addition to being a source of income, they allow students to gain important real-world experience. But just how many students actually have jobs? Especially at a time when relatively few businesses are hiring, the teen job market is unpredictable.

The life of a high-schooler can be incredibly busy with essays to write, tests to study for, and practices and rehearsals to attend.

Some students, however, find the time to work in their busy schedules. Usually, the most popular places of employment are located in town.

“I’ve been working regularly since the end of the summer and I also have regular babysitting jobs,” said junior Gina Cianciulli, who is currently employed at Unlimited Sports Action. “I like not having to ask my parents for money and being able to save up for things I want to buy.”

Babysitting and tutoring are popular ways for students to earn money, as they offer flexible hours and usually pay very well.

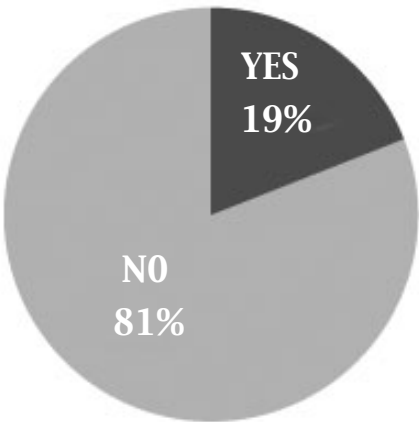
“I babysit once a week, sometimes on the weekends, and I have been working for the same family for three years,” said sophomore Emma Zorfass. “I love working with kids and it’s great to be with them while making some spending money at the same time.”

As seniors look forward to graduation and figuring out their post-high school plans, many understand that work experience is valuable to have. Working during high school provides insight into the real world and what it is like to be independent.

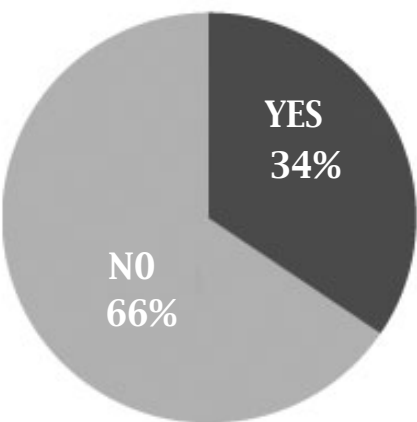
“Through my jobs, I have gained independence and I am now better adjusted to how things work in the real world. Working has taught me countless lessons that I will keep with me both in the work force and in life,” said senior

SCHREIBER SPEAKS

Are you currently employed at a paying job?



Does the school do enough to help students find jobs?



Katya Barrett

Not many students are employed, and not that many more are actively looking for jobs. Less than one quarter of the 225 students surveyed were currently employed at a paying job, which is at least 15 percent below the national rate of employment among youth (www.bls.gov). About one third of the students surveyed, however, believed that Schreiber does do enough to help those who are looking for employment.

Tori Kaplan, who recently began working as an unpaid intern at Anthropologie in Greenvale. “Over the past three years, I have worked at Linda’s Gifts 2 Go, Om Sweet Om Yoga, and Junction Fitness Group.”

While it may seem more popular for upperclassmen to have jobs, New York State allows students as young as age 14 to work, and so there are some underclassmen who are employed as well.

“I have worked at Little Chefs since the beginning of the school year,” said Zorfass. “I help out with the parties held there, setting up, helping the kids with whatever they’re cooking or baking, and cleaning up as well.”

Most working students cite the financial independence from their parents and life experience that they gain from working as their primary reasons for getting a job.

“It’s valuable because it’s important to realize what working is actually like and what it’s like not to have things handed to you,” said Cianciulli.

Schreiber offers resources for students who are seeking employment. The job board, which is located in the main hallway, across from the main office, is frequently updated with new jobs in town, and art teacher Ms. Marianne Hart is in charge of posting these opportunities.

“The main office gives out my number when residents or businesses call the

school looking to hire a student. My number is also posted on the job board, so parents visiting the school can spot it and give me a call looking for a tutor, babysitter or yardwork,” said Ms. Hart.

Jobs on the job board are usually quickly snatched up by students, and Ms. Hart said in her five years handling the job board, she has gotten many repeat calls from residents and businesses looking to hire again, as they were happy with their experiences.

“I think it is valuable for students to have a job. For many students it is the first time they are no longer seen as a kid. It can be a bit of an eye opener for young people to suddenly be in a position of responsibility and accountability. Whether a first job experience went well or badly, everyone always remembers his or her first job,” said Ms. Hart. “Unfortunately, there are usually more students looking for jobs than there are jobs available.”

At the beginning of November, the school hosted a job fair, which provided an opportunity for students to meet local business owners and conduct interviews. This event followed the job fair that was held last spring, which was the product of a partnership with the Port Washington Chamber of Commerce.

This fall, five businesses responded to a request for local businesses to indicate if they wanted to hire students. They provided details and requirements for their job offers, which were posted on the door of the guidance office so that students could sign up for interviews.

Students who signed up for interviews were also given the opportunity to attend a seminar where they received tips for interviews and writing a good resume from English teacher Ms. Marlene Woska.

At the job fair, students took part in 10 minute interviews and could leave their resumes with representatives from other businesses as well.

“We’re trying to help students find employment, but more than that, it’s really about getting good life skills,” said District Director of Guidance Mr. Hank Hardy.

Technology simplifies student-teacher communication

BY **Reid Mergler and Harry Paul**
Senior Features Editor and Contributing Writer

Confusion regarding a homework assignment or anxiety about an upcoming test is common among students. Unfortunately, many of these worries occur outside of the classroom, when the teacher is not present to answer questions or relieve concerns.

Yet there are many ways that students can contact teachers to ease their feelings of apprehension. In addition to seeing a teacher in a resource room or when he or she is on hall duty, students can use other forms of communication.

PortNet, the school district’s website, provides students and parents with information about daily activities and events at the school. There is also room for each teacher to post information about their classes.

“The administration encourages teachers to develop a web page,” said Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss. “I think it is ideal when a teacher posts a schedule, links for further learning, and

descriptions of homework assignments.”

Before web pages on PortNet were available to teachers, some took the initiative to create their own websites. English teacher Ms. Valerie Gokturk has had a website since 1999 and she bought her own domain in 2001 when she began teaching at Schreiber.

“I think it’s a great organizational tool for students as it allows them to keep track of due dates,” said Ms. Gokturk. “They can also get handouts if they are absent, which means they don’t have to come to class not knowing what they missed.”

Students have found that such websites are useful, as it allows them to stay up to date with assignments.

“When you forget something at home or miss something in class, it is really great to be able to catch up with everyone else by simply going on the internet,” said junior Juliana Beall. “But it also means that you can’t give excuses to your teachers for missing work.”

Social studies teacher Mr. Jeremy Klaff established a website in 2004 for his history classes and cross country team. For the history classes, his aim is

to provide students with useful review sheets, important due dates, and a yearly syllabus. According to Mr. Klaff, the website gets about 400 views per day on average and during the AP testing and Regents weeks, the site can have several thousand page views.

In addition to providing a schedule and review sheets to students, websites can be beneficial because they allow for further learning outside of class.

“I also find having a website useful because it can serve as an extension of the classroom,” said Ms. Gokturk. “I often post additional articles or other things that supplement the curriculum that I recommend students look at.”

Email is often the most simple form of communication, as each teacher has an official PortNet email, and usually checks it on a daily basis.

“Each email is archived which provides a safe and simple way to contact teachers,” said Mr. Weiss.

Mr. Klaff maintains that while email is effective, the best way to contact him is to meet in person outside of class.

“If someone has a question related to

assignments, I prefer to talk to them in person,” said Mr. Klaff. “There are times I don’t check my email, and I don’t want the impersonal internet to get in the way of someone’s grade, or something else important. I also don’t want to be accused of favoritism if I respond to some people and not everyone.”

Under certain circumstances, teachers may give their cell phone numbers to their students because it is one of the easiest ways to communicate outside of school.

It may not be the best method, however, since what is appropriate and what is not is hard to determine.

“There’s a line that we have not quite figured out,” said Mr. Weiss. “The administration does not necessarily approve of cell phone numbers being given out.”

With the help of school resources, it has become easier for teachers to keep in touch with students and provide them with a range of academic assistance. Ultimately, it is the teacher’s choice as to the degree of accessibility he or she wants to provide.

Fashion

The Perfect Winter Outfit
from Head-to-Toe

BY Georgia Goodman and Alexa Pinto
Contributing Writers

Although the sunny, warm days of summer are behind us, the coming winter brings a whole new season of fashion trends to explore.

So, tuck your denim shorts and flip flops back into your closet and replace them with the wide variety of cozy options designed to keep out the cold.

When putting together the perfect winter outfit, there are many important and stylish components from head-to-toe.

When constructing the desired, yet warm look, a cozy hat is a good place to start.

Wool hats can keep heads warm even in the coldest of winter temperatures, and are available at many stores, including Abercrombie and the Gap, for around \$25.

Beanies, priced at about \$20, have also been popular so far this winter, and can be found at both PacSun and Urban Outfitters, in addition to many other stores.

Don't forget to protect the neck and face from the strong winds of this chilly season. Scarves are also a necessity in combating the cold. An extensive selection of scarves are available at Forever 21, starting at prices as low as \$5.90.

The next component of a winter outfit is arguably the most important: the outerwear. Leather jackets are back in style this winter and are a fashionable choice for both girls and boys. Macy's offers a wide selection of leather jackets, generally around \$75.

If you prefer a sportier image, traditional North Face and Columbia jackets are available in many stores, including Dick's Sporting Goods and Bloomingdale's.

For those looking for a more tailored coat, Forever 21 offers an assortment of comfortable wool coats with affordable



These riding-style boots, designed by Zigi Soho, are available at Designer Shoe Warehouse (DSW). They provide a stylish means to keep your toes warm this season.

prices, ranging from \$23 to \$46. These jackets come in many different looks, including the especially popular military style.

Shopping online is a favorite activity in the cold weather, because you can enhance your wardrobe while staying cozy in your house. Modcloth.com provides many stylish and affordable options.

Layers are another fashionable way to brace the cold weather, and there are many options for both genders. Flannel shirts are particularly popular this winter, with many different colors available.

Such shirts, in both the men's and women's department, can be found at Urban Outfitters, all of which are priced under \$49.

With many different variations of the classic flannel shirt, in addition to the usual long-sleeved one, it is possible to find a plaid shirt for almost any occasion, whether it be casual or more dressy.

Lace is in style this year as well, and is perfect for almost any type of celebration or event. Lace dresses, skirts, and shirts can all be found at stores such as Forever 21, Urban Outfitters, and H&M.

Forever 21, for example, offers a metallic lace dress for \$13.50, a chantilly lace skirt for \$19.80, and a shirt with a lace back for only \$12.80.

Boys need not despair when deciding what to wear for a dressy winter event, as a wide variety of dress shirts can be found at Abercrombie, Macy's, and other stores for as little as \$30.

Tartan plaid, in many different colors, is a particularly fashionable pattern of shirt for men this winter season, with Urban Outfitters pricing such shirts at approximately \$48.

"For winter, I think that one of the most essential items of clothing for guys are plaid button-down shirts," said junior Caleb Jenkinson. "They're easy to buy at almost any store at the mall."

Gloves are the next important part of a warm and stylish winter ensemble. H&M offers such a wide variety of gloves and mittens that anyone can find a pair to fit their fashion sense, with knitted gloves available for only \$6.95, and leather gloves for \$29.95.

Finally, boots are, as always, the most popular winter shoe choice, as they are warm, fashionable, and available in a wide variety of styles.

Nordstrom, Journeys, Designer Shoe Warehouse, and Macy's each offers a diverse collection of stylish boots, with colors ranging from beige and brown to dark purple, grey, and black. One of the best-selling choices at Journeys is a tall suede boot by Zigi Soho for \$60.

The ever-popular UGG boot's thick sheepskin can keep feet warm for \$140 to \$180 and is a staple at almost any shoe store. Riding-style leather boots are also popular this season. A variety of such boots can be found for around \$60 at DSW.

The freezing weather might force students to put away their comfortable tank tops, colorful sandals, and cute shorts, but with the wide variety of stylish, affordable, and, most importantly, warm jackets, boots, and other winter clothing available, one can still create a great winter outfit.



Military, toggle, and double-breasted style coats are especially popular this winter. Modcloth.com, a solely online store, offers the jackets shown above for \$64.99 each. Other styles of wool coats can be purchased at stores, including Forever21, for between \$30 and \$40.

ESL center is a vital resource

BY Katya Barrett & Cameron Tait-Ozer
Features Editor and Contributing Writer

The ground floor contains an asset that not many people know about: the English as a Second Language (ESL) Resource Center.

The room is one of the most consistently busy spaces in Schreiber as ESL students can seek extra help at any time during the day. It also contains many tools for students and is sometimes used for special events.

"The center provides a place where ESL students can get help from teachers and TAs who understand the process of second language acquisition," said Director of ESL Ms. Shirley Cepero.

"There's always someone here to help students with work," said ESL teacher Ms. Julie Barbieri. "There are so many resources for our students; it's really fantastic."

This resource center, which has existed for more than 25 years, offers computers, bilingual dictionaries, encyclopedias, reference books, textbooks, and many other informational items to help students with their work.

The ESL Teaching Assistants' desks are conveniently located in the center, and the teachers' desks are located in the neighboring room. There is always at least one ESL staff member in the room throughout the day.

"I have worked in other districts where rooms like this do not exist, and I have seen that students have a much harder time completing their work,

so this room is really a necessity," said ESL teacher Ms. Julie Barbieri. "There's always someone here to help students with work. There are so many resources for our students; it's really fantastic."

The ESL Resource Center is open from 7:30 a.m. until 3:05 p.m. everyday. If a student chooses to make an appointment for extra help, it can be arranged for the room to remain open after school.

"The room is in use all day long," said Ms. Cepero. "Students come before school and during the day. We really do not have a time when the room is not crowded."

The fact that the ESL Resource Center is open all day long is a major contributor to the amount of students who visit the space. Students can use the room to work one-on-one with teachers, in groups with other students, or by themselves on individual work.

"Students get help with classwork, homework, and projects, and strengthen their English language skills," said Ms. Cepero. "Students can work on the computers to create projects and look up information that will help them in class."

The room is also home to club meetings and a variety of events that celebrate diversity throughout the year. The International Students' Club uses it as a meeting space.

The room is decorated for various holidays, such as Christmas, that are celebrated during the school year.

These parties, which usually offer food, make the room even more crowded than usual. There is also an annual graduation party for the 12th grade students.

"Many of the students are with us from 9th grade until 12th grade," said Ms. Barbieri. "Because of the many events, the amount of time students spend with teachers, and mainly the ESL Resource Center which keeps us all in such close contact, the teachers and students really become a family."

arts & entertainment

Approaching the end of an era, one horcrux at a time *Dark themes and mature acting make Harry Potter best yet*

BY Leah Nash

Managing Editor

The long wait is finally over. With the release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1*, the first installment in the final chapter of the *Harry Potter* series, the worldwide phenomena is that much closer to the end. David Yates, who directed the fifth and sixth movies in the series, has returned to make this movie darker and scarier than ever before while composer Alexandre Desplat provides a fittingly haunting accompaniment to the scenes.

Without the familiarity of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry or the stunning visuals during Quidditch matches, this movie chronicles the famous trio, Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint), and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), on their dangerous quest to defeat Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes).

With Dumbledore (Michael Gambon) dead and the Ministry of Magic taken over by supporters of Voldemort, Harry, Ron, and Hermione must leave their families behind to search for and destroy the Horcruxes that will ultimately end Voldemort's reign and bring peace once again to the wizarding world.

As this is the first movie that Voldemort is truly at the forefront, seeing Voldemort and the Death Eaters sitting at a dining room table discussing their plans to capture Harry is somewhat unexpected, yet terrifying nonetheless.

Despite the constant intensity felt throughout the movie, there are also scenes with a bit of humor to diffuse the tension. One in particular is the transformation of six characters into Harry look-alikes by use of Polyjuice Potion. A 360-degree shot brilliantly captures the surprisingly funny transformation.

Yet the tone is primarily dark and sinister throughout the film. The action-packed scene when the Death Eaters attack Harry and the others in flight to the Burrow leaves the audience in a heightened sense of excitement. While the air battle was fairly short, it was filled with phenomenal special effects and cinematography as they fight throughout parts of London. With such a dramatic start to the film, this scene effectively foreshadows unimaginably trying times to come later on in the film.

While on the run, Harry, Hermione, and Ron try to stay away from danger by camping out in the forest, all the while fearing for their lives. A large part of the movie is devoted to the trio's quest, which draws attention away from other prominent characters and plot lines found in the book.

For instance, Dumbledore's childhood and history is only touched upon in the movie whereas it plays quite a significant role in the book. The movie lacks development of other main characters by centering attention on only Harry, Ron, and Hermione.

"I believe that the movie lost some of the book's intensity since it only focused on Harry, Ron, and Hermione's perspectives. Some of the characters in the books were underrepresented," said senior Michael Graf.

Through some of the scenes seemed to drag on and a lot of emphasis was placed on the scenery, the growing resentment and jealousy Ron has for the close friendship of Harry and Hermione is effectively portrayed and felt by the audience.

In a very talked-about scene that is one of the few in the movie not originally found in the book, Harry tries to cheer up Hermione by dancing with her after Ron bitterly decides to leave. It was a warm moment between Harry and Hermione that allowed them to forget, for just that instant, the looming task still at hand and the dread that Ron was not there to support them. This scene, although seemingly odd, reminded us that the members of the trio are only teenagers

after all.

Despite these brief respites of humor, the movie did an accurate job displaying the solemnity of the three main characters during their quest.

The most thrilling scenes of the movie were the trio's invasion of the Ministry of Magic and the fateful trip to Godric's Hollow.

The scene at the Ministry of Magic was well done, mixing comedy and intensity as Harry, Hermione, and Ron try to capture a locket from Dolores Umbridge (Imelda Staunton).

The trip to Godric's Hollow is especially gloomy when Harry finds the graves of his parents and stumbles upon the house he once lived in. The solemn mood then turns even darker when Harry encounters Nagini, Voldemort's snake, and is once again reminded of Voldemort's relentless drive to kill him.

A happier time during the film is the return of Ron and his rescue of Harry, which had fantastic visual effects and was certainly an emotional high point of the movie. While trying to destroy the locket, all of Ron's worst fears are exposed, which provided an honest insight into his character hardly seen ever before.

A highlight of this movie—and of possibly the entire series—was an unexpected animation sequence. Not seen in any other *Harry Potter* movie, pure animation is used to tell the story of the deathly

hallows. Through such a creative and visually appealing representation, the sequence was truly an excellent and clarifying portrayal of "The Tale of the Three Brothers" found in *The Tales of Beadle the Bard*.

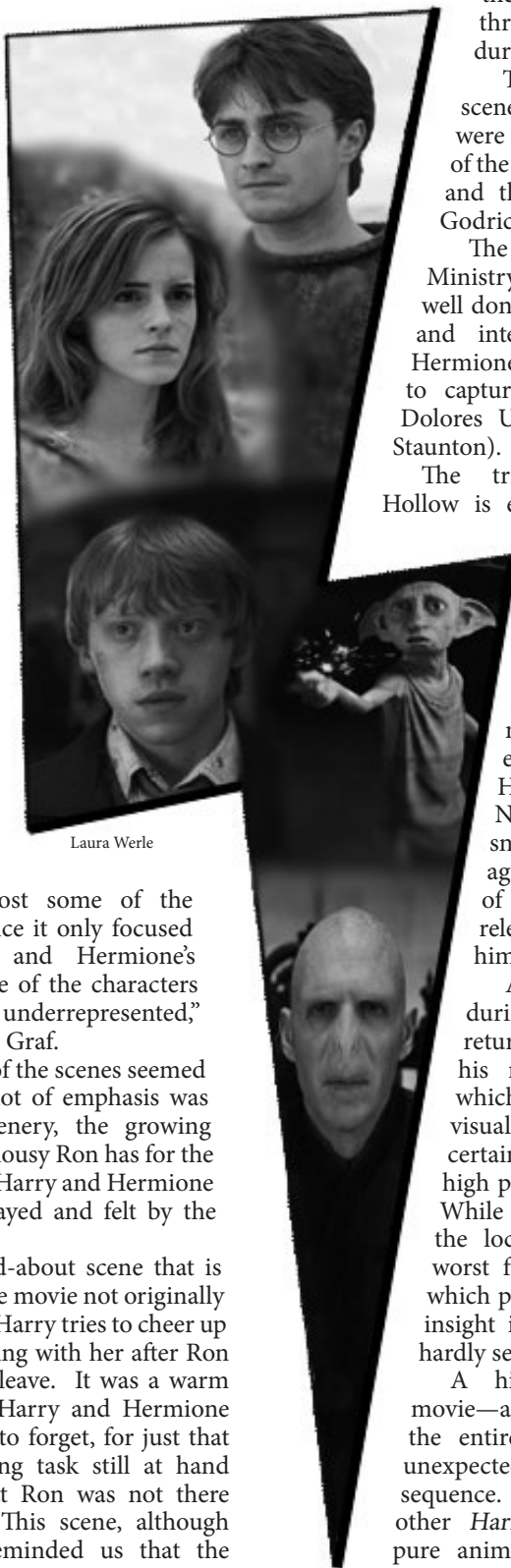
Parts of the movie could be considered quite confusing for those who have not read the books. Throughout the movie, there were moments when Harry and Voldemort's minds connected, and Harry could see Voldemort's search to find the most powerful wand in the world in the hopes of defeating Harry. However, these scenes only lasted a few moments, and were not explained in enough detail for an unread audience member to fully grasp their significance. These events will have to be clarified in *Part 2*.

Near the end of the movie, in one of the most chilling scenes, Harry, Ron, and Hermione are captured and brought to Malfoy Manor where Hermione is brutally tortured by Bellatrix Lestrange (Helena Bonham Carter). Dobby (voiced by Toby Jones) rescues them, but during the pursuit, he is stabbed by Bellatrix. In his final moments, Dobby is comforted in the presence of his friends as he dies in the arms of his true friend and liberator, Harry Potter. During this heart-wrenching scene, some of the audience was left in tears.

However, the movie abruptly turns back to Voldemort stealing the Elder Wand from Dumbledore's tomb, which marks the end of *Part 1*. The ending is rushed and the cliffhanger leaves the audience wanting more, yet still recovering from Dobby's emotional death. But then again, it was a logical place to split the two movies.

The movie is more cinematically rewarding than any other movie in the series. It shows how Radcliffe, Grint, and Watson have all grown and matured as actors over the years, and they certainly gave their best performances in this film. All three have embraced their roles and pushed the limits of their characters. Compared to the other installments in the series, this one stayed the truest to the novel, which would not have been the case if the movie were not split in two.

With the scheduled release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2* in July, fans are left in suspense. They will have to wait a little more until the 10-year franchise will be brought to a final close.



Laura Werle

An odd couple takes a wild trip in *Due Date*

Hilarious scenes and an all-star cast make for a great movie

by Victor Dos Santos
Staff Writer

It is an odd couple who make up the driving force of the latest comedy *Due Date*. The new Todd Philips comedy, like the outrageously successful *The Hangover*, stars Zach Galifianakis.

The bearded-as-usual Galifianakis plays Ethan Tremblay, who is somewhat surprisingly paired with Robert Downey, Jr. as Peter Highman.

Downey, Jr. plays a character whose need to get to Los Angeles on time to see the birth of his child is the impetus for all of the action in the movie. Galifianakis portrays a character who is going to Hollywood to fulfill his life long dream of becoming an actor.

Unsurprisingly, the two have no choice but to travel to California together because of a comical incident on an airplane which forces them to be on the no-fly list.

Due Date has a lot to live up to because of the great success of Philips' previous film *The Hangover*, and because of its all-star cast including Jamie Foxx, Juliette Lewis, and Michelle Monaghan.

Although it did not live up to the hype of being as funny as *The Hangover*, the movie was still very humorous.

Most of the hilarity came from the chemistry between Galifianakis and Downey, Jr. It was clear from the start that the casting was spot on.

There were several lines of dialogue shared between the two of them that had the audience laughing hysterically in its seats.

There is a point however, when the movie becomes too unrealistic to be at all feasible and consequently loses some



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Ethan Tremblay (Zach Galifianakis) admits to Peter Higman (Robert Downey Jr.) that he stole his wallet. The entire chaotic road trip could have been avoided had this confession been made earlier.

comic value.

Because Galifianakis's character is so ridiculous, nobody would actually want to continue traveling with him. It can almost be uncomfortable to spend time with him.

Downey, Jr. was well suited as the straight edge foil to Galifianakis's topsy-turvy humor—although Galifianakis played a similar character in *The Hangover*.

A lot of the supporting cast members

were very funny as well. Lewis entertained as the drug-dealing mother of two. Danny McBride gave the audience a few chuckles through the small role he played as a wheelchair-confined Western Union employee who beats up Peter.

The only one who did not really add to the story was Foxx. Even though many viewers were expecting at least a decent performance, he failed to please the audience. His character did not have any amusing lines of dialogue and was there to

just make the movie longer.

Due Date is a crude, raunchy, and laugh out loud funny experience. The movie's intentions were to provide the audience with enough laughs in order for them to enjoy themselves.

In this regard, the movie succeeded. Even though it is not the funniest movie of the year, it was still very entertaining. So for those looking for a movie that does not involve magical creatures and wizards, *Due Date* is worth a watch.

International hit becomes successful in the United States

by Kyle Manzione
Assistant A&E Editor

Much like the countless book series that have grown in popularity, such as *Harry Potter* and *Twilight*, Stieg Larsson's

best selling crime series *The Millennium Trilogy*, has produced film adaptations in Larsson's native land of Sweden.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is the first of the three films to be released in the United States. The film follows a female protagonist, Lisbeth Salander

(Noomi Rapace), a 24-year-old girl who is initially captivating because of her small stature, gothic appearance, and ferocious personality. Described in the film as the most dangerous computer hacker in Sweden, Salander is a convicted felon on parole haunted by an ambiguous, dark past.

While the mystery itself is intriguing, what is most interesting are the characters themselves. They do not resemble the typical macho action hero and his sexy sidekick.

The movie's sex and violence was muted in comparison to the book.

Graphic scenes were not used merely as filler, as we see too often in Hollywood. Rather, these aspects further developed the plot and characters.

The film also follows the research of Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist), an investigative journalist.

After crossing

paths with a Swedish business tycoon, he has six months of freedom before being sent to prison for his crimes.

Blomkvist, who is clearly intelligent and resourceful, is sought out by an elderly and ailing billionaire named Henrik Vanger (Sven-Bertil Taube). Blomkvist expresses his wish to find his long lost niece, Harriet, who vanished years before the action of the movie.

Because Vanger lives on a remote island with the rest of his family, and because the bridge was sealed off on the final day before Harriet's disappearance, Blomkvist learns one member of Vanger's enormous family must be responsible for the murder.

With a murderer at large, and a limited list of suspects, Mikael comes across Lisbeth, who has already been investigating Mikael's case herself.

With her reputation for computer hacking and access to information, Mikael enlists her help in order to find the one responsible for the mysterious disappearance.

The book's popularity has no doubt been a major part of the movie's international success. There have been talks of remaking the three Swedish films in the United States. However, even if this were to be the case, considering the uniqueness of this film, I suggest you watch the original first.



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The sexual tension rises between Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace) and Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist) as they make their way to investigate a scene.

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Black Ops campaign makes up for other flaws

BY **Morgan Quigley**
A&E Editor

Each year there is a date that video game fans will mark off on their calendars. This is, of course, the release of the new *Call of Duty*. Both serious and occasional gamers are in love with this immensely successful franchise; so much so that gamers preorder their copies weeks in advance.

In 2009, *Modern Warfare 2* sold approximately 4.7 million copies within 24 hours of being released.

In what is probably the most exciting campaign of the series, *Black Ops* involves the gamer playing as CIA agent Alex Mason, a star of The Company and a man that took part in Khe Sanh and the Bay of Pigs invasions. Mason has been captured and the game plays out as he tries to recall the information stuck in his head. As Mason is being tortured, you are placed into his memories as he thinks about the questions the captors are asking.



Despite a few flaws in the multiplayer mode, *Call of Duty: Black Ops* still exceeds gamers’ expectations with a captivating story and a new updating feature.

This is the first time I have not been bored while playing a *Call of Duty* campaign. I truly wanted to watch the in-between-mission scenes because they interested me. There are many cliffhangers in the story, which make you want to keep playing to figure out what Mason is remembering, something previous *Call of Duty* games were unable to accomplish.

The graphics, something the *Call of Duty* franchise has been known for, were not groundbreaking. All of the explosion and gunfire, more so than in the previous six games, make it a little visually confusing.

One addition that is impressive, however, is the use of real life video during Mason’s flashbacks, the first time that this has been done in *Call of Duty*. However, the amazing storyline does make up entirely for the fact that *Call of Duty* fans were expecting more of a leap in the graphics.

Playing the *Black Ops* campaign is like playing a new storyline in *Modern Warfare 2*. The game play has stayed

exactly the same. And why shouldn’t it? The games have been wildly successful in the past and all of the controls are easy and sensible. It makes sense that Treyarch did not do anything radical with the gameplay and only built on its past success.

What captures your attention at first while playing in the multiplayer mode is the implementation of “CoD points.” This is beneficial to the game because it allows you to choose the updates that you want as opposed to the old system where Treyarch gave unlocks for either leveling up or completing tasks with the designated weapon.

CoD points are obtained through kills, wins, and buying contracts. A contract is like betting. You purchase a contract, which is in-game, and if you complete it, you receive more CoD points than what you paid for.

Despite some technical issues, such as lagging, that were not as prevalent in the previous games of the franchise, the multiplayer mode is very good. Deathstreaks have been removed as well as the nuke kill streak. However, the attack dogs killstreak has been brought back, which was last seen in the *World at War* game.

The very successful “Zombies” phase of the game has also been brought back. It allows players to defend a base while fighting off zombies by themselves or with friends. It does, however, take away from the reality of the game, which may displease some fans.

Black Ops is the best installment in the series and has the best campaign thus far. The multiplayer mode is a little faulty, but Treyarch has promised to patch up some issues, such as the removal of some gameplay features off of the Hardcore playlist. The game is a must have for Call of Duty fans and for all gamers in general.

Artist Profile: Caleb Jenkinson

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

Most of us have probably dreamed of being a rock star, but junior Caleb Jenkinson is making that a reality. His band, Rooftop Manor, is involved in the NAMM School Jam USA competition. The bands in this competition are split up into four regions. The top two bands from each region get an opportunity to perform in Anaheim, California.

“One of the bandmember’s mothers had found this competition while searching online. We jumped at the opportunity,” said Jenkinson.

The top bands are chosen by the number of votes they receive on wannaplaymusic.com. The band is currently in 1st place for the Northeast region.

“Winning the competition is definitely within our grasp,” said Jenkinson.

Whether or not they win, Jenkinson and his band are already learning a lot just by being involved in this competition. The experience itself helps the band grow together and grow stronger.

“We are definitely learning how to promote ourselves and recognizing the kind of competition we are up against,” said Jenkinson.

Rooftop Manor got its modest start from the School of Rock music school, located on Main Street. Many of the members have been part of this institution for years.

“Cal Fish, Phil Gibson, and Marcus Tamkin all met at the School of Rock program. After, they decided they were interested in forming a band outside School of Rock. Marcus, whom I had known from middle school, decided to contact me to be a guitarist and the keyboard player of the band. I accepted his offer and from then on, we’ve been constantly playing together, always with the determination to get better as a band,” said Jenkinson.

Each band has its own little quirks to make itself unique. While Rooftop Manor doesn’t have strange habits or rituals, it does have a routine before every performance.

“After we set up and are ready to begin, we all make eye contact to let each other know that we’re good to go. That is about it,” said Jenkinson.

Rooftop Manor recently competed in a battle of the bands competition on November 20, at Webster Hall. The band placed an incredible second place out of 50 bands. They also competed at a battle of the bands competition at the Vibe Lounge on November 26.

“It was an awesome experience, and we are really pleased with how well we placed.”

The band has an alternative feel, which is no surprise considering its influences.

“We have many influences, but I would say the main ones consist of Radiohead, Muse, Vampire Weekend, Silversun Pickups, and U2,” said Jenkinson.

As for their future plans, Rooftop Manors just wants to keep playing music, find as many gigs as possible, and continue to progress together as a band.

“I don’t know if I want to make music a career, but I know that I always want it to be a part of my life. Music has influenced me in so many ways. I would not be the same person today if I had not picked up my first guitar,” said Jenkinson.

Cee Lo Green’s third studio album is a “killer”

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

After the release of the hit song, “Forget You,” fans eagerly anticipated the release of Cee Lo Green’s upcoming album, *The Lady Killer*. “Forget You” stormed the mainstream media and was played on repeat on the iPods of many. Getting its modest start from YouTube in August, the music video for the song reached 2 million views within one week of its release. The song also peaked at number 17 on the Billboard Top 100.

If listeners are looking for the bubblegum, happy-go-lucky pop feel of “Forget You,” they will be extremely disappointed with Green’s new album, *The Lady Killer*. Rather than taking a playful approach, he incorporates old style jazz in his songs. Yet, critics have raved over the album, and it would be a lie to say Green’s music is less than average.

Songs such as “Old Fashioned,” which was appropriately named, infuse slow rhythms and smooth vocals. Upon first hearing this album, I was rather surprised to hear songs of this style. Initially, I did not like them, but after a while I started realizing how talented Green actually is.

This is not to say that all the songs stray away from pop style. “Bright Lights Bigger City” doesn’t quite have the catchy beat of “Forget You,” but still captures the listener’s attention with chanting in the chorus.

The comical intro to the album, “The Lady Killer Theme” features Green’s low, raspy voice as he speaks about himself to the background music of *Batman*. It has almost no connection to the actual album, but the intro makes *Lady Killer* even more enjoyable, and shows its creator’s playful personality.

The one vocal collaboration, with Lauren Bennett, from Paradiso Girls, is well put together. Bennett’s voice complements Green’s perfectly and the chemistry between the two is apparent from the beginning.

Lately, it seems that all the average listener cares about are catchy beats and, perhaps, the content of the lyrics. While this does add to the likeability of the music, we often overlook the vocal range of the artist. Green displays admirable singing capabilities in songs like “Cry Baby” and “It’s Okay.”

Whether it is singing for Gnarls Barkley and Goodie Mob or pursuing his solo career, Green’s distinctive voice is always present.

Yet, the style change between the different acts almost seems effortless. Green is able to make whatever song he creates his own and nothing ever seems forced.

The date of the album release was rather fortunate for Green. Now that Limewire has been shut down, many listeners find themselves having to actually pay for their music.

It is unlikely that his songs will

become popular hits that are blasted on the radio, but perhaps that was not Green’s goal. Rather, he may want to show us his creativity and prove that artists don’t have to always follow the cliché formula to make a song these days.



Lady Killer shocked fans with its smooth jazz, which strayed away from the pop feel of “Forget You.”

The Walking Dead brings AMC TV back to life and beyond

BY Benjamin Lerner
Contributing Writer

On Halloween night, AMC unveiled its long-awaited new series, *The Walking Dead*. The reputable network has had great success with its original series over the last few years, with the Emmy award-winning shows *Mad Men* and *Breaking Bad* each garnering tremendous critical and public praise.

In the hopes of keeping up with this trend, and making up for the ratings flop that was *Rubicon*, AMC has invested considerable resources into promoting *The Walking Dead*, as well as the graphic novels from which the show is derived.

There are many parallels between the comics and the show, and while director/executive producer Frank Darabont (*The Shawshank Redemption*) clearly wishes to expand upon the source material and throw in some new characters, the tone and pace of the show is very much consistent with that of the books.

The main character Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln), a King County sheriff's deputy from Georgia, is injured in a gunfight and becomes comatose. Upon awakening in the local hospital, he discovers that the building is deserted, except for a roomful of zombies being contained in the cafeteria.

As he wanders through town, he becomes increasingly aware of his post-apocalyptic situation and struggles to find his family. He finds his house deserted and looted, and notices that his family photo albums are missing, leading him

to believe that his wife escaped and is alive somewhere. This begins his quest to find her.

He comes across a couple of survivors, a father and son, who express their grievances and inform him that when a state of National Emergency was declared, people sought refuge in nearby major cities, and that his only way to ensure the finding of his family would be to head out to Atlanta.

Thus begins Rick's quest for familial unity and sanctuary in his dystopian, perilous world.

Because of the nature of the show, character development will be an important element for this and any successive seasons.

Having a prolonged story about survivors of a zombie apocalypse gives the writers an excellent opportunity to explore the psychological effects of isolation, terror, and even self-sacrifice.

The primal, *Lord of the Flies*-esque



www.amctv.com

Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) and other characters try to fight off zombies in a scene from AMC's gruesome hit, *The Walking Dead*.

environment is a great backdrop for the deconstruction of commonplace societal behavior and morals.

As is often the case in zombie movies, the self-preservation instinct of one's fellow man can prove much more treacherous than the fleshy cravings of a mindless zombie.

There's no doubt that Rick will be thrust into situations in which he must weigh the importance of people's lives, and pass judgment on who may live or die depending on their usefulness or sentimental value.

From the first episode alone, it is evident from the high production values that

AMC and Darabont intend to use their collective talents and resources to make *The Walking Dead* another wonderful AMC original.

While the gore can be a bit excessive, especially when a couple of characters make costumes for themselves out of zombie guts and limbs, the show has proven itself to be pleasantly entertaining and suspenseful, especially with its 10 p.m. timeslot.

I highly recommend it to classic Romero zombie fans, but I'm sure those who enjoyed *Shaun of the Dead* will appreciate it as well.

Dragon Quest IX continues the epic journey

BY Will Zhou
Sports Editor

Dragon Quest IX: Sentinel of the Starry Skies is a new role-playing game (RPG) from Square Enix and Level-5 Productions for Nintendo DS. It employs some original and interesting methods of RPG gaming, but does not succeed to extend them to their fullest. Overall, it is an accessible game, though not fully fleshed out, with extensive customization and high replay value.

The general premise follows along with the religious undertones of the *Dragon Quest* series: the gamer plays an angel on a quest to return to heaven after falling down to Earth. To do so, one must help the Almighty One cure ailments and sicknesses throughout the country.

Perhaps the best aspect of this game is its 50 hour long story, one that unfurls with proper pacing and packs plenty of side quests for RPG lovers. Although the story is linear, players are free to roam the expansive digital world no matter what point of the story they're up to. This is an especially appealing quality to many gamers.

The battle mechanics should be familiar to anyone who has played an RPG in the past: the player selects from a repertoire of spells, abilities, and items in a real-

time battle situation.

Unlike past *Dragon Quest* games, one can no longer randomly encounter monsters in the field. The style favors the more updated method of running into monsters the player can see to engage battle.

When compared to other DS titles, this game has extremely crisp and sharp graphics. Animation is fluid, although quite amusing at points, which makes for something that is probably as believable as possible on a DS.

The soundtrack, although not up to the same caliber as, for example, *Fire Emblem VII*, is epic enough for the story.

One problem is that although it is rather easy to progress through the game, bosses require repeated questing and grinding to defeat. There are little "strategies" one can employ in order to fight against stronger bosses: the most important aspect is your level versus the enemy's level.

Overall, *Dragon Quest IX* is probably one of the best role playing games available for the DS. Its beauty lies in its simplicity and deep story that is accessible to both new players and the most hardcore of video game fans.

Although some details may not be refined as other similar games, *Dragon Quest IX* warrants at least a consideration from all.

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Swim team hopes to repeat the successes of last season

Many changes are in store for the team, including new members and a new conference

BY Aaron Brezel
Contributing Writer

Following an eventful 2009 campaign, the varsity boys swimming team hopes to rebuild and grow stronger in the upcoming winter season. However, the team will have to fill the void left behind by its many graduating members that left the team last June.



Holland Meyer

Swimmers are among the most dedicated athletes in the school, waking up as early as five o'clock to attend practice in Great Neck.

“Our goal is simple,” said Coach Joe Lennon. “Be better then we were before, as a team and as individual athletes.” Last year the team finished with a 5-4 record and placed 13th out of 25 in Nassau County. The 200m freestyle relay team was recognized on an All-Conference level. As far as individual accomplishments go, several Schreiber records were shattered last year. In addition, nine boys made the Nassau County Championships.

This year, Coach Lennon hopes that an even greater number of swimmers will qualify for the Nassau County Championships. To accomplish this, he believes commitment and hard work will be needed. During the season, the team swims at Great Neck North Middle School on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5:45-7:00 a.m. To get there, team members have to board the bus at 5:15 a.m. These practices are designed to develop stroke technique and cardiovascular endurance. Meets are typically scheduled on Thursdays and Fridays after school. Even when no meet is scheduled, the athletes have dryland practices where the swimmers work out in the weight room to keep in shape. Because of last year’s record, the swimming team has moved up to Conference II. This means that many of the teams that Port will compete against will present brand new challenges. Of the teams, Manhasset is the biggest competition for the year to come. “We will be well trained and prepared for the meet,” said Coach Lennon. Of the 2009 team, seven memberse have graduated, nearly half the previous roster; this leaves only six returning athletes in the program. The returning swimmers are seniors Harry Mann and Jason Moss, juniors Seo Yoon Park and Jason Stewart, sophomore Matias Franco, and freshman Gavin Walsh. “They are flexible athletes, able to compete in many events,” said Coach Lennon.

“This is a great benefit to me as a coach because I can manipulate a line-up to match the competition.” A huge factor in the development of the swim team has been its coach. Coach Lennon has been a mainstay of this team ever since he helped start the program four years ago. Because he grew up swimming at the Long Island Aquatic Club and then competed at Providence College in the sport, he has strong ties to swimming. This is not just as a coach, but also as a fellow athlete; he has a passion to see Port swimmers succeed. This will be his fifth season coaching boys swimming and the fall season was his sixth for coaching the girls swimming team. His contributions to the teams are highly appreciated by the team members due to the rough hours that he is willing to work. Tryouts for the swim team started Nov. 15 and the team will be finalized on Nov. 26. As of now, 21 boys are slated to try out, with their grades ranging from eighth grade to twelfth. “We are still a very young team,” said Coach Lennon. “Each year is different. Each season gives more history to build on. While we aspire to improve upon all past seasons, to repeat the progress of last year would be a successful season. The dedication to our training and the drive for improvement and success was something to be admired. I know that with the same level of motivation, we will aspire to and surpass our past.”

Calling the Shots: Should students look up to professional athletes?

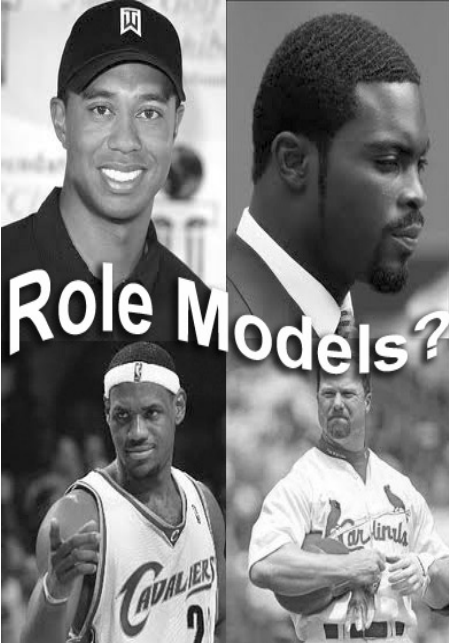
BY Drew Friedman
Sports Editor

With increasing frequency, major sports leagues are becoming distressed about the reprehensible behavior of their players. This prompted the discussion that they’ve been looking at the “role model” idea all wrong. Apparently, big name sports stars need role models more than kids do. In fact, professional athletes can learn a lot from their young fans. That’s why Merritt Torius, a make believe straight-A Schreiber student, was selected this fall to be the role model for four major sports stars: one from baseball, one from basketball, one from football, and one from golf. Merritt began his first day with the stars at his breakfast table. “Would any of you like some cereal?” he asked them. “Does it have steroids in it?” asked Mark McGwire (Big Mac), hitting coach for the St. Louis Cardinals. “No,” said Merritt. “Why would a breakfast cereal have steroids in it, Mr. McGwire?” “Well,” said Big Mac, “Every morning while I was playing in St. Louis I would have my bowl of cereal, my steroids, and a big glass of OJ.” “I’m pretty sure you’re not supposed to use steroids,” said Merritt. “They’re unhealthy and illegal. Also, they help you hit a lot more home runs, which is cheating.” “Wow,” said Big Mac. “No one ever told me that steroids would affect my hitting.”

“Man,” said Michael Vick, “You’ve got to change your ways, Big Mac.” “Yeah,” said LeBron James. “Big time,” said Tiger Woods. “Hey,” said Merritt, “Let’s not pile on, okay? Nobody likes a bully.” “Sorry,” said Tiger. “Me too,” said Vick. “My bad,” said LeBron. After breakfast, Merritt grabbed his schoolbag and walked to school with his sports stars. On his way to his first class, he saw his girlfriend. “Hey, Maryanne,” said Merritt. “Hey, Merritt.” “Who was that?” asked Tiger as Maryanne walked down the hall. “She’s my girlfriend,” said Merritt. “Does she know about the others?” asked Tiger. “What others?” asked Merritt. “Your other girlfriends.” “Mr. Woods,” said Merritt, “Why would I have more than one girlfriend?” “I don’t know,” said Tiger. “I just figured everybody had at least a dozen of them.” “We’re going to have to work on that,” said Merritt. Later that day Merritt went to gym, where his teacher asked the kids to form teams of three players each for their annual basketball tournament. That was when LeBron leaned over to Merritt. “I think I can help you out, kid. Your best bet at winning would be to play with Team C over there,” said LeBron. He pointed to two of the biggest, strongest kids on the floor. “Yeah,” said Merritt, “They’ll be tough

under the basket. But my main priority is to play with my friends.” “Don’t you want to win?” asked LeBron. “I mean, winning is everything, isn’t it?” “No, it’s not,” said Merritt patiently. “Didn’t your parents ever teach you to be loyal to your buds?” “Well, yeah,” said LeBron, “But it’s hard to be loyal when you’re the best player in the NBA and you haven’t got a ring to prove it.” “You’re talking to a Knicks fan,” said Merritt. “Believe me, I know about not having championship rings. Still, I’m not going to stop rooting for them.” LeBron scratched his chin. “You

wouldn’t switch to the Heat? Even with me on the team?” “Sorry,” said Merritt. “I’ve got my principles.” After a long but educational day, especially for his companions, Merritt led the stars home. As he always did after school, he took his dog Skip for a walk. After a couple of minutes, they passed a neighbor walking her dog across the street. “Is your dog okay?” asked Michael Vick. “How come he’s not trying to tear that other dog apart?” “That’s Rover, our neighbor’s dog,” said Merritt. “They would never fight. They like each other too much.” “That’s too bad,” said Vick. “So you going to get rid of them? I mean, what’s the point of having them if they’re not going to fight?” Merritt sighed. “You did spend two years in prison, right?” “Yup. I still can’t figure out why, though. Fortunately, I’m playing better than ever.” “We have a lot to talk about,” said Merritt. “I guess we’ve all got a long way to go,” said Big Mac. “Don’t get discouraged,” said Merritt. “With hard work and dedication, you guys will eventually learn right from wrong. Then maybe I can spend the day with some of your owners, who have been guilty of collusion, forcing the public to pay for all their new stadiums, caring more about money than the team, and ignoring steroid abuse. They seem to need a role model more than anybody.”



Elana Galassi

Athletes of the Month

Jordan Finkle

BY David Katz

Contributing Writer

After starting competitive wrestling only one year ago, junior Jordan Finkle has already made his mark on the school's wrestling program.

Standing at five foot six and weighing in at approximately 140 lbs, Finkle is the perfect combination of strength and speed; he can overcome what he lacks because of his size with agility and skill. Finkle acknowledges this fact and states that it is one of the reasons why he loves wrestling so much.

"It is a combination of strength and body weight," said Finkle. "I guess that's what makes me good at it."

Finkle plans on maintaining a strict diet of Wasa crackers, protein bars, and



Courtesy of Jeff Finkle

Jordan Finkle pins an Island Trees wrestler. Even though the Vikings lost by a score of 44-18, Finkle won both of his matches.

water in order for him to get into peak physical form to wrestle in the 135 lbs weight class.

After a loss to Carle Place in the semi-finals of last year's NIT tournament in January, Schreiber beat Jericho in the third-place match by a score of 34-33 in which Finkle pinned Jericho star Max Blumencranz after 3:28.

Finkle also performed admirably at the Dec. 16 meet vs. Island Trees. Although Port Washington incurred a heavy loss at the meet, Finkle was able to pin his opponent. He hopes to keep his success rolling this season, and propel the team forward even though the Vikings have lost a few key components of the team including their wins leader Michael O'Brien Dalesandro ('10).

"The goal in any sport is to win," said Finkle. "Wrestling is no different, and this year I'm planning on helping lead this team to success."

Wrestling isn't the only activity Finkle participates in. Besides wrestling, Jordan is also a player on the Vikings soccer team. During the offseason he stays in shape by going to the gym and playing on a travel soccer team.

"I try to maintain my intensity over the summer, by working out as much as I can. I also try to eat healthy, so that when it comes time for the season I am in tip top shape and don't fall behind my teammates," said Finkle.

But despite Finkle's seemingly tense attitude about the season, he and his teammates are still set on having fun. He contends that it is important to maintain a balance between work and fun, and his outlook and athletic ability are sure to aid the team in achieving its goal.

Dian Lin

BY Joe Betz

Contributing Writer

After participating in cross country and winter and spring track last year, sophomore Dian Lin is certainly one of the strongest runners on this year's winter track team. She is looking forward to a great 2010 winter track season, which started on Nov. 17.

She goes into this winter season after coming off a great run in cross country in the fall, during which she placed third at the Bethpage League Meet 3 on Oct. 4, and ran personal records of 20:44.2 in the 5K and 17:18.4 in the 4K races. Lin is confident in her abilities for the upcoming season and is excited to continue running.

"We have a solid foundation for this season from cross country," said Lin. "I plan on doing as well as I did in cross country."

Although Lin ran mainly long-distance events last track season, with a 12:14.0 personal record in the 3000 meter event, she plans on running many middle to long distance events in this season's winter track. These events include the 1000 and 1500 meter run events. She also looks forward to participating in team relays.

"I'm looking forward to running the 4x800 relay the most," said Lin. "Unlike the individual events, we depend on each other throughout the race and we become really close."

Her potential could not have been realized without the help of Head Coach Virginia McMahon, Coach Bruce MacDonald and new Assistant Coach

Jeremiah Pope, all of whom have guided the growth of the girl runners.

"Coach Pope is doing great new innovative workouts to help the team," said Lin. "And McMahon organizes the team and oversees that we are working hard and putting in our best efforts."

Although Coach MacDonald's main focus is on hurdlers, he is still a help to all members of the team.

"Coach Mac is experienced and cares for us as well as the sport," said Lin.

Lin goes into the season after training hard and she looks forward to a great winter. Her goal is to do as well as she can in her events, to be a good role model, leader, and a fierce competitor for the girls winter track team.



www.bhblrunners.com

Dian Lin runs against the wind on Oct. 16 at Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Lin has competed on the varsity squad for the last two years.

With several recent incidents, fans have had to learn the rules of spectating

BY Brett Fishbin

Sports Editor

In any sporting event, one of the most essential elements is spectator participation. But, as fun as it can be to attend sports games and root for one's team, there is a clear line that cannot be crossed when it comes to high school sporting events.

During the last few Schreiber varsity soccer games, the school was forced to discipline several students for rowdy and disrespectful behavior.

In a recent Vikings regular season game, one student decided to bring a vuvuzela (a horn that is commonly used during soccer games). Even though it was in an attempt to cheer on the school, he ended up getting out of hand. While his intentions may have been positive, his actions resulted in a day's suspension from school.

In a similar situation, senior Chris Verdi was attending a soccer game when he screamed an insult to a player on the opposing team.

"I think that they are way too strict and they don't let us cheer things that we should be able to say," said Verdi. "I knew what I said was wrong, but the punishment was out of hand."

Although he was not suspended for his actions, he was asked to leave the premises for the duration of the game.

Of course, this represents only one side

of the story. Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics director Ms. Stephanie Joannon believes that the punishments are indeed just.

"What happens is that things go to an extreme," said Ms. Joannon. "You can be good, loud, and positive without being demeaning to both the opponents and other spectators. The only time we take action is when behavior gets really out of hand."

Because these types of problems are becoming quite common at high school sports games, it is important to look first

at why they occur, and second at how to prevent them.

"The important thing to realize is that many students watch college sports," said Ms. Joannon. "In these sports, especially basketball and football, there's a lot of unsportsmanlike behavior that may be accepted in a college environment. However, this kind of etiquette is inappropriate in a high school setting and it's up to all of us to set an example."

The easiest way to prevent such actions is to clearly state the "cans and can-nots" of sports spectating.



Elana Galassi

Senior Al Ades, showing his fanaticism, stands in front of the crowd during a Vikings soccer game. The boys lost by a score of 5-1 against Hicksville.

Girls volleyball and boys soccer break into playoffs

BY **Dan Miranda**

Staff Writer

Two prominent teams in the playoff scene this fall were the varsity boys soccer and varsity girls volleyball team. Although neither could earn a Nassau title, each had its own share of wins to look back and reflect upon.

The boys soccer squad started out struggling, losing its first three matches in the season. The team finally got on the board in its fourth game with a win, 2-0, against Herricks.

Goal scoring was a difficulty throughout the season; the team's 5-4-4 end of the year record was largely due to defense and goaltending.

Throughout the year, senior Lucas Joannou split time with sophomore Michael Moraitis as goalkeeper; the tandem was credited with a total of nine shutouts throughout the season.

In a total of 16 games, Port scored 15 goals. In nine different games, the Vikings could not put the ball in the net.

This problem became even worse when sophomore Ko Kunita was injured for the season after being kicked in the nose while playing Herricks on Oct. 13. Come playoff time, Port Washington desperately needed Kunita against some of the best teams in Nassau.

In the end, all it took was a tie for the team to advance to the Conference AA playoffs. This had been the goal all season and it was right around the corner.

As the seconds dwindled down at the game against rival Plainview-JFK Hawks

on Oct. 25, the goal was finally achieved. The balance of the game rested heavily on goalkeeper Joannou who had five saves against Plainview-JFK; Moraitis also contributed with a save of his own.

However, the team was hoping for something larger than just another "one-and-done" playoffs season. East Meadow, the sixth seed, looked to defeat Port Washington to secure its second round match-up against Massapequa, but Joannou would not let this happen. With three saves, the senior posted his third shutout to propel the Vikings to face the Massapequa Chiefs.

Continuing their run into the second round, the Vikings held Massapequa scoreless in the first half. The Chiefs, who had a bye in the first round, eventually became the Class-AA Nassau County Champions.

In the first half, Port put pressure on the Chiefs, but failed to score a goal. On the other end, Joannou had six saves, but it wasn't enough. Massapequa finally defeated Port 2-0.

"Our team improved immensely from the beginning of the season," said Head Coach Mr. Don Fish, who remained positive after the loss.

Meanwhile, the varsity girls volleyball team took tremendous strides in the fall, but eventually fell in the second round of the playoffs. The team's real goal however, to beat Herricks, was accomplished



Courtesy of Ingrid Wunderling

The girls varsity volleyball team, which finished first in its conference, accepts trophies at the Herricks tournament on Sept. 25 for its second place finish.

on Oct. 29 in the final game of the regular season, when the Lady Vikings took the Highlanders to five sets.

For the first time since 2005, the Lady Vikings put themselves on the banner in the gymnasium, finishing first in their conference with the win.

"The win defined the season," said senior Kristin Courage, who was crying after the match with tears of joy. "I think that the game spoke to what we could do to the legacy we're leaving here at Schreiber. The season was nothing we expected but ev-

everything we hoped for."

Courage, an outside hitter, had 18 kills against the Highlanders; senior libero Jamie Koopersmith had 30 digs. Head coach Steve Park noted, however, that to him and the team, these stats meant little when compared to the victory.

The Nassau Coaches Volleyball Association has awarded Courage with an All-County award, and Hayley Kerr, Jamie Koopersmith, Ingrid Wunderling All-Conference awards for their performance this past season.

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"What's really inspiring about UMass is the number of student initiatives. These are motivated people. Everyone's working off of each other's energy. In the Eco-Rep program, we're helping students put their own behavior into the larger web of sustainability. The goal is to understand the big picture, to start a dialogue, to be an effective, engaged citizen."

Nell Finnigan '12, Eliot, ME. Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences. UMass Eco-Rep program manager. Developed a year-long curriculum in environmental literacy and sustainability awareness. "Food brings communities together. The solutions to a lot of the problems we're facing—economic, environmental—start with food."

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VIKING SPORTS

Boys and girls basketball teams prepare for season *Varsity and JV levels train hard in hopes of a chance at the playoffs*

BY **Will Zhou**
Sports Editor

The JV and varsity boys and girls basketball teams ended last season with strong records and high hopes for the future. This year, they plan on fulfilling these hopes and going beyond; the goal in mind is winning in their respective divisions and making the playoffs.

The varsity girls basketball team enters the season with a strong record and strong returning players. Last season, the team placed third in Conference III, with a 5-3 final record.

Junior Hayley Kerr, who ended last season with 103 points and 22 rebounds, is joined by junior Emily Rosenthal, with a record of 137 points, six assists, and six rebounds.

Although the team's top scorer from last year, Emma Horowitz, graduated in June, star players Kerr and Rosenthal have returned to help the team achieve its goals. They are helped with the addition of several skilled new players.

"We're returning six players to varsity this season," said Coach Dennis Trotter. "Juniors Ariana Spagna and Jessie Quinn and sophomore Ali Seltzer will be coming back, in addition to two year starter Kerr and two time All Conference Player, Rosenthal. Finally, freshman starting point guard Christina Leonard will be re-joining the team. All three of these players are going to contribute to this year's team success."

The team is moving up in conference levels, but this does not daunt the Coach Trotter.

"We're in a tougher conference," said Coach Trotter. "But we should still be able to compete."

The varsity roster is completed by

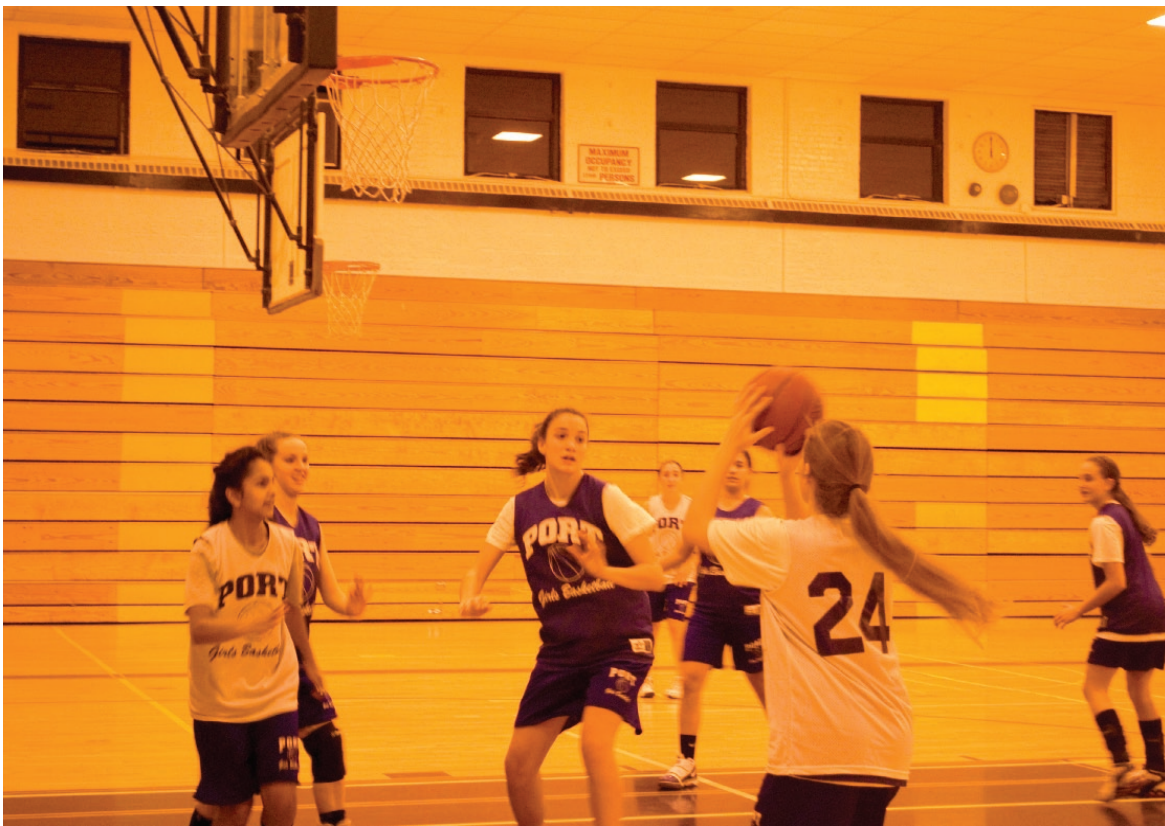
sophomore Kate Andriola, and freshmen Nicole Alechman, Megan Murphy, and Jillian Ring. The team is comprised mainly of younger players, most of whom will play an essential role in its success.

The first of the games for the Lady Vikings will be on Dec. 4 at 12:00 p.m. in the Schreiber gym against rival school West Hempstead.

The team was ranked top four in the division and ended last year's season in sixth place, with victories against Farmingdale and Valley Stream Central. As a result, the team made the playoffs, but lost in the first round.

"Although our overall record wasn't that great last year, it's still an accomplishment," said Coach Sean Dooley. "Our conference level is extremely difficult, and for us to beat these two good teams is a sign of success."

The returning star players this year include seniors Michael Murphy and Kaan "K.C." Ozcayir, who are aided with the inclusion of a new member, junior Josh



Elana Galassi

Freshman Jillian Ring prepares to block a shot. The Lady Vikings will face their first opponent, West Hempstead, on Dec. 4 in the gym.

Feshbach. Feshbach recently transferred from Friends Academy, and should prove helpful to the team.

Even with the skill and experience of the athletes, there is still considerable competition.

"Our top competition is Baldwin," said Coach Dooley. "But we should be able to compete with them and hopefully make it to the playoffs."

Team members are also confident in their abilities.

"I think we're going to end up facing Baldwin in the final conference round," said Ozcayir. "And I think we have a good chance of winning."

The coaches have decided to put together a new offensive strategy that will work better for the Vikings.

"Our team works together very well," said Ozcayir. "I've been on it since the sophomore year, and this year is probably the best team I've been on so far. The new offensive being pushed by the coaches should help us tremendously."

The JV girls team is made of sophomores Brenna Betsch, Jill Bosswick, Kayla Conway, and Liz Einhaus. These girls are accompanied by 10 freshmen.

"The team has only been running for three years so far," said Coach Lauren Bishar. "We're bringing it back this year with high hopes."

While the goal in many varsity sports is to win the conference or to make it to the playoffs, many JV teams have a different mindset.

"Our goal in JV is to make sure that students are prepared and ready for the varsity level and that they experience the sport to the fullest," said Bishar.

The JV boys team has much the same goal as the girls; to develop the players to play on the varsity level. Therefore, the focus of the JV team is on appreciating the sport and increasing the abilities of the athletes.

The team is made up of seven freshmen and six sophomores, many of whom have the potential to do very well this season.

"This is the third year conducting JV boys basketball," said Coach Joe Virgilio. "I think we have the most talent this year in terms of people who are coming back."

The freshmen are also an essential part of the team.

"Our freshmen received great training at Weber," said Coach Virgilio. "I have high hopes for them to improve."

Even though the focus is indeed on improving the athletes, victories are always something to strive for.

"We had six wins last season," said Coach Virgilio. "I think our goal for this year will be 10, and that's very possible. As for the new offensive strategy, I think that it will be a good fit for the guys that we have on the team."

Team members are also looking forward to a great season.

"Our team is amazing this year," said sophomore Matt Kim. "We're going to do great."



Elana Galassi

Juniors Adam Cuthill, Nate Omeltchenko, and Kevin Nardone attempt to steal the ball from Mahlik Merriweather. The boys varsity basketball team plans to place top four in the conference.