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THE SCHREIBER TIMES **NEWS** FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011

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Junior Zoey Tung took this picture at the Inspiration Wharf for a free shoot assignment in her Photo II class. She thought that the scene captured the beauty of Port Washington's waterfront location.

NEWS BRIEFS

Senior Experience collaborates with Blood Drive

What is deep red, is a pint in volume, and has the capacity to save lives? Recently, students found out during Schreiber's annual blood drive.

A total of 108 students and faculty members turned out to donate blood to people in need.

[°]It's a way of giving back and saving lives at the same time! There's no substitute for human blood," said health teacher and event organizer Ms. Janine Kalinowski.

For the first time, a senior experience project was combined with the blood drive initiative. For his internship, senior Trevor Hartblay worked with Ms. Kalinowski and the Key Club to help organize the blood drive. Hartblay expressed the desire to combine an internship that provided valuable lessons and gave back to the community. Hartblay believes he achieved this through his contribution to the blood drive.

"It started the first time I ever donated

did that in January. I soon needed to find an internship for my senior experience project, so I went to Ms. Kalinowski to see if I could help her run the school blood drive. Of course she needed help and so I ended up picking it for my internship."

Hartblay was responsible for attending meetings with Long Island Blood Services, organizing volunteers, recruiting donors, and raising awareness among the student body to promote involvement in the drive. In addition, he manned the registration table along with other Key Club members on the day of the event.

"A lot goes on behind the scenes to get a drive going and it was Trevor's job to make sure it was all taken care of," said Ms. Kalinowski. "I'm proud of Schreiber's efforts to educate potential donors as early as 16 years old. It's my hope that someone would continue this generous habit throughout their life."

~Max Kraus

Bus Scare

targeted specifically, the administration responded to the general threat by notifying the bus company. Bus drivers were also instructed not to allow anyone who was not a student on the bus.

"Two things post-Columbine and post-9/11: people take any statement about harm very seriously and so it's important to follow up, even if you think it's a prank, so that's why after the school district was notified, the bus company was immediately notified as well," said Dr. Banta.

As *The Schreiber Times* went to press, the district is still on alert. While the odds of any real harm coming from this threat seem remote, the administration and transportation officials continue to take this statement very seriously.

"There was no way to know if it was true, and if it was true, there was no way to know where it would apply. It was very vague," said Dr. Banta.

This alert is unrelated to Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald's announcement on April 7 informing students that the buses arrived early. That

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blood. I thought that it was such an easy thing do while helping so many people in need," said Hartblay. "Then the New York Blood Center emailed me about starting a community blood drive so I

Interim Principal Dr. Francis Banta, like every principal in New York State, received a general warning about a threat concerning school buses on April 5. Although Port Washington was not situation resulted from scheduling the buses on elementary school parent-teacher conference day, which was a half day of school.

~Matt Heiden



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As vote on budget nears, BOE weighs fiscal options

With 2.96% target increase, Port will try to cut costs by reevaluating staff and services

BY Matt Heiden and Noah Reisman

With the vote on the budget weighing heavily on everyone's mind, the Board of Education is now considering Port Washington's public finances. Superintendent Dr. Geoffrey Gordon presented his budget recommendation to the board members and public at the April 5 meeting. Trying to preserve the district's commitment to "educational excellence coupled with fiscal prudence," Dr. Gordon's proposal suggested an increase of 2.96 percent. According to the administration, a budget increase is inevitable due to rising costs.

"Health insurance and pension contributions will cost the district \$4,000,000 more this year," said Assistant Superintendent of Business Ms. Mary Callahan.

Dr. Gordon's budget plan included other points of contention, with which some Board members and community members took issue. For instance, it included asking the teacher's union to accept a \$1,500 reduction in expected raises per teacher. The money teachers would have received from a reduction in Social Security taxes is being asked back as a donation to minimize personnel cuts.

"Even with the shared sacrifice that will be required, the state's broke and it's passing problems down to us," said Dr. Gordon. "We have to pick up the pieces."

In addition, some proposals discussed at the meeting involved whether Weber could afford to leave an administrative gap left by the retirement of Assistant Principal Ms. Maria Dubie.

The Superintendent's current budget recommendation also used some wellreceived tactics to trim excess. By staggering the elementary school start times to conserve buses, the district



To eliminate having buses with few kids, such as this one, the Board of Education will stagger the starting times for elementary schools. If current proposals go into effect, the school district will lose eight buses in total.

expects to save approximately \$470,000. Dr. Gordon also said that in future years, rather than hiring a new ESL teacher, ESL class sizes would need to be increased to six students instead of three-to-five size today.

"Firing teachers is not the answer ever, ever to building a good system," said Dr. Gordon.

However, the role of teachers remains a point of contention in the community.

"I am proud to say that I'm the Latin teacher at Weber. I've been here for 10 years and I hope to be here for another 30," said Weber Latin teacher Mr. Arthur Cooke. "Teachers understand that when we come into this profession that we will earn less than our peers with previous education in the private sector."

Especially in light of this sacrifice of pay compared to the private sector, Mr. Cooke expressed the belief among teachers that the Board was ignoring the theme of "shared sacrifice" at the expense of teachers. He compared the average tax increase for Port residents, \$438 under the current proposal, to the \$1,500 expected of cuts to teachers' salaries.

Some in the community had their own ideas to save money. Mr. Frank Russo, a retired division manager at Verizon, called on Port teachers to teach more classes per day and eliminate homeroom. He proposed increasing the average number of classes taught per day at Schreiber from three and a third to at least four.

"The unions might object, but not the teachers themselves," said Mr. Russo.

Mr. Joel Katz, a community member, felt that the notion of having budget increases during a recession was unreasonable. Furthermore, he felt that the budget proposals did not reflect genuine educational needs. "Three percent is what you think you can extract from the taxpayers," said Mr. Katz at the meeting.

This increased cost is sure to be one of the most important voting issues for Port Washington residents. If the budget were to be defeated, the Board of Education has three options: A second vote on the same budget, a second vote with further reductions, or adopting a "contingency" budget with an increase of 1.92 percent.

"The Assessor's Office has not yet developed all current data to provide a totally accurate estimate. Based on the information at hand, a 2.96 percent budget increase would cost the average homeowner \$438, which is \$131 more than the per taxpayer cost under a contingent budget," said Ms. Callahan.

So far, Plan A is a five-point plan that would leave an \$818,000 gap to reach the 3 percent cap. The plan requires that unions approve raise reductions and include cuts in transportation (by eight buses), textbooks, and technology equipment. Curriculum, co-curricular activities (including sports), and personnel would be left relatively unharmed.

Plan B makes more aggressive cuts, and would only be considered if teachers' unions reject the sacrifices that the district has asked for. Along with the cuts proposed in Plan A, this plan would cut four librarians district-wide, three PEP teachers at the elementary school and sixth-grade levels, 11 teachers, one district technology specialist, the middle school computer department, part of the middle school Latin program, and the district's Adult Education Program. The plan also prescribes \$250,000 in cuts to Schreiber's sports and clubs. From these heavy cuts, Plan B would leave the Board with a \$40,000 budget surplus next year.

Ultimately, the arguments boil down to reassessing emphasis on finances compared to educational priorities.

"All the world's a stage" for performers on Shakespeare Day

BY Sophia Jaffe

Shakespeare Day, the annually anticipated event for drama diehards and literature lovers alike, is here again. The event is scheduled for the playwright's birthday, April 15. The celebration allows students to enjoy an array of Shakespeareinspired performances, music, and activities that will be featured in the auditorium. Students are encouraged to attend the event during their off periods, although teachers may take their classes to the festivities if they so choose. Coordinators are compiling a set of both new and old performance ideas in order to intrigue students and increase audience participation. Student coordinators seniors Andy Lieberman and Molly Ronis and juniors Jesse Weil and Brendan Weintraub met with Ms. Donna Valenti, the teacher coordinator for Shakespeare Day, periodically over the past year. The team hoped to come up with creative ideas to top last year's Shakespeare Day and increase student involvement and enthusiasm.

t-shirt design contest. Students had the opportunity to submit t-shirt design logos for the official Shakespeare Day t-shirt. The winner, junior Ethan Berkowitz, created an iPhone inspired design in honor of the event. The second place design was printed as the front cover of the Shakespeare Day schedule that will be distributed to students who attend the event.

The Shakespeare Day coordinators identified increasing involvement among

The English department is not the only one to get involved. To rouse audience enthusiasm, the coordinators aim to increase participation among the student body as much as possible by interacting with the audience between acts. Students will be asked questions or for their feedback on the latest performance.

In a fusion of music and literature,

the 2011 Battle of the Bands winner, Decadence, will be performing at Shakespeare knowledge of Shakespearean texts.

"Even if you aren't a Shakespeare buff, you can still have fun getting involved in Shakespeare Day or just watching from the audience," said Weintraub. "Either way, this is going to be the best Shakespeare Day ever and people who didn't get involved this year should definitely consider participating next year."

The brainstorming yielded many ideas, one of which was the hosting of a

the English classes as one of their main event goals. In order to realize this goal, the English teachers were encouraged to bring their classes to the auditorium to watch the performances during their class periods. One English class was commissioned to produce commercials for Shakespeare Day. These commercials will serve as interludes between performances to keep audience members entertained. Furthermore, there are several collections of entire English classes that will be performing skits at the event.

"We're planning ahead and having a rehearsal run-through of all of the day's activities," said Ronis. "We created less themes, but are using more events that are loosely related to Shakespeare so people can get more involved, even if they don't know that much about Shakespeare." Day. The coordinators hope that the combination of several popular songs with the Shakespearean theme of the event will appeal to both Shakespeare and pop culture fans.

Although several new ideas were propagated by the event coordinators, the traditional Shakespeare Day activities have not been lost. The annual Shakespeare Day sonnet writing, mask creating, and cake decorating contests are still being held. These contests are designed to stimulate friendly competition among peers, as well as interest and



Matt Heiden

In preparation for Shakepeare Day, students created masks of characters from the playwright's work to enter into a contest. The finalist projects will be displayed in the library.

THE SCHREIBER TIMES NEWS FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011

Spirit Week returns, albeit in reduced form

By Hannah Fagen Assistant News Editor

It is but one time of year that Schreiber is adorned with flashy outfits, healthy competition, and school pride–Spirit Week. From March 21 to March 25, students collected points and participated in events for a chance to earn their grade the title: Spirit Week champion.

Spirit Week has become a tradition at Schreiber; the classes compete for one week for a chance to earn money for their grade and the coveted trophy. This year, although the sophomores were not far behind, the seniors once again walked away victorious. This marked the fourth consecutive win for the outgoing senior class, of four total spirit weeks held.

"I was excited because every other year we obviously didn't care much because we weren't seniors," said senior Stella Kim. "But this year we were pumped because it was finally our turn to win."

This school year, Spirit Week planning got off to a late start. Planning usually begins several months in advance, but this year it began in early March. Social studies teacher Mr. Larry Schultz spearheaded the planning process.

"I was tasked with putting it all together. It was quite daunting but I feel that the end product came out very well," said Mr. Schultz. "As far as the planning process went, Ms. Mary Balaban was also very helpful. Otherwise it was just me, which was exhausting at times."

In order to help with planning and

"Let me say this loud and clear: Spirit Week was not fixed," said Mr. Larry Schultz, Spirit Week coordinator.

executing the event, a committee of about 10 students was created.

"Their help was essential to the success of the project. Essentially I divided up the responsibilities among the students on the committee and let them do the legwork,"



During the Spirit Week assembly, students from each grade participated in the tug of war, which wound up being the deciding event for the final scores.

said Mr. Schultz.

"I got involved with Spirit Week because I was also involved in helping out with the homecoming pep rally and Pride in Port," said senior Sarah Shlafmitz, who was a member of the Spirit Week committee. "I had a lot of fun; although it was stressful, it all payed off in the end."

A table was set up in the lobby during lunchtime to record points for students who chose to participate in the daily events. In the lobby, balloons provided by Falconer's Florist, and one of several banners provided by Viktoria's Gourmet Granola were displayed. Themes included music day, sports day, pajama day, throwback day, and dress-like-a-Viking day. Each day, students could either dress up in accordance with their grade's subcategory or dress in their grade's assigned daily color to earn points.

"My favorite part of Spirit Week is dressing up for the daily themes. It is a fun way to get points and show school spirit," said sophomore Laura de Bruin.

Other events included Penny Wars, which raised money to aid tsunami victims in Japan and the senior Gambol.

As is customary, Spirit Week culminated in a pep rally. This year, however, the number of pep rallies for the week was decreased from the usual two or three, to one on Friday.

"I think it made the assembly so much

more special that there was only one at the end of the week. When you have three or two in one week, the assemblies lose steam and the students lose interest," said Mr. Schultz.

"I was so upset that there was only one assembly," said senior Jason Gurewitz. "In the past there were more assemblies, so I felt that we deserved to have just as many this year."

Possibly because of the senior class' winning streak, there has been a long-time rumor that Spirit Week is rigged in favor of the seniors.

"Let me say this loud and clear: Spirit Week was not fixed! The seniors have a lot to gain by winning Spirit Week. They can get money for the senior Gambol and they can leave with their legacy intact. Thus it shouldn't be too surprising that they are trying extra hard to win," said Mr. Schultz. "I looked over each and every calculation myself, and I want to repeat again: Spirit Week was not fixed."

Although tradition prevailed and the seniors won Spirit Week, it was a close fight between the seniors and the sophomores this year.

"The sophomores legitimately almost won this year! In fact if they won the tug of war against the seniors I believe they would have won. That was extremely exciting to watch. Quite a finale," said Mr. Schultz.

Esteemed author speaks to students

BY Minah Kim Staff Writer

"Rejection is good for the soul." This is just one of multiple themes that acclaimed author Ms. Rita Williams-Garcia expressed during a recent visit with students and staff. Known for her novels *Jumped* and *One Crazy Summer*, Ms. Williams-Garcia gave two onehour presentations to a library full of students and teachers on March 23. Her presentations centered around the writing process.

"I thought she was an animated speaker. I also thought she really understood the topic she wrote about," said library media specialist Ms. Mary Seligman.

Ms. Williams-Garcia shared several anecdotes about her career as a writer, starting with some from her early youth. She has always considered herself to have an active imagination and started writing down her ideas at the age of 12 while using her sister's typewriter at the price of a nickel a day. Ms. Williams-Garcia injected humor into the lecture by joking about her early days as a writer.

"I was sure this was going to win me the Pulitzer Prize," said Ms. Williams-Garcia.

She continued, reflecting on her rejection from various writing contests as an adolescent. She shared stories of her successes as well—one of her stories was accepted by the popular children's literary magazine *Highlights*, for which she received a \$150 prize.

"She gave me a better insight into the writing process. She showed that writing is really difficult, but in the end it is rewarding," said freshman Simon Shapiro.

After college, Ms. Williams-Garcia's first publication was a small story, from which she earned \$3,000. When she finally decided to be a full-time writer, she quit her job and wrote *Jumped*, a young-adult fiction novel from the points of view of a bully, her victim, and a passive bystander.

"Teens are hard to write for but are well worth it. They have their own experiences and point of views. They're aggressive readers." said Ms. Williams-Garcia.

After talking about her life as a writer, Ms. Williams-Garcia used the rest of the time reading aloud three passages from Jumped. She chose the three portions that best represented each of the three main characters and read with a unique voice and accent for each character. "She read her book really enthusiastically and it made me really want to read her work," said freshman Nicole Boyd. Williams-Garcia Ms. answered questions regarding the editing process, her relationship with her editor, her inspirations for writing, and personality traits shared between herself and her characters. "I like a hard question. I might dance around-literally-before I answer, but I like to consider something I hadn't thought of before. Leave it to a young person to ask," said Ms. Williams-Garcia.

NEHS leads poetry-themed festivities

BY Emiy Sanders
Staff Writer

To inspire creativity and contemplation throughout the student body, the National English Honor Society hosted its annual Poetry Café and Poem in Your Pocket Day.

The Poetry Café is held on the same day as Poem in Your Pocket Day to further generate enthusiasm and motivation to write creatively. The event gives students a chance to socialize and hear poems simultaneously. Like in previous years, the event took place in the morning, so the coordinators arranged for Bagel Boss to provide breakfast and refreshments. After eating, the audience of students and teachers gathered to listen to students who volunteered to recite a poem. The reader could choose from a large assortment of poems gathered by the coordinators, one from a favorite poet, or they could write and recite an original.

Goorin."

Students who had an off period, those brought by their English class, or those who had previously signed up to read at the event participated and contributed.

"I had no idea there were so many talented students at Schreiber," said freshman Astrid Phillipson.

Harry Paul

Poem in Your Pocket Day, hosted April 8, is held each year at schools around the country and celebrates each individual student's ability to create and appreciate poetry. Decorative posters studded the hallways in the English wing and library, containing a variety of poems for students to take and carry with them in their pocket throughout the day.

"My primary responsibility as Poem in Your Pocket Day coordinator is to select an array of poems for people to select and carry in their pockets during the event. I am also responsible for promoting the event," said junior Jessica Boyd, an NEHS member. "Anyone can participate, and I hope that this event will help students develop a connection to words and the creative spirit behind poetry and art in general." The National English Honor Society created the event in order to broaden the extent of students' appreciation of literature.

"The event had an excellent turnout," said English teacher and Poetry Cafe coordinator Ms. Michal Cohan. "The National English Honor Society was extremely helpful in coordinating and organizing the event–especially emcees Dan Miller and Sara Lyons, along with NEHS officers Nina Devas and Amanda



Senior Sara Lyons was among the participants at the Poetry Café.

"The author gave a fresh perspective. She was more interesting and entertaining than authors that have come previously," said freshman Daniel Bidikov.

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Battle of the Bands raises money to aid quake-stricken Japan

BY Krisin Yu Assistant News Editor

Strobe light warnings, Charlie Sheen references, and rock and roll. On March 25, Student Council hosted the annual Battle of the Bands competition that featured four bands. Decadence, the 2009 Battle of the Bands winner, Ava Anderson, Soma, and Tiger Blood performed in hopes of impressing the judges and taking home the title.

Decadence, composed of juniors Brian Aronow, Bobby Katz, and Jesse Weil and sophomores Reed Kalash, Miles Kurtz, and Nick Sapountzis, performed four pieces. The band played "Sex on Fire" by Kings of Leon, "Vultures" by John Mayer,"

Ings of Leon, Vultures by John Mayer, What else we could be a series of the series of

Juniors Brian Aronow and Bobby Katz on saxophone and guitar, respectively, perform as part of the band Decadence.

"Forget You" by Cee Lo Green, and a compilation of Beatles tunes such as "Hey Jude," "Oh Darling," "Come Together," and "Let it Be." A crowd of dancing fans ran to the stage during their performance.

Senior Ava Anderson was backed by Schreiber alumnus Noah Bondy ('09), and seniors Eddie Matthews and Jon Michelson. Anderson performed "The Only Exception" by Paramore and a set of original songs "Too Young for Love," "There's a Word for People Like You," and "I Know How it Goes," to give the band the advantage of originality.

"We thought original songs would be better to play because not a lot of the other bands had that, yet, we wanted to do at least one cover to show the audience what else we could do," said Anderson. "I

asked everyone else in the band to do this with me and we've had such a great time so far!"

Soma, comprised of sophomores Andrew Cullen, Spencer Katz, Alex Zimmerman and Chaminade student Kevin O'Leary, sported a different look with purple hair.

Tiger Blood, the band created by seniors Ali Imbrahim and Elard Timana, junior Ethan Weber, and sophomore Joe Adsetts, received a

Evie Adsetts

warm response from the audience with their rendition of "Day 'N' Nite" by Kid Cudi.

The band Last Resort, composed primarily of freshmen, also performed with lead singer freshman Perri Chain and sophomore William Dalessandro.

The event was hosted by Student Council members seniors Jamie Koopersmith and Jai Sajnani. Student Council distributed applications, created and posted various flyers and posters throughout the school, created a Facebook event, contacted the bands, and sold tickets in the days leading up to Battle.

"Battle of the Bands has always been one of the most popular Schreiber events," said Sajnani. "This year, we were able to raise a significant amount of money to donate to the victims of the Japan earthquake and give students a fun ending to Spirit Week."

panel of judges evaluated the performances and selected Decadence as the 2011 Battle of the Bands champion.

"We practiced as much as we could," said Anderson. "Even if it's not perfect, there's always room for improvement. I was really pleased with the crowd and how much they participated during the show."

The success of the event was marked by a large turnout from the student body and bolsters the argument for the continuation of the event in the future.

"The auditorium was packed," said senior Aimee Stern. "There was a really nice variety of music genres, which I think brought in more people than there were in years past."

The bands encouraged the continuation



Evie Adsetts

Ava Anderson and band performed original songs in Battle of the Bands.

of Battle as well.

"There aren't enough music-related events in the school, so I think Battle should definitely continue in the future," said Anderson. "It's such a great way to see musicians as they truly are and to see kids that you didn't know were musically talented, perform."

"Battle is a concert for the students," said Aronow. "Although there are jazz band, concert band, and orchestra concerts, Battle of the Bands is an event that features music that kids want to come watch and be a part of."





BY Juliana Beall
Staff Writer

What makes a good team captain? There are several factors, such as skill level, ability to command respect, popularity, and enthusiasm.

Most importantly, athletes who win over the responsibility of captainship should radiate dedication and leadership skills. However, in many cases, the athletes who get the ball in the back of the net or step over the end line first are automatically given the position of captain.

While in some cases an impressive performance results from hard work, in others, it results from innate ability, not necessarily fostering any sense of commitment or leadership qualities.

While a coach should consider merit when assigning a captain, captainship shouldn't simply be a reward for those who are lucky enough to have certain skills.

It should not be a decision based on the three-pointer or the hat-trick, but instead a reward for the hard work and motivation which tends to produce such performances and win over the respect of other team members.

"I look for athletes who show good leadership qualities and have earned the respect of their teammates," said Mr. Sean Dooley, coach of the boys varsity basketball team and assistant coach of the girls varsity soccer team. "That is why anyone who wants to be captain must speak in front of the team about it and then the players have a say in who they think deserves it."

Athletes who gain the most respect from their teammates are often seniors who have been on the team Captain of the girls varsity lacrosse team, Jackie Frocarro believes that much of the respect she has gained from her teammates is not only due to her skill, but her years of being dedicated to lacrosse.

"I think that my success as a captain is largely based on the experience and maturity I've gained over the years, which has equipped me with the ability to handle difficult situations and most importantly earn the respect of my teammates," said Froccaro.

An underclassman may indeed have good leadership skills but the success of a captain usually hinges on the respect they have from their teammates, as otherwise their advice and input is not valued and even disregarded. Underclassmen should and can be given the opportunity to prove their commitment to and knowledge of the sport through several years of being on the team and finally be rewarded with the much deserved position of captain.

It seems only fair that if a junior and a senior are both being considered for captain, the senior should win out. Whether or not the junior gets more playing time or scores more points, he or she

lacks the experience, and often the spirit, that is present in a senior during his or her final season.

It is the senior's final chance to dis-

BY Ethan Weber Staff Writer

We all learn the saying in first or second grade: There is no "I" in team. While this means that athletes should work together to achieve success, it also applies to the issue of choosing only seniors to be captains of teams.

Even though all seniors want to be captains, they should recognize that being on a team is not all about accomplishment. People should understand that captains, who should improve the team through their leadership, should be chosen not simply based on seniority, but by their positive characteristics that would help the team be successful.

Many athletes would like to hold the position of team captain. The captain's main role is motivating and leading the team. It is the captain's job to get others excited and ready to play. The team captain is selected by the coach, who decides based on a number of factors including leadership skills,

athletic ability, and how much the other team members respect the potential captain.

Often, enior's coaches simply to dis- select older

Gaptai

"If you have been on the team a long time it doesn't mean you know how to lead the team," said junior Broderick Perlman, who is a linebacker for the varsity football team. "A captain has to be

important as these other character traits.

able to get everybody to try their hardest. You need to have a combination of skill on the football field and a powerful way to get everyone fired up."

Unfortunately, it is not always so easy for a coach to just pick out whoever seems like the best natural leader. Since coaches are with the players almost every day, they know the students very well.

Yet, when choosing a team captain based on more than just seniority, they are faced with conflicting interests. Though they do want to do what is best for the team, coaches do not want to disappoint a student whom they have known for years.

They can be sucked into just picking the student who is oldest as a default because that choice would be easiest to justify and easiest for everyone to understand, whether or not they agree. However, repeatedly choosing team

captains based on seniority also takes away the incentive for other team members to prove themselves as good athletes on and off the field. If becoming team captain becomes a matter of waiting your turn, there is no need to work for it.

Younger team members can just wait until they are the oldest, and the older members won't have any reason to put in effort to show that they have the most charisma.

Despite the difficulties of deciding this way, choosing team captains should be a matter of picking which student is able to command the most respect from his or her peers, inspire the most enthusiasm, and raise people's spirits.

Even though it is not as easy to do, coaches should choose team captains based solely on merit. Though some feelings may be hurt, the best captain is not always going to be the player who's been on the team the longest. Brian Seo There should be some friendly competition between athletes at every grade level, every skill level, new and old to a sports team, for the position of team captain. Athletes are competitive people and should be able to handle this competition and the disappointment if they are not chosen as the captain. By choosing team captains who would help the team the most instead of just protecting somebody's ego, the coach can benefit the entire team.

the longest and have shown long-term dedication and a natural growth of leadership through experience.

"When you put years of time, effort, and dedication into a team, you look forward to being the captain," said junior Amanda Fishbin, a member of the varsity badminton team. "It seems only fair that as their last year on the team, seniors get to enjoy this role. Seniors have typically played on their team the longest, and are generally looked up to by younger teammates because they are, well, seniors."

While a freshman may consistently outplay a senior on the field, it takes several years to gain the same respect from the team that a dedicated and enthusiastic senior player has. play his or her leadership in high school, whether to themselves, their peers, or on their résumé, and a chance that if passed up can not simply be put off until the next year.

For the majority of high school athletes who will not continue playing the sport competitively past their last year of high school, their senior season is their chance to take pride in their years of effort and to serve as role models as athletes who have stuck with their sport throughout their busy high school years. athletes, because they have been on the team the longest, thinking that this experience makes them best suited for the position. This policy causes some of the most dedicated athletes to be ignored as less qualified, older athletes are given the position.

The things that make a good team captain are not just the skills practiced on the field.

A team captain needs to be enthusiastic and charismatic. He or she must exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Being oldest isn't nearly as

THE SCHREIBER TIMES **OPINIONS** FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011

SAT essay rewards TV addicts rather than studiers

BY Celine Sze

It's the big day. You've had your hearty breakfast, sharpened an entire pack of #2 pencils, gone through your last ten vocabulary cards. You are all settled in the proper room, thinking that this moment and the next four hours will determine your life: what college you'll go to and how successful you will be in the future.

Yes, I may sound a little overdramatic, but this is how most juniors and seniors feel as they start the dreadful SATs on any of the Saturday test dates. But on the March 12 test, something was different.

As all the juniors opened up the first section with shaking hands and butterflies in their stomachs, they saw a question unlike the ones they've seen before: the question asked about the influences of reality television.

It's not hard to imagine what was going through each of the test taker's heads.

After the torture was over, I heard many test takers complain about the unconventional essay question. It caught many people off guard as they began Section One of the extensive test.

Students anticipated the usual broad topics such as courage, pride, and humility, exposed to them in practice tests and test preparation classes. Many of these classes focus on writing an essay in response to a predictable question that would yield desirable results by following the same structured formula each time. Because of this, students were well-prepped to write a traditional essay, but they may have been thrown off their game by the strange question.

Also, since the question concentrated on only one part of pop culture, it restricted the choices writers could use for examples to support their point of view.

"I feel the question was too specific and limited the choices because there are only so many reality TV shows you can choose from as opposed to books," said junior Candace Yap.

Many test takers who were not very familiar with reality television shows felt they were at a disadvantage compared to those who avidly follow series such as *Jersey Shore* and *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*.

A number of them struggled to brainstorm examples and provide strong arguments because

of their lack of specific knowledge regarding this form of entertainment.

"I felt that the essay topic posed a huge disadvantage to those of us who have better things to do with our time than watch Jersey Shore. While I was able to use Huck Finn and The Great *Gatsby* as examples that I knew much more about, I was nervous the entire time that I wasn't correctly using the prompt, which specifically discussed reality TV," said junior Emily Sanders.

Although some people argue that television shows did not have to be explicitly mentioned in the essay response, it was certainly much simpler to already be familiar with the topic.

It was easier for students to use television shows to support a viewpoint than to attempt to use more conventional examples, which are easily used in other essays, and risk receiving a score of zero for not being relevant.

Standardized test essays should be accessible to all students and not favor one group over another.

"Novels, historical examples, personal examples, and other forms of media should be equally appropriate and applicable to the topic so that everyone, no matter what their preferred form of leisure is, can have the ability to do well," said Sanders.

The more traditional SAT essay questions provide test takers with a more diverse pool of choices, such as literature, history, and current events, to prove their point.

Also, since people are more likely to incorporate different examples than other writers, the essays will be more unique and diverse. This could lead to higher scores since the judges will not continuously read essays about the impact *Jersey Shore* and *Teen Mom* have on their viewers.

Because of these benefits to both the writers and judges, the CollegeBoard should continue to evaluate the writing abilities of students with the more conventional essay questions.

After all, *Huck Finn* and *The Scarlet Letter* may be more appropriate to include than what you watch mindlessly late at night.



New testing policy fails to rectify end-of-quarter stress

BY Alice Chou

A few weeks ago, Interim Principal Dr. Francis Banta initiated a policy aimed at regulating the overwhelming testing situation at the end of the quarter. While well-intentioned, the policy seems to be fairly ineffective in most situations.

Since the new guidelines were not formally presented to the Board of Education, they are not actually part of an official policy.

Rather, the reformed testing schedule will act as a guideline for managing exams in the week prior to the end of the quarter.

"I made a request that teachers make an effort to limit the number of tests administered on each day in the week prior to the end of the quarter so that students can more easily prepare for their exams," said Dr. Banta. The goal is to spread out the final exams of the quarter so that each student has no more than two tests on any given day during the week before the end of the quarter. Under the new arrangement, each department is assigned two days on which it may administer tests. The policy is intended to stagger exams in the week before the end of the quarter so that students are not stressed out by a buildup of tests on one certain day. Before putting the policy in effect, Dr. Banta explained the nature of the plan at the monthly Compact Committee meeting. Those in attendance included junior Emily Rosenthal, who attended

the meeting as a representative of Student Council. Upon hearing about the plan for a reformed testing structure, Rosenthal immediately offered her support.

"Towards the end of the quarter kids are stressed about the pileup of work and tests. Limiting the number of exams per day would definitely take the load off," said Rosenthal.

Although the policy will ease the burden of testing for students, it may cause difficulties for teachers. Because each department is assigned only two days on which to administer tests, teachers must set a pace that allows them to complete the unit on a day that coincides with the stipulated testing dates.

The different nature of the content of each class makes it difficult to set testing dates in a way that would best fit the needs of both the students and teachers. aside from papers and other assignments.

"It's not practical and even makes testing more confusing. Teachers have to rework their schedules and either rush to finish the unit or stall to prolong it so that the test falls within the two prescribed days assigned to the department," said junior Renee Cohen.

Some teachers circumvented the testing restrictions by administering tests two weeks prior to the end of the quarter.

"Instead of having three tests on the Thursday before the end of the quarter, I had three tests on the Thursday two weeks before," said junior Genevieve Bellon.

Other teachers disregarded the request and administered unit tests on days that worked best for both the teachers and students' schedules.

The rigidity of the testing arrange

of the policy in the week before the end of third quarter may be an indication of future attitudes towards the policy.

"The testing policy hasn't really distributed my tests evenly thus far. I have three tests on the Thursday before April break," said Devas.

Overall, it seems that many students recognize the good intentions behind the policy but agree that there is room for improvement.

"It's a good idea to a stressful problem but the bottom line is that it doesn't really work. We need a different solution or students will simply have to deal with the heavy workload at the end of the quarter," said Cohen.

Some oppose the policy altogether. "I would rather get all of my tests over with near the end of the week. It would give me a bigger chunk of time to study for all of my subjects beforehand instead of studying one subject each day," said junior Daniela DiCaro. The testing policy was put into effect out of concern for the students. While the new arrangement eased the testing burden for some students, it had little or no effect for many others. In some cases, the policy exacerbated testing situations. The policy is a good idea in theory, but it could have been better executed," said junior Sarah Autz. It is clear that the testing rule will need to undergo some changes before becoming an official policy. With the proper modifications, the guidelines will more effectively regulate the overwhelming testing situation at the end of every quarter.

*"*_____ *****

"Because of how our schedule works and the different lengths of the units in each particular class, it's likely you'll have a few tests on the same day," said junior Nina Devas.

Setting the testing dates in stone may disrupt the flow of the course. Teachers who are pressed for time will find themselves hurrying through the coursework in order to complete the unit early enough to administer the exam on the prescribed test date.

Teachers who finish a unit early may decide to move on to the next topic before administering the exam, which may not work to a student's advantage. The inflexibility of the policy may account for its limited appeal.

The guidelines force teachers and students to observe yet another deadline

ment poses difficulties that make the testing circumstances more complex than they previously were. Students that miss classes because of sicknesses or field trips must make up the tests later in the week.

"If the administration is going to limit testing days, there needs to be consideration to field trips. There shouldn't be any field trips in the weeks prior to the end of the quarter," said math teacher Ms. Lisa Tecusan. "It complicates the situation."

Dr. Banta plans on keeping the testing rule in effect during the week before spring break as well. Thereafter, the arrangement will not be necessary since the end of fourth quarter signals finals week, which is also scheduled so that each student has a maximum of two tests each day.

The limited effectiveness and appeal

Spirit Week: a display of our school's weak spirit Lack of participation and pep rallies shows Schreiber's indifference

BY Katie Garry Staff Writer

For the past four years, our school has dedicated one week during third quarter to celebrate how much "school spirit" we have. This week is said to be called "Spirit Week," though without the "spirit" half of its title, "Spirit Week" could just be seen as another average week in an extremely long school year.

While in some ways Spirit Week serves as a "battle of the classes," most students, except the seniors, do not care if their grade is victorious. Student could earn points for their grade by finding hidden vikings around the school or winning in contests held during lunch periods. But by far the most popular way to gain points is by wearing the color or dressing up in the theme your grade was assigned each day.

One might think more students would participate if doing something as simple as wearing an orange shirt on Monday would earn their grade points, but in actuality, many "forgot" or simply disregarded the Spirit Week dress code this year.

Personally, I noticed very few in my own junior grade who wore the color of the day and an even smaller amount who dressed up in the theme.

Additionally, in past years, the standards for earning points by dressing up according to the day's theme were fairly high; however, this year, I was able to earn theme points on Decades Day by simply wearing a peace sign shirt. On Pajama Day, many students earned theme points by wearing sweatpants or leggings rather than patterned pajama pants.

Of course, there were the few who did go all out,

wearing fuzzy, oversized slippers, and footie pajamas. But, probably, they were wishing they had worn sweatpants or leggings (clothing many wear on regular school days), as those who did received the same amount of points.

This year's extremely foggy line separating those who dressed according to the day's theme and those who did not could serve as not only a way to illegitimatize Spirit Week itself, but to leave many unmotivated and confused as to what Spirit Week and its events really even were.

Despite the fact that this year's Spirit Week did have some "lack of spirit" issues, these issues are not at all a fault of the Spirit Week committee or others involved in putting Spirit Week together.

"It was difficult to plan because

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VIKINGS

we only had about three weeks to do so," said junior Shannon Balaban, a member of the Spirit Week Committee. "Next year we would like to have more assemblies to bring up spirit, but aside from that I feel like we did a pretty good job organizing everything in the short amount of time we had to do so."

The Spirit Week Committee notified students and teachers about daily events through just about every form of communication possible. I received information on Spirit Week events through morning announcements, afternoon announcements, flyers, word of mouth, and even through a Facebook event and daily inboxes sent to my Facebook account.

It seems as though even if the school stapled a sign to each student's head saying "Tomorrow is Viking Day—Dress up as a Viking or wear blue or white," students would still not come to school dressed up.

One can only wonder why there is the sudden lack of spirit. This year's Spirit Week included the same penny wars, chess tournament, dress up themes, and other daily events previous Spirit Weeks have included.

The only difference, which I think can be responsible for the changed vibe of Spirit Week, is that this year, we had one pep rally instead of three.

In the past years, a pep rally on

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons of Spirit Week was just enough to keep students motivated and dedicated to showing spirit every day of the week. This year, with one pep rally, students had no pep, no cheer, and no spirit to display during this previously exciting week.

With more pep rallies, there was also time for many more events. Because there was only one pep rally this year,

I'm sure the Spirit Week Committee not only did not get to use every idea it wanted to incorporate into the pep rally, but it also did not have enough time to use every idea and game it agreed on. People had signed up to do contests, such as limbo, but because of the lack of time, this year's limbo competition did not happen.

"I was looking forward to getting to participate in Spirit Week and was disappointed when they never called me down for limbo," said junior Zoey Tung.

This year's Spirit Week turn out goes to show that the efforts of the staff and the Spirit Week committee can only go so far. Ultimately, the fate of Spirit Week is solely in the hands of students.

Whether the lack of spirit this year is the fault of the limited amount of pep rallies or simply because of sheer laziness, it is important that we acknowledge this year's lack of Viking pride and work to build it back up in the Spirit Weeks to come.

Elana Galassi

Posting college acceptances polarizes student environment

PIRIT WEEK!

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BY Heidi Shin
Staff Writer

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Everyone seems to be on Facebook all the time. Statuses are constantly changing throughout the day. And for many seniors, posting college acceptances may seem like a new hobby for the brief period of time between mid-April and May 1. We must ask ourselves, then, while staring at our never-ending news feeds: Do seniors deserve the many "likes" and the recognition for all their hard work or is it better to keep college acceptances and rejections private? Although the time spent on college decision-making is probably the most significant time in a high school career, posting every single college acceptance on Facebook may seem obnoxious. For most seniors, the inevitable "Where are you applying/where did you get in/where are you going?" questions follow them

around everywhere and are asked at anytime.

For the constantly harangued senior, a brief Facebook update may prevent some of the continuous questioning.

for your friends on Facebook, posting every college acceptance on Facebook can be inconsiderate. Regardless of how many friends "like" the status only a fraction will actually care, so why be needlessly pretentious and why make others who were rejected potentially feel worse? For many students, it may only seem appropriate when peers update their statuses with an acceptance from a college that they would most likely attend at the conclusion of their college-selection process. By posting one or two colleges, a student can seem less conceited and still inform friends about the schools that are under serious consideration. Some students may seem to boast too much when they post all the different colleges that they get into on Facebook. Not only do other users grow tired of reading about them, but college acceptance posts can also hurt students who are rejected. One student's "safety school" may be another student's "reach" and to post acceptances on Facebook to a

college others are not even considering is insensitive.

A

Virtually every applicant will be rejected by at least one school, and therefore all know the emotional turmoil of

"Honestly, I don't like it when people keep their college acceptances confidential. The idea of a social network such as Facebook is to keep your friends in-

One student's "safety school" may be another student's "reach" and to post acceptances on Facebook to a college others are not even considering is insensitive.

formed, so why not?" said senior Tommy Doyle.

While posting acceptances to your first choice schools can be informative

being told "no" by an institution you want to attend.

"If they're going to that college, it's fine; but I don't think they should post all of them just to make other people feel bad," said senior Sherry Kim.

By posting their acceptances, seniors are able to receive support from family and friends and admiration for all their hard work throughout their high school careers.

We can all agree that it is always gratifying to feel a sense of accomplishment and acceptance at a certain college will show that four years of stress and hard work have finally paid off.

However, is it better to feel that sort of accomplishment by posting 10 different colleges you got accepted to or just the one college of your choice?

THE SCHREIBER TIMES **OPINIONS** FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011

Editorials

Support the proposed budget

Another year, another row over the budget. Port Washington's annual budgetary disputes seem commonplace now. Money is certainly scarce and creative ideas to stretch each dollar are cherished. Let these financial issues not overshadow the importance of acting for a good education.

The proposed budget increase this year is a modest 2.96 percent, which still leaves much to be desired. But if there is only one guiding principle at the Board meetings and the ballot box, let it be a willingness to compromise.

Since children cannot make an informed decision themselves, taxpayers should be keenly aware that when they are behind the curtain of the voting booth, they are the trustees of our children's future.

The Schreiber Times therefore urges all eligible Port residents to vote in favor of the budget, which is sensible and pragmatic.

In the past several months, some governors on the right such as Scott Walker of Wisconsin and some on the left like New York's Andrew Cuomo have been reevaluating teachers' roles.

The Schreiber Times recognizes that teachers should not be exempt from the squeeze of inevitable cuts, but also would like to urge voters not to demonize teachers. It is a sad reality that in our district, everyone seems to be a victim of the times.

As novelist Kurt Vonnegut once wrote "Why throw money at problems? That is what money is for." Unfortunately, it

The Hart Knock Life

seems that in the year 2011, money is in short supply. But the current economic hardship should also serve as a catalyst for voters to critically reevaluate their fiscal priorities. *The Schreiber Times* sincerely hopes that education remains at the top of their lists.

Guidance breaches student privacy

When it comes to academic grades, standardized test scores, and college decisions, many students prefer this information to remain private, or conveyed to others only by choice. But a few weeks ago, this delicate confidentiality was broken by the Guidance department.

While our school apparently does not rank, the "Top 20" students of the senior class were called down to the Guidance office and questioned about their recent college decisions.

This was done upon request by the administration to gather this information, and it was then up to Guidance to determine how to obtain it.

The personnel involved in obtaining this information decided to interrupt class time, call down these students all at once, and then question them in front of their peers.

These students were asked to reveal their college acceptances, rejections, and waitlists with all the others who had also been called down. They were scrutinized about all the places they did and did not get into and others easily overheard this information.

While certain students received special treatment and privacy, most others were forced to disclose this confidential information in a completely discourteous way. *The Schreiber Times* finds it unacceptable that this occurred in the Guidance department.

The Schreiber Times understands that the personnel was simply collecting information to transmit to higher authorities, but the collection could have been done in a more discreet manner. Individual guidance counselors could have called down their respective students to collect this information or a voice message could have been left at each student's home.

There was no need for such a meeting to occur in the middle of the school day. Several of the students who were called down were infuriated by this mistake, and almost all agreed that it was a breach of confidentiality.

This event also raises the question as to why only these 20 students were called. If our school supposedly does not rank its students, then how were these 20 students decided upon? And does this not single them out and leave the others behind?

This further supports the reason that this should have been done in a much more private and orderly manner.

The Schreiber Times does appreciate that the Guidance office decided that it would give a formal apology to all those who were involved; however, no such apology has been given to date. Hopefully, students will receive an apology in the coming days, and such an event will not occur again.

Have a productive spring break

After seven weeks of uninterrupted school, this long stretch filled with endless tests and homework has now finally come to a close as spring break is arriving. April break has fallen later than usual this year and is just two weeks before the first AP exam.

While many go on vacation and



seniors try to have a "spring break" experience, *The Schreiber Times* encourages students to stay safe, study, and focus this spring break.

The end of the school year is nearing and we are now in the final push of fourth quarter. The break is a perfect opportunity to catch up on all work and either begin studying or do some last minute review for AP exams.

While students in AP classes can afford to procrastinate during the December and February breaks, they should realize that spring break is the prime opportunity to take advantage of this valuable free time. They should balance personal enjoyment with academic pursuits.

But for those who are not taking AP exams, this time still offers the chance to have one's mind mimic the flowers blossoming. Both the mind and the flowers are most effective when they grow naturally. Take the time on your own to pick up a book you're interested in or practice a new skill.

So although it's tempting to spend your spring break leisurely, try and do something worthwhile.

Times Policy Statement

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

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

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

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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.

High school kid relives elementary school heyday Junior takes to the swings to find out what playground plays best

BY Matt Heiden

I am easily distracted by simple things. I play with restaurant silverware, twirl my pen incessantly, and have recently begun to write with my left hand in class. Thus, I am uniquely equipped to examine all of the elementary school playgrounds of Port Washington through the eyes of a child and, perhaps, with the perspective of people who, like me, have only pretended to grow up but are nervous about admitting it to their rambunctious inner child.

Manorhaven

If you are looking for a quiet playground experience with interesting equipment, you can't go wrong with the playground at Manorhaven Elementary School.

It is perched on a tall hill quarantined by a wall of trees, making the playground feel like a floating island.

The structures also provide a decent climbing and exploring experience for the curious adventurer.

I was not terribly impressed by the swings or slides, since the former were squeaky and the latter were simply uninteresting, but some of the newerlooking additions compensated for these average structures.

There was a nice four-way seesaw that is unfortunately diminutive in size. For me, and any other teens bold enough to recognize their childish fancies, the biggest selling point of Manorhaven was the new silver apparatus.

This un-namable piece of equipment is wonderfully irregular, inviting climbers to seek different paths across and improvise as they go. It was a pleasant surprise to find small (and for me, vaguely uncomfortable) plastic chairs suspended by ropes within the walls.

Sousa

Down the hill from Manorhaven, John Philip Sousa Elementary School is the most popular destination for parents, kids, and elementary school soccer players.

Sousa combines large fields and numerous playground structures yet, overall, it felt rather dull. However, a nearby ice cream truck added some spark to the scene.



Although there were plenty of visitors to Sousa's playground, most of them were parents and their soccer-playing children with various other smaller kids interspersed.

Going to Sousa is more of a parent's activity since the amount of spectators on the field lends itself to a socializing experience.

The playing structures were good, but not great. Aside from being in decent working order, the only real benefit for a playground-minded child would be the number of different apparatuses.

At Sousa, to keep a child's attention you would need to keep moving to other places to prevent boredom.

Guggenheim

Guggenheim is similar to Sousa in size, but in very little else. Its fields and playgrounds are split into two areas on either side of the main building, giving a false impression of a smaller size. It is fairly empty except for the occasional parent and child and a little league team on the far side of the large field from the playground.

The newest and seemingly most dangerous of these structures, a towering blue pole surrounded by a web of red rope, should pique the interest of any inquisitive player.

Since the structure shakes when you are on it, it would not surprise me for parents to be wary of allowing their children to climb it.

But, beyond this spider web tower lie more enticing and interesting facilities. The field for older kids also contains a monkey bar complex with hanging rungs and staggered bars, which are a nice touch. There are new swings and a tetherball court.

On the other field, Guggenheim contains a tire swing, suspended by three chains, that is perfect for a sickening but beautiful spin. As a Guggenheim graduate, the tire swing remains a sacred place.

Daly

Probably the smallest, Daly also has the least to offer to teenagers, small children, and parents alike. Because of the location of the portables separating the playground area from the fields, the area seems even smaller than it already is.

A lower playground sports some structures, but it has been majorly downgraded since many of the biggest were suddenly removed a few years ago. Daly's saving grace is its facilities for basketball and its other structures in the front of the school.



Elana Galassi

At Sousa Elementary School, this playground includes a slide, monkey bars, and bouncy seats. The soft floor is safe for those young kids and possibly teenagers.

it still offers a well-rounded and decent playground.

Salem has plenty of playing structures with one in particular standing out. Relatively new, it contains such things as monkey bar rings arranged in a circle, staggered ladders, a fake rock to climb, and various rock walls. Overall, Salem's playground is distinguished by its interesting and irregularly shaped structures, and creative layout. Its basketball court is also very good, as are its wide, open fields.

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



It has a complete basketball court on the blacktop which is amenable even to adults, whom I noticed were comfortably playing a real game. The court is fine for teams of perhaps three or four players so if you are an adult or teenager looking to participate in a small, but competitive, basketball game, Daly is suitable.

The bottom line of the playground, however, is still that it has little appeal except for very specific niches.

Salem

Elana Galassi

This old slide at Manorhaven Elementary School offers students a nostalgic experience. Although nobody in the junior or senior classes attended South Salem School since its reopening was in 2005,

A place where any student can go for help with any writing assignment

WHERE?

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WHEN? Every day during 4-1/4-2

We find classic inspires the inner child to blossom

doors opened, the lights already were dimmed. Spotlights shined on closed curtains where the blue tint contrasted the green lattice surrounding the entire stage. This childfriendly set conveyed the audience that it was in for a night full of whimsy, fantasy, and sure-to-please entertainment. Α buzz of excitement filled the air-musicians were readying their instruments to perform for the night, and the players were finalizing last-minute touches for the performance. And, when the show began, all expectations set by such an introduction were met and exceeded.

Written by Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Secret Garden was originally published as a book n 1911. In 1991, it was adapted for the stage as a Broadway musical with book and lyrics by Marsha Norman and music by Lucy Simon. The show ran for more than 700 perfor-

When I was 11, I



The quirky and lovable interaction between Alexis Fessatidis and Liam Marsigliano demonstrates protagonist Mary Lennox's blossoming from a frustrated, uprooted individual into a kind and nature-loving girl.

attended my first Broadway show, The is then sent to the English countryside it means to love and be loved in return." house cannot forget. The Secret Garden tells the story of Mary's parents still fill her me

her parents died in a Julia Bain). cholera epidemic

Secret Garden," wrote Ms. Lauren Fos- estate of her uncle Archibald Craven ter-Holzer in her Director's Note of the (junior Jesse Weil). Upon arriving at the playbill. "I was captivated by the words estate, Mary begins to suspect that there on the page coming to life on stage; the are ghosts lurking within her uncle's manmusic soared through me as I laughed sion. She hears screams at night and feels and cried with the characters. To this uneasy. However, the audience learns that day, I can recite every word to the mu- these are not scary or malicious ghosts. In sic from this show and I can feel every fact, these ghosts are only present because of the scene was flawless. The pit helped emotion as the characters explore what they represent those that characters in the to convey the intensity of the dream-like

ten-year old Mary Lennox (junior and Archibald shares the same strug-Alexis Fessatidis) who, in the gle. He is unable to let go of his beloved, first scene, finds out that deceased wife, Lily Craven (sophomore

> confusing, the musical's cast successfully clear. The dead characters are dressed in a perfect fit for Mary. -white lace attire, which remains con-

stant throughout the play, while the living characters are dressed in their normal, time-period-appropriate clothes. The musical accom-

paniment by the pit not only complemented the story, but it also assisted the clarity of distinction between reality and fantasy. In the most memorable scene of the play, Mary is pulled and restrained by the surrounding ghosts keeping her away from completely reaching her mother and father. The timing and choreography sequence by using a variety of strong instruments, including thunderous drums.

Fessatidis was cast perfectly for her role as Mary. She captured the transformation from the initial loneliness and frustration after the death of her parents Although the contrast between the to the jovial and adorable young girl who in India. Mary living and the dead could potentially be grows by learning how to interact with those around her. Her sweet, vet commakes the two intertwining worlds very manding voice and petite frame make her

"This whole experience was really nerve-wracking, being that its my first lead role," said Fessatidis. "I haven't done the shows in a while so I was really nervous about everything I was doing. Luckily, the cast of the show is absolutely amaz-

ing.

After tending to the garden for some time, Mary also stumbles upon Colin Craven (sophomore Nate Kranz), Archibald Craven's invalid son. Their interactions are perhaps the most poignant in the play; Colin's behavior mirrors that of Mary when she first arrived at Archibald's estate and this allows the audience to further appreciate the transformation of Mary as well as the effect she has on Colin's outlook. Colin's appearance is surprising and adds a deeper element to the



After overcoming her situation, Mary begins to open up and reveal her true inner self when she becomes more willing to explore the estate and what it has to offer. She meets many interesting characters who bring her out of her stubborn state, all of whom offered interesting parts for the talented students in show.

She meets the caring maid Martha (senior Molly Ronis) who acts as the maternal figure of the house. Ronis gave the audience goose bumps in her performance of "Hold On," during which her voice and character shone through. Mary becomes acquainted with Martha's son Dickon (sophomore Liam Marsigliano). As soon as Dickon waltzes onto the

set, the interaction between Mary and Dickon becomes lovable and funny. The two complemented each other, evoking a true child-like playfulness. Marsigliano brought a friendly smile on stage and a quirky component to the play. In addition, his appearances are dispersed enough so that every entrance onto the stage is fresh, new, and entertain-

His role is essential in revealing the

ing so they made me feel really welcome." magic of the secret garden: Kranz is skillful enough to completely change his character upon entering the garden, and then change back when he exits. Through Colin, the audience also learns that Archibald's brother, Dr. Neville Craven (senior Andy Lieberman) has ulterior motives from the happiness of Archibald and Colin.

The audience also learns of Archibald's deep love for his deceased wife, Lily. The romance portrayed by Weil and Bain was genuinely believable and touching. The marriage of Weil's tenor and Bain's operatic soprano, especially in "How Could I Ever Know," moved the audience to fall in love with their love story and experience Archibald's pain.

It was quite evident that there was an incredible amount of individual talent on the stage, which made the group scenes the strongest. When the whole cast came together to belt out a song, the individual voices harmoniously became a joint voice that filled the auditorium. Indeed, it was during scenes that the audience was most moved; an apt example is Weil's duet with Lieberman's Dr. Craven, in which the voices of both built upon each other in order to create an extremely strong melody and a moving

The scenery that supported such strong performances is also notable. Building upon the attention to detail that is present in the green lattice is the backdrop, which appears as a wooden fence with ivy growing on it by

day. However, at night, this scene changes to one of stained-glass windows and

> with blue lighting. in by put those who organized the play and successfully serves to accentuate

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tially confusing things about the musical included the readers and the accents. Throughout the course of the play, there were two girls sitting on either sides of the stage thoroughly engaged in the book. At first it was unclear what their purpose was in the play, but once they started to interact with the action, they actually added to the childhood fantasy of the show.

Also, most of the cast members adopted accents for the duration of the play. The accents, however, sounded



The ghost of Lily Craven (Julia Bain) invites her son Colin Craven (Nate Kranz) to "Come To My Garden." The garden's curative properties change Colin from an invalid to an energetic, healthy young boy.

somewhat mismatched. Other than that, they successfully reeled the audience into a different geographic setting.

And, of course, the famous, mysterious garden cannot be overlooked. Bain complete sang "Come to My Garden," entrancing not only the characters, but the audience members too. The purpose of the garden T h e s e is to awaken the life inside of those who subtle differ- enter. And surely all those that attended ences show The Secret Garden felt a spark of the effort childhood innocence and playfulness light up inside

By Sophia Jaffe and Will Zhou

When Archilbald Craven (Jesse Weil) learns that his son, Colin (Nate Kranz), is no longer ill, he lifts him into the air in celebration.

THE SCHREIBER TIMES FEATURES FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011

New notes from the underground: the PiT *At the Landmark, students socialize at many events*

BY Eleanor Kim Staff Writer

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Walking down Main Street, students often see signs for the latest event at the PiT. The Teen Center at the Main Street Landmark, created in 1980, reopened in the building's basement in September 2009 with a new name—the PiT.

Originally founded in response to a drunk driving incident, the Teen Center provides a place for teens to hang out after school.

The PiT has more structure than its predecessor, holding events throughout the school year and providing opportunities for teens to connect with each other.

According to its website, the mission of the PiT's creation is to "improve the quality of life for young people in grades 6-12 who reside in Port Washington."

The PiT attracts a small group of students regularly and as many as 50 students attend the more popular events. The Youth Council itself consists of around 15 regular meeting attendants of all different backgrounds.

"I think more people should get involved in the PiT because it's one of those clubs where you can actually enjoy yourself," said junior Broderick Perlman.

It is led by Mr. Mike Donnelly and senior Richard Lee, who is President of the PiT Youth Council.

"Port is an extremely diverse community," said Mr. Donnelly, the director at the PiT. "Through all of our events, we try to give opportunities for the students to show their own talents."



Many students enjoy making s'mores at various events at the PiT. On Main Street, this place is open to all teenagers with a student ID to socialize and hang out.

"I go because I love doing community service," said Lee. "It feels good hosting monthly events knowing that it's providing something safe for young teenagers to do."

Most events are free for students in sixth to twelfth grade as long as they have a school ID.

Some events, however, such as the badminton contest on April 1, have a small entry fee.

"The PiT is a nonprofit organization," said Mr. Donnelly. "Whatever money we do raise either goes right back to the community or to a different cause. The money from our badminton tournament will be sent to Japan."

Originally, half of the money was going to be donated to Japan and half given to the winners of the tournament.

However the two winners, senior Shiwoo Moon and sophomore Shoki Yamada, donated their money to the cause.



"It was so much fun," said freshman Sophia Kim. "I originally went there to just watch my friends but I ended up playing too. I lost on my first match, but it was still really fun and for a good cause."

"It was nice to watch everyone play because no one was worried about making a fool of themselves," said freshman Bomin Choi. "I'm sure more people would be motivated to go to PiT events if they knew that the club raised money for good causes."

Other events that have been held in the past include dodgeball and basketball tournaments, dance competitions, and concerts. The students have also made s'mores to add to the festivities.

One of the more successful events was Cultural Thanksgiving, which has already been held twice. At this event, the students are asked to bring in a dish particular to their background or heritage. Because of the diversity in Port, there was much variety in the food that was brought.

"The main purpose of the PiT is to give kids a safer and better choice of activities to do on Friday and Saturday nights," said junior Broderick Perlman, a regular member of the Youth Council. "I think more people should get involved in the PiT because it's one of those clubs where you can actually enjoy yourself."

In the near future, the PiT hopes to organize a Girls Night In, where teenage

Back in the '70s

By Sahil Doshi Editor-in-Chief

Port Washington is infamously recognized across the North Shore by students, community members, and possibly even parents as "Pot Washington." Yet, the use of marijuana is no greater a problem here than any other local school district.

In fact, the statistics collected from a 2007 Harrison Box survey given to Schreiber students match that of overall New York State numbers.

But, back in the 1960s and 70s, drug abuse plagued the Port Washington school district—so much so that an indepth, investigative article titled, "The Drug Scene in East Egg" was featured in the New York Times on May 17, 1970.

Written by Port resident Mr. Edwin Diamond, the article examined the use of marijuana and many other illegal drugs, the reactions by community members, and the attempts by parents and administrative members to quell drug abuse.

"There is so much dope in this town that if you tried to be a steady dealer, you'd go broke," said a high school student, as quoted in the Times article.

Disturbing stories of marijuana, hashish, cocaine, amphetamines, LSD, and heroin use circulated around the Port Washington community. A student had been hospitalized for heroin addiction; Roslyn was the known supplier of cocaine; a "junkie house" was known to signal a new shipment of drugs with a light in the third-floor window.

At a high school drug discussion program, several students had openly boasted that they were drug users while others complained that there were so many drugs available that it was difficult to stay straightedge.

The drug problem had risen to such an extent that a meeting composed of parents and health workers was finally held to determine how to deal with it. One member suggested the establishment of a drug-education center where students could come in and talk to a professional therapist or ex-addict.

While these meetings were going on, Reporter Diamond set out in search of Port's drug scene. He met with four local drug users, referring to them as Orange Shirt, Sideburns, Sheepskin Coat, and Blue Jeans in his article. Three of them had tried methadrine (speed), LSD, or mescaline.

Sheepskin had shared some marijuana with his mother while another had smoked marijuana with the mother of a girl he knew. However, while these boys appeared to brag about their drug use to Diamond, they wanted to know the facts behind such drugs and gain a better understanding. During Exhibit Night at John Philip Sousa Junior High, a middle school in the 70s, Diamond overheard four 12-year olds holding a debate on the legalization of marijuana-a scene that would be shocking today. The committee of parents ultimately decided to form a new membership corporation which would raise funds and hire a professional, specifically an ex-addict and drug adviser, to run a drug program for Port Washington. Decades later, such programs have become a reality today with health classes frequently calling in such guest speakers and a variety of resources available across the county.

Neda Khan

At the Landmark, teenagers are able to hang out and have fun together in a safe and friendly environment.

girls in Port can stay in and enjoy a movie and pizza.

The club also hopes to arrange a casino night, where students can play different casino games with fake money. These events are all planned by the members.

"What we're really trying to do is to offer activities that teens will actually want to do," said Mr. Donnelly. "Port Washington is actually a pretty boring town and there's not much to do here. That's why the Youth Council is really important—the members know what activities will be fun because they're teenagers themselves."

Lee enjoys the freedom to establish new events yearly.

"There are hardly any limits on what we're allowed to plan at events, so we all get pretty creative," said Lee.

Restaurant Review Get Baked opens on Main Street

BY Katya Barrett Features Editor

The fight to claim the title of most delicious snack in town has become even more competitive. Get Baked, a new bakery that sells many tasty indulgences, opened on Main Street in early March.

With a wide variety of sugary products, the store is sure to become popular among all those with a sweet tooth.

Upon entering the store, the customer can immediately view the impressive baked goods case, with more than 15 types of frosting-covered cupcakes, in addition to brownies, creative cookies, and festive





Juliana Beall There are over 15 different cupcake flavors, including the "Blue & White," a delight inspired by the Vikings.

cannolis.

The cupcakes are delicious but unsatisfying. The frosting is perfect, and the cake, particularly the carrot cake, is rich and flavorful. They are, however, a little dry, a sign that Get Baked may need more than a few weeks to perfect its recipes.

The menu for the snow balls, shaved ice covered in syrup, is also displayed prominently.

There are more than 40 flavors of syrup available, with everything from cherry to cotton candy to root beer.

Sugar-free syrups are also available. Served in small red Chinese takeout boxes, the chilly snow balls are both sweet and refreshing.

"I think that the snow balls will be perfect to eat when it gets really hot out," said junior Sarah Autz. "They are like Italian ices, except more interesting, and you can get them in basically any flavor that exists."

For those whose snack is not complete without a beverage, various drinks such as cappuccinos and hot chocolate are available.

These "scrumptious munchies," as they are advertised, do not come cheap. The cupcakes, although large, are expensive at \$4.25 each. They are slightly cheaper when sold in bulk, with deals such as four for \$16, six for \$24, and twelve for \$46.

The snow balls are a little less pricey, with a half-pint container available for \$2.50, a pint container for \$3.50, and a pint and a half for \$4.50.

The store does, however, offer a few wallet-friendly options. It advertises an



uliana Bea

Patrons of Get Baked can enjoy their confectioneries while seated in front of the coffee bar. A television on the wall behind displays the news.

early morning special, which offers a free coffee with the purchase of a cupcake. Free Wi-Fi is also available throughout the store.

One of the most appealing aspects of Get Baked, particularly to teenagers, is the ample seating available.

In addition to small tables in the front and stools along the counter, the seating area in the back of the store contains four armchairs in addition to a large sofa.

A large coffee table makes it easy for customers to enjoy their baked goods while relaxing. The store's black and red color scheme also creates an enjoyably tied-together look that is enhanced by the bright furniture.

"I went to Get Baked during an offperiod with a group of friends, and it was so nice to find a large, comfortable area in the back," said junior Sarah Matero. "It is the perfect place to relax, do a little homework, and enjoy a cupcake."

Although the Port Washington store is the only Get Baked currently open, the owner, who was raised and now lives in town, is planning to open a Long Beach location in two months.



By Dan Miller Assistant Features Editor

Nintendo first changed the portable games market in 1989 with its release of the Game Boy. The portability that the (slightly larger than) pocket-sized machine gave the consumer was revolutionary for its time, as the 8-bit device was able to produce monochromatic images much like the colorized images produced by the home console.

The current trend in entertainment is to make everything in 3D. What began in the film industry as a way to bring more people to the box office in addition to justifying rising ticket costs has begun to spread to the home entertainment market as well After an update was issued to Sony's PlayStation 3 allowing it to display 3D images last year, more film and game studios began releasing their media with 3D capabilities. One major caveat of this eye-popping technology is the cost. The price of a 3D-capable TV, game console, game, and glasses required to see the 3D images can go into the thousands of dollars and sets the third dimension out of the spending range of most.

without a high price.

The \$249.99 Nintendo 3DS builds upon the company's successful dualscreen portable game console. It keeps the lower touch screen while increasing the graphical capabilities (which now rival that of Nintendo's home console, the Wii) and adding a few new features, most notably the system's glasses-free 3D.

Using a parallax barrier (a layer of material with a series of precision slits), the top screen of the Nintendo 3DS is able to produce unique images for the left and right eye, respectively, which appear to form one singular, three-dimensional image.

Nintendo introduces glassesfree 3D gaming on the go

Pilotwings Resort. The ability to sense depth while maneuvering a plane or hang glider around the island helps the consumer avoid obstacles and complete missions. Nintendo 3DS games bought in stores on cartridges cost \$39.99, with budget-based games selling for a lower MSRP.

Another feature of the 3DS worth noting is its three cameras. Two of the cameras appear on the outer shell of the top screen while a third small circle is set right between the two screens facing towards the consumer. Making use of the cameras are included software titles *Face Raiders*, *Mii Maker*, and the aptly-named the system's cameras and a series of cards to produce Augmented Reality, to make it appear as if, for example, a dragon was coming out of one's kitchen table.

When in range of a Wi-Fi network, the 3DS allows for web-browsing, online play, uploading of photos from the camera application to popular social networking sites, and software downloading. In the future, 3D movies and classic games which originally appeared on systems such as the Game Boy and Sega's Game Gear will be released via the Nintendo eShop.

The 3DS broke all sales records for the debut of a Nintendo handheld after its March 27 launch. The initial offerings, while entertaining, do not fully explore the capabilities of this console.

Nintendo's newest portable console, released Feb. 26, looks to change the handheld market once again, while also making a splash in the growing 3D market 0

The 3D effect is not recommended for anyone under seven years of age and can be controlled via a slider on the right side of the top screen. Parental controls in the main menu can lock the 3D effect so it is not accidentally turned on.

Depth is something that not many people have dealt with while playing video games. The addition of such a feature on a portable device is undoubtedly impressive but requires the right software to become anything more than a gimmick. In playing games such as Capcom's *Super Street Fighter IV 3D* and Electronic Arts Inc's *Madden NFL Football*, the depth did not change the gameplay when compared to how the games are presented on traditional two-dimension displays.

The 3D does benefit the consumer during games such as Nintendo's Nintendo 3DS Camera application.

In *Face Raiders*, players can use their own faces or their friends' faces to become a part of the game, which is an action dart-shooter. The *Mii Maker* uses the interior camera to snap a photo of the consumer and then maps those facial features onto a Mii avatar, which can then be used in games such as *Pilotwings Resort*.

The built-in camera application allows the consumer to use the outer cameras simultaneously to produce 3D photographs, which can then be edited directly on the system. The ability for the 3DS to sense depth around it via the use of dual-cameras combined with built-in gyro sensors allow for tilt and tumble to control games.

Nintendo's built-in AR Games uses



www.videogametalk.com

The Nintendo 3DS, opened to show both the large, glasses-free-3D top screen and touch-capable bottom screen.

artsgentertainment

Action-packed scenes dazzle the audience

By Jess Greenwald Staff Writer

There has been a lot of hype over whether or not Zach Snyder's latest film Sucker Punch will compare to the director's past works. Fortunately it does, albeit on an extreme scale.

Snyder, director of 300 and Watchmen, has a knack for creating visually stunning and imaginative worlds. Sucker Punch is told through the eyes of a young, abused teenager named Baby Doll (Emily Browning).

Placed in a mental asylum by her abusive stepfather, Baby Doll is sentenced to undergo a lobotomy in five days. In order to survive during that time she enters a world in her imagination, a twisted place where it is hard to discern reality from dreams.

Led by a mysterious guide, Baby Doll and four other women must retrieve four items that will break them free from the asylum before her lobotomy.

Sucker Punch is not going to gather a following based on its plot. Having been done countless times before, the premise of retreating into one's imagination in order to survive is not all that unique.

Despite the cliche this is actually Snyder's first original screenplay. His past two major works have been adaptations of Frank Miller and Alan Moore's graphic novels. Snyder seems to realize from his

past experiences that in order to create an effective movie there does not necessarily have to be a captivating plot or even semi-realistic characters.

The fact is, Sucker Punch is not, nor was it meant to be, a deep and meaningful Similar to movie. 300, the movie is filled with rich visuals and action sequences that make it incredibly entertaining. It is an extension of 300 and Watchmen.

surprised to discover that the acting in Sucker Punch is not all that bad. From the trailers many people probably think that the actors were picked solely based on their looks.

While the movie was gratuitously over-sexed (the girls spend most of their time in stripperoutfits), the acting quality

the lead character, Baby Doll. Despite



Many may be

provided some pleasant surprises.

Browning does a good job playing the fact that most of her time is spent



Sweet Pea (Abbie Cornish) gets involved in one of the many fights in Sucker Punch. The movie has a limited plot but plenty of action.

punching dragons and cutting off zombie heads while wearing a tight leather dress, Browning comes across as likable.

Her posse, on the other hand, is very underdeveloped and replaceable. Jamie Chung, Abbie Cornish, Vanessa Hudgens, and Jena Malone all give empty performances.

Luckily, *Sucker Punch* does not heavily v on dialogue, so much of the below-par

Everyone in the theater seemed to enjoy the film but upon exiting the theater they realized how irrelevant most of the material was.

The movie contains mythical dragons, crazed German robo-soldiers, and demonic samurais which the girls must fight through. Regardless, all of these creatures create incredible action sequences which many people will want

Dr. Gorski (Carla Gugino) threatens Baby Doll (Emily Browning) in one of the film's most thrilling scenes. Gugino's accent was so over-the-top, which made her hard to take seriously.

acting is inconsequential.

Carla Gugino's performance as Dr. Vera Gorski, however, is hard not to notice or laugh at. Her Russian accent is so ridiculously misplaced and unnecessary it is hard to imagine why she even sported it in the first place. Thankfully Oscar Isaac and Jon Hamm's performances as the antagonist doctors balance out Gugino's poor performance.

One of the best and most surprising aspects of the film was its soundtrack. Many may be surprised to see that there are actually a few song and dance numbers by the actors in the movie.

Although this seems to be rather pointless, the musical sequences tie in nicely with the rest of the film. Although a very entertaining movie, Sucker Punch is very much a mindless distraction.

to see again.

Compared to Snyder's other works, Sucker Punch is the most visually captivating of them all. Viewers should not be discouraged by the film's PG-13 rating; Sucker Punch has as much if not more action than both 300 and Watchmen.

Sucker Punch plays very much like a video game, full of nonstop action with brief interludes of dialogue. People who have not seen any of Snyder's other films may be overwhelmed by the special effects and constant violence.

Do not walk into the theater expecting anything more than mindless entertainment; otherwise you will greatly dislike the film. Simply buy your ticket and be taken away by the two hours of visually captivating cinematography.

Confusing or not, The Source Code delivers nonstop suspense

BY Katie Fishbin

Confusion consumes both Colter Stevens (Jake Gyllenhaal) and the audience at the start of Gyllenhaal's newest movie, *The Source Code*. While he begins to search for a bomb, Stevens realizes he is not who he thinks he is. At points throughout the film, he questions his existence and bizarre circumstance, but ultimately seems to understand.

In a repetitive but exciting storyline, Stevens is constantly sent to a train on which he will have eight minutes to locate and diffuse a bomb. If he fails, he returns briefly to a small capsule and is then sent back into the fray.

This continual situation occurs over and over again. Not completely sure of what is happening, the viewer, along with the main character, tries to make sense of things.

In the capsule, Stevens is in an alternate time period whilst a woman named Goodwin (Vera Farmiga) talks to him through a screen telling him about the mission. A well-placed guide, Goodwin's interjection brings the audience back into the action and out of its confusion.

The creator of the source code, Dr. Rutledge (Jeffrey Wright), a scientific analyst, is the driving force behind Stevens' task that he must complete. After each failed attempt, Stevens is put back onto the train to try again. While drudging repetition is on the horizon, the actors, director, and script generally keep the story going with both emotional



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Despite some confusion throughout the film, *The Source Code* is worth seeing due to memorable performances by Jake Gyllenhaal and Michelle Monaghan, and an exciting storyline.

interest and engaging action sequences.

Still, this repetitive action becomes frustrating and depressing as the movie carries on, not only for the main character, but for the audience as well.

In the eight minutes on the train, Stevens always finds himself sitting across from a girl named Christina Warren (Michelle Monaghan). Like in any other movie, there is a romantic twist in the mix. It was unclear how they knew each other or even met, perhaps a fault of overactive editing or a thoughtless screenwriter, but Gyllenhaal and Monaghan managed to create some smoldering tension.

Although the movie was enjoyable, at points it was confusing and hard to follow. It was not until the end of the movie that the viewer even somewhat understood what was going on. Even then, many unanswered questions remained.

However, the special effects and scenery and stunts executed were very

realistic, looking real and gruesome enough to inspire an emotional reaction.

Even though there was some confusion throughout the entire movie, it was entertaining with the suspense, action, romance and the slight humor all intertwined. Gyllenhaal delivered one of his best performances to date in this extremely suspenseful sci-fi thriller, keeping an ever-present twinkle in his eve.

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Good quality humor prevails in the sitcoms of ABC

BY Bethia Kwak

Humor has become vulgar. Humor has become violent. Humor has become crude. Producers have gone to extremes to provoke cheap laughs out of us. It seems we can no longer expect to find good-natured humor on TV.

The sitcoms on ABC are finally taking a stand.

Every Wednesday night, viewers of ABC are caught up in hours of highquality comedy. The Middle, Modern Family, Mr. Sunshine, and the brand-new Happy Endings will keep you laughing throughout.

And what makes these shows so special? How did the screenwriters finally unlock the code of how to make us laugh without being overly inappropriate?

In shows like *The Middle* and *Modern Family*, we are met with different families trying to live life day by day. The situations in these shows are so ordinary, but the subtle jokes throughout keep viewers laughing.

The popularity of *Modern Family* is astounding. The show has already won multiple Emmys and has gained more viewers than anyone expected. Even in the halls of Schreiber, on Thursday morning, you will hear people asking, "Did you watch *Modern Family* last night? It was hilarious!"

"Modern Family is one of the only shows that I genuinely look forward to every week. I watch it for the humor, rather than for mindless TV. Each storyline and family are equally as comedic," said junior Brian Aronow.

Buddy TV said it perfectly: "Every

actor is fantastic, every family is interesting, and unlike many shows, there isn't a weakest link."

The show is in the style of a "mockumentary," like The Office, following three different families. Characters include a gay couple with an adopted baby, an awkward father, an overly-concerned schoolwork with daughter, and an old man married to a much younger woman.

While *The Middle* only follows one family, each character has a dynamic personality that is wholly unique. But, as with every family, the chemistry somehow works. There is the rebellious son, the daughter who desperately wants to fit in, a quirky younger

son, and parents who had no idea raising children would be this hard.

The concepts of *Mr. Sunshine* and *Happy Endings* are a bit different from general cable fare. Intended for a more mature audience, these two shows have been anticipated for a long time.

Mr. Sunshine features Matthew Perry in his first major TV debut since

Is Charlie Sheen really "winning"?

BY Penina Remler

Contributing Writer

People often assume that a public statement from a well-known personality will create a positive impact. Someone who has achieved so much fame and media attention should be recognized for his or her constructive actions, but unfortunately that is not always the case.

Recently, as most of the world knows, Charlie Sheen has caught the media's eye, but his immature and foul-mouthed comments are distracting everyone for all the wrong reasons.

While he claims, "I'm tired of pretending like I'm not special," "spec ial" is not the most appropriate word to define his behavior.

of Sheen's insanity is that in the most recently aired episodes, previous to the cancellation, the show had achieved its highest ratings. This reflects upon our society, showing us that we are more likely to pay attention during scandals. We are encouraging Sheen to act out with our constant responses, both positive and negative, to his behavior.

When Sheen was asked if he hoped that the show would be reinstated, he slyly responded, "Hope is for suckers and fools." He continued to dig himself into a deeper hole with insulting and belligerent remarks.

Yet while Sheen's absurd comments were ruining many of his personal and public relationships, they have also been boosting his career to new heights. If Sheen's actions are anything but admirable, why is he continuing to get the attention that he doesn't deserve?



the rebellious son, *Modern Family* has become one of television's most hilarious shows with its quirky characters and unique humor. The chemistry of the families is undeniable.

Friends. On the show, he plays Sam Donovan, an operations manager at the Sunshine Center where he is faced with wacky problems. The show can be farfetched at times, but it still manages to make its audience laugh.

In the brand new series *Happy Endings*, a group of friends start to fall apart after the couple that brought them together breaks up. The rest of their friends must decide if they want to stay as friends or choose sides in the romantic squabble. In this highly-anticipated sitcom that deals with a situation many of us have been in, we are met with six characters with completely different personalities.

With new episodes being broadcasted each week, these shows are climbing their way toward becoming the best shows on cable television. These shows lack competition, glitz, a cheesy soundtrack, and special effects. Everything that is supposed to make a movie or a TV show "the greatest ever" is absent, leaving behind simple wit.

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We finally have honest humor, up and coming actors, and an everyday setting. And that is what makes these shows so lovable.

New spice and flavor is added to TV

BY Morgan Quigley

A new reality show with an interesting twist has just started on NBC. *America's Next Great Restaurant* is indeed another food competition but this show is much different from the others that are out there.

The premise of the show is to find next great "fast-casual" America's restaurant. The concepts are judged by four panelists who will eventually decide which restaurant concept will win the grand prize of the first three restaurant locations in a nationwide chain. The restaurants will be in New York City, Los Angeles, and Minneapolis. The judges are world-famous chefs and restauranteurs Bobby Flay, founder and CEO of Chipotle Mexican Grill Steve Ells, celebrity chef Curtis Stone, and chef Lorena Garcia. In the first episode, 20 concepts were presented to the judges. Ten of these potential restaurants were eliminated. Since then, one restaurant has been eliminated per show, whittling the contestants down to one remaining restaurant. Remaining concepts include an upscale grilled cheese concept, southern comfort food, soul food, meatballs, choice of healthy or indulgent dishes, Mediterranean cuisine, and modern Indian cuisine.

that it is a food competition like no other. The show is not just based around who can cook the best meal, but it also takes into account the design and management of the restaurant that would serve it. The judges really test every aspect that the owner of a fast-casual restaurant needs to know.

The prize for winning the show is also incredible. The chance to open up three restaurants with the potential to start a chain of restaurants throughout the nation is tantalizing to any restauranteur. The prize has the potential to be worth millions of dollars. Unlike other shows' prizes, it provides the winner with the stability of a job, as opposed to just a lump sum of money that gets taxed. It is the best prize that a television show could give out. However, the show can get a little boring at times. It seems to be the same thing every time. The contestants make food to serve hundreds of people who are judging them based on one dish. The show seems to be falling into a routine of the judges going and tasting the food and either criticizing or praising the food. If the show does not change its format a little, it will begin to get boring and almost unwatchable. However, if it does gain some diversity, I think it has the potential to be a very interesting show with a grand prize that all of us will be able to enjoy.

Many people associate Sheen with his most successful sitcom, *Two and a Half Men*. It is hard to imagine that even Sheen was a struggling, aspiring actor for many years before he achieved professional success. As his career launched, so did his rebellious reputation, which lasted through a long history of drug addiction and anger issues.

Sheen, himself, publicized many nasty and negative remarks and tweets about his co-workers on *Two and A Half Men*. The show was abruptly cancelled after his insulting behavior could no longer be tolerated.

Although Sheen's outbursts had been going on for a while, his dismissal on his own sitcom officially peaked into a complete media frenzy. The irony Even if people can agree he is in need of psychological help, the act of following his negative behavior on Twitter and watching him on television actually appears to be supporting him.

Even as recently as this week, Sheen embarked on a live performance concert tour, "My Violent Torpedo of Truth/ Defeat Is Not An Option." Amazingly enough, his controversial show is already sold out to audiences in several states. This only serves to confirm the theory that we should not always look up to celebrities that are plastered up by the media. Ironically, all the attention to Sheen's crazy behavior has taught us the ultimate lesson on whom not to admire.

What makes the show so interesting is

Music Box

Khalifa turns to mainstream rap on his new album, Rolling Papers



BY Morgan Quigley

As hip-hop's "Rookie of the Year" in Rolling Stone, Wiz Khalifa has set high expectations for his new album, Rolling Papers. If you were expecting Khalifa to recreate the magic that he put out on his most recent mixtape, Kush and Orange Juice, you were sadly mistaken. After signing a major record deal, Wiz was bound to change his style to meet mainstream radio demand.

This was evident when Wiz released his first single off the album, "Black and Yellow," an anthem to his hometown Steelers, which peaked at number one on Billboard's Hot 100, dominating cars' stereos and ringtones throughout the nation.

If you were expecting Wiz to gain any depth with his lyrics, which have pretty much been the same throughout his rapping career, you were also very mistaken. Wiz stuck to his marijuana, alcohol, and partying routes over some surprisingly mellow beats to try and make this album a commercial success. Unfortunately for the record company, most of Khalifa's lyrics are not radio friendly enough to receive any play.

The opening track reflects just that. "When I'm Gone" describes the seemingly overnight success of the Pittsburgh native, and the fame and fortune that came with it. He made sure to reference the decadent lifestyle that goes along with making it big in the industry.

The double-edged sword of fame is definitely a theme throughout the album. Classic Khalifa did make an appearance on this album however. The beat on "The Race" was truly reminiscent of what Wiz would put on his mixtapes, which are available for free on www.datpiff. com. "Rooftops" is another highlight. Maybe not exactly classic Wiz in terms of the beat, but the party-like lyrics, witty rhymes, and a chorus that sticks in your head make it a great song.

Unfortunately, the best part of the album is a verse by fellow rap friend Curren\$y on "Rooftops." Another disappointing part of the album was the single "Roll Up."

Radiohead continues to innovate their sound



BY Kyle Manzione

After nearly two decades of making music, the influential and continuously innovative band Radiohead released its highly anticipated eighth album. The southern England natives have famously made a career of changing sounds and expanding their creativity and musical influences. Initially achieving a great deal of fame with its grungy-alternative single off of Pablo Honey, "Creep," the band followed up with The Bends and OK Computer, both of which met with much commercial and critical success. The band, however, surprised many fans by doing a musical about-face for its fourth album Kid A which incorporated a tremendous amount of electronic musical sound and experimental rock. *Kid A* marked not only another critically acclaimed and commercially successfully album, but the band's apparent desire to explore music and extend itself no matter what the outcome.

Radiohead's 2011 release, *The King of Limbs*, is an album that exemplifies the quintet's desire to keep its sound bold and different. A return to the days of the mainstream success of *OK Computer* seem to be out of the question, as this is an avant-garde album that, at times, breaks from typical song structures and melodies in an attempt to create a sound that is anything but traditional.

This album is not for those listeners who are expecting any similarities to the band's 90s successes. Tracks like "Lotus Flower," "Give Up the Ghost," and "Morning Magpie" add to the album's dreamlike atmosphere that lulls the listener into a sort of trance with its heavy use of electronic sounds including keyboards, vocal distortion, and echoing guitar riffs and vocals.

The album in general, and particularly the final track "Separator," highlights the soothing and familiarly euphonic vocals of lead singer, Thom Yorke, a quality without which, King of Limbs would simply not sound like Radiohead. Overall, the album is one that will sound familiar to fans of Radiohead. It contains familiar echoes, electronic effects, and stormy quality. What is so intriguing about an album such as this is that it reminds us of how few artists there are (if any) that have reached this amount of fame and are still willing to alter their sound and do as they please, having no regard for outside opinion. It comes down to a simple fact that any fan of the band has learned over the past years; Radiohead is a band that will continue to innovate, continue to create and transform its sound, and they don't really care what you think.

Surprisingly not about marijuana, this song epitomizes Wiz's evolution

Wiz's evolution into a mainstream rapper with his Disney-style beat and lyrics. It is very easy to tell that this song was heavily influenced by the record company for the sole purpose of radio play because, let's face it, most of his music is not even



Wiz Khalifa performs at Roseland Ballroom on March 29 for the release of his new album, *Rolling Papers*, which features number one hit "Black and Yellow."

"On my Level" features a nice

censurable.

integration of Khalifa's new club style beats with some old style Khalifa. The song features a rap legend in some people's eyes, Too \$hort.

We all knew what to expect going into *Rolling Papers*. We knew that Khalifa's style would be transformed now that he has had great commercial success. But

his past lyricism and rap history made it more appropriate for Khalifa than other rappers. It does not live up to his past mixtapes such as *Kush and Orange Juice* and *Burn After Rolling*, which I highly recommend you download if you like *Rolling Papers*, but it is a decent album with some good tracks.

Classic Album: Lou Reed: Transformer



BY Kerim Kivrak

Lou Reed is among an elite group of musicians whose unique styles and approaches to music have rendered their work virtually unmistakable. Through both his role in the hugely influential Velvet Underground and his incredibly fruitful solo career, Reed now frequently receives comparisons to both Bob Dylan's poetic lyricism and David Bowie's exceptional originality and bold subject matter. With 1972's Transformer, Reed not only proved that these comparisons are completely justified but that he transcended any classification that could be achieved through comparison to other great musicians and solidified his position as a legend in his own right. On multiple occasions, Reed has expressed his disdain for musicians who revel in their past successes and creations instead of attempting to expand their own musical horizons and become more inventive. Despite its inclusion of some rerecorded, unreleased Velvet Underground songs, Transformer reflects this idea and distinguishes Reed as an independent artist.

with the Velvet Underground as a major influence, had a prominent role in producing *Transformer*. It can certainly be argued that his presence amplifies the shared aspects of their styles and completes the pop feel of many of the songs.

Unfortunately, not every song on *Transformer* is a masterpiece. Quite a few of them are, in their attempts at a mellow atmosphere, simply dull. "New York Telephone Conversation" is, ironically, about as boring and uninteresting as the conversations and gossip it attempts to mock. "Perfect Day" is the result of an awkward fusion of meaningless lyrics and the extraordinarily mismatched additions of the piano and strings.

Transformer's better moments not only compensate for the dryness of its lesser tracks, but they also propel it into the annals of simply great music. The best example from the album is also Reed's most well-received and commercially successful song, "Walk on the Wild Side." This is quite surprising when one considers the fact that the song blatantly discusses transexuality, drug use, and prostitution and uses the term "colored" in regard to African Americans. Nevertheless, "Walk on the Wild Side" might just epitomize Reed's musical talent. The song features a simple, catchy bass line, light percussion, and guitar in the background, leaving Reed, a chorus and, for a brief and wonderful moment, a saxophone in the forefront. It is interesting to note that Ronnie Ross, who had taught Bowie to play the saxophone as a child, performed this saxophone solo. Although it is certainly not without its flaws, Transformer remains one of the greatest albums of all time and certainly ranks at the very top of Reed's best. The collaboration between Reed and Bowie is a dream come true for fans and, thankfully, the resulting album sounded as good as one could hope.

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Bowie, who has cited Reed's work or

Returning athletes ready new tennis players for Conference I

By Jacob Eisenberg Staff Writer

Last season, the boys varsity tennis team's season came to a disappointing end when the Vikings lost a key match, needing only a single victory to advance to the county playoffs. This year, after losing seniors Matt Kallenberg, Luke Record, Logan Schiff, Shaan Shivdasani, Ben Spivack, and Ian Tucker, the new-look team aspires to win the Conference Championship.

This spring, senior captains Jason Hubsher and Michael Seiden lead the team. They find supporting leadership from junior doubles partners, Jared Alper and Sander Brenner.

Hubsher, one of the top players in the state and the team's number one singles player since his freshman year, will once again be facing off against the premier players from competing schools. After placing first in Conference II two seasons



Junior Jake Yedid readies for a serve in preparation for the April 13 game against Great Neck North.

ago, the tennis program moved up a conference to the top division in Nassau County.

"I really want to deliver this season," said Hubsher. "I expect everyone to do well this year, since we don't want to have another repeat of last year. We want our names up on the tennis court fence after we hopefully win the conference again."

Only 18 players make the varsity squad, 11 of which are starters for the team. New to the team, and also the school this year, are freshmen players Chirag Doshi, Alex Hadley, and Max Mastbaum. Freshman Ben Rosen played as an eighth grader on the team last year.

Being on the varsity squad as an underclassman is a learning process, even for starters.

"There are a lot of skilled upperclassman on the team who have experience winning matches," said Rosen. "That kind of experience really prepares me for all the matches I play, not to mention the fact that they also make it fun and exciting."

Also joining the team is seventh grader Alex Grossman, who will team up with Doshi for the fourth of four doubles teams. The other pairs are Alper and Brenner, Seiden and junior Krishin Shivdasani, and senior Daniel Siegal and junior Jon Weber. The three singles players will be Hubsher, freshman Ben Rosen, and sophomore Daniel Lee.

Other members of the team include senior Sahil Doshi, juniors Bobby Katz, Sen Ninan and Jake Yedid, sophomore Alex Polk, and freshman Alex Hadley.

With there being four doubles teams, and four match wins to secure a victory, all of the doubles matches are very important," said Katz. "This season we will be concentrating on improving teamwork and communication between players on and off the court."

"Having communication on the court is instrumental to winning points," said Weber. "Without it, there would be no way to know who would hit the ball at the net or on the baseline. It can become a very complicated game, and those with better chemistry on the court usually come out on top?

After a one-year hiatus due to injury, Coach Mr. Peter Travis has returned.

"Despite being in the most competitive conference, the team will make the playoffs," said Coach Travis. "This year, the team is as strong as ever and we even have welcomed a seventh grader to the mix. All of the underclassman show that the future of Port Washington varsity tennis is very bright. Then, when you add this season's upperclassman, it looks like we have a great chance at success."

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So far this spring, the team has been as successful as Coach Travis has hoped, starting off undefeated, with wins over Plainview-JFK, Great Neck South, and Jericho. All of them were close, with the final match score being 4-3 in each. The next home match will be on April 29, against Plainview, at 4:15 p.m.



Senior Michael Seiden and junior Krishin Shivdasani face off against juniors Jared Alper and Sander Brenner. Doubles matches are key to the tennis team's success.

Calling the Shots: When a diversion becomes a disruption

BY Brett Fishbin Sports Editor

In any company or business, difficult

lyst has chosen to place the blame exclusively on one of the two sides, it is my strong belief that there is a fair share of blame to go around. In a struggling economy in which thousands of Americans are barely getting by, it is despicable that fortunate people are acting so petty. The National Football League is a diversion, a popular institution in which men and women across the country can take a break from the stresses of life. The Superbowl is one of the mostwatched events of year, but when these die-hard fans turn on their televisions and see the headline "NFLPA (National Football League Players Association) disbanded after failed negotiations," it is tough to not get agitated. It's easy to understand the anger when an everyday person is asked to sympathize with the players, whose slice of the pie is being reduced only in a minor way. Even worse, the owners, all of whom have net worths greater than \$150 million, have refused to budge in their demands for a

greater share in the profits, a hard salary cap, and a reduction of guaranteed contracts.

ally, anything that prevents a player's ability to earn bank.

In the lawsuit, popular players such All in all, the duty rests with the owners as Tom Brady, Drew Brees, Vincent Jacknd the players to come to the negotiating son, Peyton Manning, and Osi Umenyiora have been named as plaintiffs. The case is dubbed "Brady v. NFL" due to the alphabetical listing of the names. Barring a shocking decision from the judge, I believe that the ruling will produce a non-concrete resolution, ordering the two sides back to the negotiating table. Of course, the judge could side with the players, guaranteeing that the season will take place. Regardless of the outcome, the fact that this struggle has gone this far is a complication that will do damage to the game. In the process, the league has alienated fans while proving the true greed of both parties. It is sad to see the league in this state but being the monster that it is, I have little doubt that the NFL will rebound and return to its place as one of the most popular sports leagues in the world.

decisions regarding the allocation of funds are made on a day-to-day basis. Pressing matters such as deciding where to spend that extra \$100,000 are constantly in need of attention. But, what if instead of \$100,000, there is six billion dollars at stake and decisions made carry weight beyond reason?

This has been the case with the National Football League for many years.

For the past several years under the most recent CBA (collective bargaining agreement), the money generated by the league has been distributed amongst the players, owners, and the league itself.

However, the current CBA has expired and the result has been a collection of billionaire owners disputing with millionaire players over where the money should go.

While almost every NFL fan and ana-

table to talk seriously and reasonably.

Rather than showing up and proposing an inconsequential agreement, they should be making real compromises to ensure that a 2011 NFL season takes place.

Beyond the emotional impact of not having a season, the economic toll across the nation would be extensive. Vendors and stadium employees would not have jobs, the huge advertising market for the regular season and Superbowl would fall through, and countless other complementary markets would lose major revenue streams.

As of now, the players association has been decertified in an attempt to file an antitrust lawsuit against the NFL. The key factors that are part of the suit include NFL institutions such as restricted free agency, the franchise tag, and the salary cap. Re-

Despite losing key players, golf team ready to compete *Experienced seniors and juniors strive to uphold the team's high standard*

BY Chad Edelblum

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After losing five starters to college and coming in fourth place at counties last year, the boys varsity golf team will need to put in as much effort as possible due to the loss of top players as it competes against other competitive schools.

Although the team has graduated a total of nine seniors, the Vikings are unfazed in their quest to succeed as much as it has in past years.

The team, in total, has the most titles compared to any other athletic team in school history and looks to add another this year.

Senior Paul Tasnady is ready to lead this team into a challenging season. His supporting cast includes two juniors, Collin Davies and Adam Pollack, who are expected to improve upon their play from last year and bolster the team's competitiveness.

"We're a young team with a lot of potential, and as the season progresses I think we're going to become a serious contender in the conference," said Pollack. "It's tough playing without five of the starters from last year but I definitely feel like we have a good shot at winning our conference.

The team also gains strong play from first year golfer junior Stephen Jagard, who is becoming one of the better golfers

on the team.

"I have wanted to play for a long time on the golf team, and because volleyball got moved to the fall I finally got the chance," said junior Paul Kagan. "The team is great; everyone is friendly, and there are some solid players that will hopefully get us to counties."

The Vikings' first match was on April 4 against Wheatley. The team lost by a score of 8.5-0.5.

However, Tasnady looked strong by winning his matchup, shooting a score of 41 on a par 36 course, and Davies and Jagard lost both their matchups by only one stroke.

Although this might seem devastating, Wheatley is one of the top schools in the conference.

"Although we suffered a minor setback in our first match, the team looks good and we have a real chance of making a run for a conference title," said junior Matt Brooks.

Coach Ms. Kathy Doughty has an eventful history as golf coach at Schreiber. Although the team faced a loss, Coach Doughty is confident for the future of the team.

"Losing 5 of 6 starters to graduation will be a challenge to this year's golf team," said Coach Doughty. "However, returning starter Paul Tasnady will lead the squad, and we're expecting strong showings from returning players Colin Davies, Aaron Lim, Adam Pollack and Timo San-





Elana Galassi

Junior Matt Brooks (right) looks on as his coach, Ms. Kathy Doughty demonstrates the proper form of putting, a major focus for the Vikings.

tala, who will be able to provide confidence and experience from newcomers Matthew Brooks, Stephen Jagard, Paul Kagan, David

Katz, Aaron Schuckman, Charlie Wick and Jaehoon Yoo."

Captain's Corner: Michael Weiss

BY Dan Miller

DM: I am thrilled to have a man of your caliber in the corner, varsity baseball catcher Mr. Weiss.

MW: That's Mr. Indi Ana, actually. I am thrilled to be here Dan, thanks for having me.

DM: I checked out the field the other day, new facilities look great

MW: Yeah, Guggenheim Field is looking pretty awesome. The baseball program worked hard to raise money for our new amenities: dugouts, a bullpen, a batting cage, and a slick PA system.

DM: How does it feel to be back on the field, playing competitively?

MW: It feels great. The entire team has been preparing all offseason for this moment. There's nothing like playing baseball, especially with a team as talented as this.

DM: What expectations do you have for your squad this season?

MW: I'm not going to lie, expectations are extremely high. My co-captain Danny Kaminsky and I expect nothing less than a playoff spot, and, if we play to our full potential, a Conference Championship. We want to hang a banner more than anything in the world.

he will relay the message to me.

DM: Can you give me any tips?

MW: As Mr. Del Gais always says "work fast, change speeds, and throw strikes," but I guess the first tip for you would be "don't get cut."

DM: Thanks. Who is your favorite major leaguer?

MW: I would have to say that my favorite baseball player is Joe Mauer of the Minnesota Twins. He reminds me of myself because of his "speak softly and carry a big stick" style of play.

DM: Off the diamond, I hear you like to... write?

MW: You can say that. It has always been a passion of mine, which I was finally able to share with the world through my blog, which had its 15 minutes of fame this past winter.

DM: You blog?

MW: As I said earlier, yes. I have a blog. Just a hobby that keeps me relaxed, though I must admit I have been getting lazy with the posts.

DM: And still you haven't found a date to the Gambol?

DM: Any personal goals? I hear you're trying to get more steals.

MW: Although I value the team goals more than I do my own, I would love to be named as an All-County player. It's going to be extremely hard, but I have been working a long time for this. It's my year.

DM: Who calls the pitches that our guys throw?

MW: Mr. Holzer has coached me almost every season since my freshman year, so he trusts me (most of the time) to call the pitches. But if he feels that a certain pitch should be thrown in a certain count, then **MW:** You're acting like my Mom, Daniel. But yes, it's true. As of now I am dateless.

DM: Schreiber, the catcher/designated hitter/blogger Michael Weiss needs a date. Let's get that going.

MW: This is a better advertisement than the front page of *The Wall Street Journal*. I'm sure the ladies will be lining up at my locker (cough 1117 cough cough).

DM: I wish you the best of luck with that date, Mike. And here's to a great season.

MW: Why thank you, Dan. It has been a real pleasure.

X Athletes Joe Mele

BY David Katz Staff Writer

The boys varsity lacrosse team has given the school something to cheer about. Starting off the season with a 4-0 record, the Vikings are dominating their opponents with an explosive offense and a smothering defense that has not let up more than seven goals in any game thus far.

Junior Joe Mele is at the core of the Vikings' defense. Although Mele does not have the stats that some of his offensive teammates possess, Mele's role on the team is no less important. This is Mele's third season on the varsity lacrosse team, but it is his first as captain, and his leadership is a vital part of the Vikings' success. As a long-pole defender, Mele acts as the enforcer of the Vikings team and is the last line of defense before the goalie.

"Long-pole defense is all about endurance," says Mele. "You have to be able to keep with your opponent the entire game. You make one mistake and it could cost your team the game."

In their first game of the season, the Vikings defeated a solid Locust Valley team 12-7. After letting up a quick goal in the first period, Mele and the Vikings' defense were able to recover and endure the Locust Valley attack. This gave the offense time to mount an incredible comeback, scoring seven goals in the final period of play.

Three days later, the team outmatched Floral Park in its second game of the season. It was a closely contested game throughout; however, the Mele-led Vikings defense proved to be too much for Floral Park to handle, holding the Eagles

to one second-half goal and zero goals in the final quarter of play, supplying the Vikings with the 8-7 win. Finally, on April 1, the Vikings continued both their winning streak and their seven-goals-allowed streak by beating the second place team in their conference, Uniondale, 11-7. Mele's defense was faced with the daunting task of matching up against Uniondale stars Antoine Williams and Deon Ellis who are among the leaders in conference scoring, but the Vikings' defense again prevailed and was able to shut down both players.

"I have high hopes for our teams' future," says Mele. "I think we have a real shot to go deep into the playoffs and hopefully bring home a conference title."



Junior Joe Mele is the focal point of the Vikings defense.

BY Hannah Zweig Staff Writer

Sf the Month X

Alex Tung

Given her bright smile and friendly persona, senior Alex Tung does not come off as a fierce badminton player. Yet, ever since badminton dazzled a young Alex in her freshman year of high school, she's been captivated by the unique sport.

"Badminton is both fun and unpredictable; it's challenging, but I always have a good time playing," said Tung. "After playing badminton freshman year, I knew I loved the sport and that I'd be playing it for the rest of my high school career."

The challenge kept Tung motivated as she strived to improve her game. She began as an alternate freshman year. After working hard she played fourth doubles sophomore year, and junior year she played third singles. This year, she and her co-captain, senior Payal Doshi play first doubles together. Tung has grown to be a tough competitor on the badminton court, and is currently 3-0 with her doubles partner. They hope to remain undefeated this season.

"Keeping a high spirit helps me play well," said Tung. "It is important not to psych yourself out because badminton is a very strategic and mental game as well as a physical one."

Not only is Tung a skilled and motivated badminton player, but her role as captain is well-deserved.

"Alex is a really inspiring captain," said junior Juliana Beall. "She is a competitive teammate and takes every match seriously. Alex gets the whole team excited about badminton."

"Alex is an excellent leader," said

Coach Dr. David O'Connor. "The other girls look up to her as a role model and friend."

This year, the Lady Vikings will once again be competing in Conference II, but they have high hopes for success.

"So far we are 2-1. We certainly have enough talent to win the conference," said Coach O'Connor.

"The future of badminton is bright considering we have a very young team this year," said Tung. "We can only get better!"

In addition to Tung's desire for a winning season for the team, her main goal is to lead her teammates to personal victories.

"I hope that everyone plays to the best of their ability, but most importantly, that they have a fun time doing it," said Tung.



Senior Alex Tung is an instrumental part of the girls badminton team. Her hard work and skills are noted by teammates and coaches.

Schreiber teams working hard to ensure hygiene practices are successful

BY Sophia Jaffe and Will Zhou Opinions Editor and Sports Editor

Here at Schreiber, athletes go full force, shedding blood, sweat, and tears in pursuit of perfection. However, team enthusiasm and healthy competition are not the only contagious things among competitors. In fact, especially within close contact sports, diseases such as herpes, ringworm, and impetigo have spread among athletes.

The recent diagnosis of MRSA (Meth

that Hauppauge does. Mauriello wrestled in 16 matches in the span of eight days in four separate locations. Surprisingly, there are no state laws or even guidelines that mandate cleaning of the wrestling mat.

"It's just something that schools do," said Director of Athletics Ms. Stephanie Joannon. "Schreiber takes this issue very seriously and we do everything we can to make sure that our athletes are safe and clean."

During wrestling season, Schreiber's mats are washed not once or twice, but three times every day.

ploy them regularly. As such, mats are mopped every morning with specially designated wet mops and buckets specific to wrestling, then mopped again before practice.

Finally, they are cleaned a third time with anti-microbial disinfectant in preparation for the next day.

"The coaches also go over and above; they are always checking the clothing of athletes and making sure they wash their custodial staff is able to get the most upto-date cleaning tools and equipment and the athletes are on top of their own hygiene." The conjunction of the aforementioned has resulted in no incidences of in-

fection on the part of Schreiber athletes. In terms of other sports, however, other actions must be taken. Wrestlers aren't the only ones who are at risk of infection. All of the sports equipment that cannot be dry cleaned is sent to Riddell, the official head gear manufacturer for the NFL and other athletic leagues, for professional reconditioning and inspection.

"I always wondered how the uniforms get cleaned from season to season," said juclothes regularly," said Ms. Joannon. "The nior Nina Devas. "I don't know who wore the jersev before me, and frankly, I don't want to know. I want to feel like the uniform is brand new, not like someone else's sweat is left in it." All clothing is sent to Water's Edge for dry cleaning in between seasons to preserve freshness. "The most important thing that I can say, and that I always tell students, is to just wash and rinse everything," said Mr. Zapalla. "There's a reason your mom tells you to wash your hands after you go to the bathroom." Hygiene starts in the home. It is every athlete's responsibility to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness especially when interacting in close proximity of others. The absolute best thing students can do for themselves is to not only exercise their physical abilities, but also their hygienic ones.

cillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) and Lemierre's syndrome (an inflammation of the blood vessels) in wrestler Nick Mauriello of Hauppauge High School in Suffolk County has led to increased discussion of sports hygiene in high school athletics programs as well as awareness of the issue of keeping clean when on the mat, field, or even on the rink.

"We've been relatively safe here at Port," said athletic trainer Mr. Rick Zapalla. "There have been no outbreaks or infections. The athlete that got sick in Suffolk came down with MRSA; that's really serious and it's the big disease in sports."

Hauppauge wrestling coach Chris Messina speculates that it is highly likely that the case involving Mauriello was not the fault of Hauppauge but the result of other schools not taking the same precautions

This is of special importance because wrestlers aren't the only ones using the mats; physical education classes also em-

KEYS TO EFFECTIVE SPORTS HYGIENE

- Always make sure to wash hands after playing
- Clean equipment at least once a week
- Avoid sharing clothes or gear with teammates

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Viking Sports

Port athletics takes the fall season by storm Football, girls swimming claim conference champs in November

BY Dan Miranda and Max Miranda

Sports Editor and Staff Writer

In the fall season, the Port Washington Vikings put out eleven different athletic teams. While two did not compete at all (the cheerleading team and the Portettes), all but one competing group made it to at least the second round of their playoffs. Certain teams over-performed, some underperformed, but overall, Athletic Director Ms. Stephanie Joannon was happy with the performance of all the squads.

"This fall was an outstanding season for fall varsity sports...congratulations to all the teams and coaches and all the families and friends who supported all of them," wrote Ms. Joannon on the Schreiber Athletics page.

Football

The Vikings have returned from their winless season in Nassau Conference I to win the Conference V championship, only being defeated once. Their 6-1 conference record was topped off by winning a one game playoff against Jericho, 26-20. In the game, junior Matt Siegal caught two touchdowns from junior James Burns while the winning 14-yard touchdown was scored by junior running back Michael Gennusa who ran for 154 yards as well. Key performances throughout the season came from senior captains Aaron Underwood, Christian Castillo, Adam Gatehouse and Vincent Miscioscia.

"It was an honor to be captain of the football team this season. The guys really worked hard to change the culture of losing," said Underwood. "Before this team was used to losing, now we're used to winning."

Boys Volleyball

This year's boys volleyball team found their season cut short at the hands of Plainview JFK. They were eliminated in the county semi-finals by a score of 3-1. However, this is not the first in which this has happened; last year Plainview JFK was the team that ended the Vikings season, in the county semi-finals by the exact same score of 3-1. The Vikings played Plainview twice and only won the first time by a score of 3-2, and followed with a loss of 2-3. Also in a repetitive fashion, both years the Plainview JFK team proceeded to lose to Massapequa in the county finals. The Vikings sole captain Kwan Park, a junior, and fellow senior David Kim have both played major roles on the team, contributing performances with up to 11 or 12 kills in some games.



The football team competed in Conference V for the first time in the 2012 season and came out as the Conference Champions. In the fall, many athletes succeeded in competing for team accomplishments.

a score of 1-0. Despite the bitter ending to the season, their stunning conference play included players such as senior Kelly McDonough, the team's goaltender and senior Lauren Desimone who ended the season with the fifth most points on Long Island.

"All the girls on the team were close. we had so much fun at practice and winning all those games together," said Desimone.

Boys Soccer

On Nov. 10, the boys soccer team fell in the conference semi-finals to Syosset by a score of 4-3. The Vikings were up 3-1 at halftime and the winning goal was scored on a penalty kick with seven minutes left. A little less than a third of the roster is composed of freshman. This inexperienced crew seems to have fared unexpectedly well when they ended the season with a conference record of 6-4-1, tacking on two more playoff wins to the record. The future looks bright for the boys soccer team in the future. "It was really cool to see the team gel together throughout the season. Last year, we graduated 17 seniors. Not many people thought we would do well, but we built chemistry," said senior Cameron Boroumand. "It was a great season."

the Vikings are located in the rather large Conference AA. Also identical to the boy's soccer team, the Lady Vikings are freshmen heavy; the team's leaders in both goals and assists are freshman.

Girls Tennis

Led by Head Coach Mr. Stan Makover, the girls tennis team found themselves in the Nassau County championships in mid-October. Port Washington lost to Long Island champion and undefeated Syosset. Throughout the season, seniors Holly Hubsher and Emma Brezel led the squad, with juniors Lauren Livingston and Liz Kallenberg playing key roles as singles players. By season's end, Port Washington finished 12-4 overall, second in the conference. team. Our 2-3-4-5 guys were all of equal talent, and were able to compete at such a high level because of the core five," said senior Gallagher. "Chances looked pretty good to make it to the State meet. It was a shame Hurricane Sandy hit and cancelled counties."

Girls Cross Country

The girls cross country team finished second in the conference. Key performances this season were presented by senior Bianca Luparello, junior Jordan Abrams, junior Joelle Feinberg, senior Gisella Snailer, and senior Ashley Pollack who all finished in the Top 25 in the Conference I race at season's end.

Girls Swimming

Field Hockey

The field hockey team, although finishing first in the regular season with a conference record of 11-2, came up just short in the postseason, failing to beat second seeded Massapequa for the second season in a row. Their loss to Massapequa was handed to them in the Nassau Conference II final at Adelphi University, by

Girls Soccer

The girls soccer team which had a conference record of 9-3-2, was upset in the first round by seventh seed MacAr-thur. Identical to the boys soccer team,

"For an individual sport, we had great team spirit. I'm going to miss everyone on the team and playing for Port," said Hubsher.

Boys Cross Country

The boys cross country team has been renowned for the past five years. This year was no different. This year's runners won the Division IB title. Individual accomplishments were widespread as well. Seniors James Gallagher, Nicolas Sapountzis, and Sid Kakkar won All-County awards and finished in the Top 25 amongst Nassau County's best. Senior Shoki Yamada, junior Leo Potters, and sophomore Keton Kakkar won All-Division awards.

"This year our team was better than last year. We had an overall more talented

The girls swimming team completed the season as Conference Champions. Home games were played at the Port Washington Yacht Club and practices were held early in the morning. The squad won every meet except the one they tied.

"I was really proud to have such a motivated, spirited team and to be able to end my six years by defending our conference championship," said senior Ellie Zolotarev.

Nine sports: two conference championships, two conference second place finishes, and many awards and accomplishments achieved. The Port Washington Vikings fall season is complete, but not without the legacy they left.