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Senior Jessica Yang took this photo during summer vacation in the Catskill Mountains. After a storm, the sky cleared allowing her to take a photograph of the mountains. Her photographs were on display for the AP Photography and 2D Design exhibit on Dec. 14.

NEWS BRIEFS

Upstander of the Month

Junior Christianne Bharath was recently featured on the website of the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County as "Upstander of the Month" for the month of December. As the president of Schreiber's Gay and Straight Alliance (GSA) for two years, she works to advocate for a more accepting school environment.

"Joining the Schreiber High School Gay and Straight Alliance gave me the opportunity to express my feelings on the issue of gay rights and be active in promoting tolerance," said Bharath, who is also a member of Port Washington's Diversity Committee.

Some of her recent accomplishments include being named New York Lead Organizer of the 2012 Worldwide LGBT Civil Rights March. She has also played a role in shutting down two homophobic Facebook groups. At Schreiber, Bharath has organized Marriage Equality Day, National Coming Out Day, Transgender Day of Remembrance, and Day of Silence.

"I take pride in standing up for a cause and I will continue to work to help end anti-gay violence," said Bharath.

Bharath has also been involved with gay rights issues in the political sphere. She has signed many petitions and sent

emails to members of Congress in attempt to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell and The Defense of Marriage Act.s

"Schreiber is home to many different people, and each and every one should feel comfortable being who they are in school," said Bharath.

~Annie Rubin

Fire Alarm

A fire alarm recently caused fear of a fire in the building. On Dec. 15, fire alarms went off during the second half of sixth period forcing everyone to exit to their pre-specified emergency exit locations.

Copious amounts of sawdust in the woodworking class signaled the alarm. The class was making molds to build skateboards using hand mills and arm saws when the alarm went off. There was no fire in the room; alarms were set off by the sawdust in the air.

"When we walked out, we didn't realize it was us," said freshman Luke Greico, a student in the woodworking class.

Students and teachers were surprised by the unexpected fire alarm.

"I thought it was weird for us to have a fire drill at this time of year. I was freezing standing outside for that long. I realized that there might be a real fire when I heard

the sirens," said junior Lani Hack.

After a few minutes, the local fire department arrived to survey the scene and determine the cause of the smoke alarms.

Firefighters gave clearance and ensured that the building was safe to enter again. There was no damage in the building, and students responded positively despite the cold weather.

"I was just happy to get out of class for ten minutes," said junior Bridget McDonnell

~Minah Kim

ERRATA:

In the November 2011 issue, an article, entitled "Library is now open before school" incorrectly stated information about staffing changes in the library. The librarian who used to work in the library in the mornings elected to move districts. Additionally, no librarian volunteered to come in early and leave late; the school district adjusted her hours in order to open the library early.

Additionally, the recent production of *Rumors* was a mainstage theater production and was unrelated to the Drama Club.



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Katya Barrett
Sophia Jaffe

Copy Editors

Matt Heiden
Will Zhou

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Hannah Fagen
Assistant Editors
Minah Kim
Celine Sze

Opinions

Editors
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Staff Writers: Aaron Bialer, Dan Bidikov, Aaron Brezel, Erin Choe, Chad Edelblum, Eleanor Kim, Gabe Lyons, Alexandra McCann, Shari Meltzer, Veronika Onischenko, Dani Ostrove, Daniella Philipson Alexa Pinto, Annie Rubin, Natasha Taluktar, Ethan Weber. **Contributing Writers:** Jessica Commisso, Austin Duquette, Rachel Johnson, Caroline Ogulnick, Hayden Quigley, Jack Simon, Kelly To, Jack Weinkselbaum, Noah White, Lauren Whitman **Cover:** Loren Giron, Harry Paul. **Centerfold:** Katya Barrett, Sophia Jaffe, Hannah Zweig. **Backpage:** Dan Miranda.

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Ira Pernick, principal
Craig Medico, Evelina Zarkh, advisers
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Senior Experience continues to cause controversy

by **Hannah Fagen**

News Editor

Now in its third year, the Senior Experience program continues to evolve, to the dismay of some students and staff.

"The program is not well designed," said science teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty, who created a dissection project through which AP biology students can continue to attend class in May and June. "We have a program that works; it wasn't broken, but now it is."

In its first year, the program was entirely optional. Students who chose to complete local or out-of-town internships could do so at their own leisure, and they were excused from classes after Advanced Placement exams were over.

Last year, participation in the program was initially mandatory, but a group protest at a Board of Education meeting brought about an administrative announcement that participation was optional.

In the end, non-AP students could choose whether or not to complete a project, either as part of a class or on their own. AP students could choose either to remain in class and do assigned work, or complete an outside project and not attend their AP classes.

"In a school, every program grows and changes as a natural part of its evolution," said Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss, who is a coordinator for the Senior Experience Program. "It is a part of the learning process that we engage in as a school community when we change and refine programs based on our experiences in the program."

This year, the administration has decided to mandate participation in the Senior Experience program once again. Students can fulfill this requirement in one

of several ways. Students not taking all AP classes can choose to enroll in one of the several courses that include an embedded senior experience project. These courses include the "Senior Options" class, several other English and social studies classes, and the FACS Senior Experience course.

Students enrolled in AP classes, however, are required to develop internships on their own, with the guidance of an AP mentor and a community sponsor.

These students are expected to complete the same hours requirements as their peers, however, they can complete them after AP exams are administered. AP classes will not be held during this time, and students will not have the option to attend class unless their teacher has designed a specialized Senior Experience project for them to complete there.

This year, each senior is required to complete four hours of work for every week in the second semester. AP students can push these required hours until after the exams in May.

"Senior Experience is about doing something that you might not have time to do during the course of the school year," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. "This can be an internship but is not limited to that at all as it can include community service, a unique personal experience or something that will enrich the Schreiber community."

Some AP teachers and students are frustrated by the administrative decision that essentially prevents students from coming to school in the last month before they graduate.

"For those who are indeed disenfranchised with school by the end of their senior year, I guess this program serves a real need," said Ms. Ezratty. "But for those who enjoy school, learning, friends, it robs them of the last opportunity



Courtesy of Blake and Reid Mergler

Blake and Reid Mergler (class of '11) observe a goat farm during their Senior Experience. The pair traveled to a nutrition seminar in the Berkshires for their project, and this visit to a farm was part of a lesson on how to produce cheese.

to be together."

For many seniors, the last few weeks before graduation serve a special purpose.

"The last few weeks of classes are really when AP students can bond without the pressures of tests and grades," said senior Janice Havasy.

In addition, especially in AP classes, teachers spend much of the year teaching to the tests, and the end of the school year presents a rare opportunity for them to teach students extra material.

"There is still so much to be shared and gleaned during those remaining five weeks of the school year that will otherwise be lost," said AP English teacher Ms. Donna Valenti. "One can always pursue his or her interests on an individual and independent basis, but, sadly, the opportunities that come from the classroom become scarcer as one grows older."

"Students should be able to choose

their curriculum and not be mandated to fulfill a criteria based on an administrative whim," said Ms. Ezratty. "They have their whole lives to 'work'—what is the point of causing them more stress as they search for something to do when what they want to do is stay in school?"

Other criticisms include a feeling of a rushed ending to high school.

"I am feeling pushed out," said Havasy. "I really want to finish my high school career in high school, and they are not letting us. They are basically saying 'Nope, you are done, bye.'"

To reduce confusion and to help explain the requirements, administrators have given presentations to AP social studies classes, as well as to teachers and parents. A full listing of dates, requirements, forms, and previous projects is also available online.

Detectives return for second drug abuse assembly

by **Kelly To**

Contributing Writer

Because of significant drug use on Long Island, schools are taking more preventative measures to educate their students about the fatal effects these substances can have. On Dec. 7 and 8, former undercover detectives Mr. Michael Zotto and Mr. James Murphy visited with Mr. Mike Spinelli, a recovering drug addict, to discuss the dangers of drugs, especially painkillers. Mr. Zotto and Mr.

Murphy previously worked as undercover narcotics buyers and sellers in Nassau County.

"I thought their presentation was very eye-opening because it gave students firsthand knowledge on drug abuse through the videos of former drug addicts sharing their experiences," said sophomore Lylia Li.

After a brief introduction, the presenters played a short media presentation. In the video, previous addicts discussed the methods they used to abuse painkillers and the experiences

they had, including withdrawal. The presentation also included information on the meaning of addiction, the consequences of an overdose, and the impact drugs can have on people's lives and families.

Mr. Spinelli, a previous addict who has now been clean for three years, spoke about his personal experience with drugs. Under the influence of drugs, Mr. Spinelli's father had abused and molested him. Mr. Spinelli first experimented with drugs in the eighth grade when he thought it was "cool." To the audience, he recalled how he told himself, "I'm not a drug addict; I'm not like those homeless people," and that he would "never smoke heroin."

However, he started ditching school and taking more addictive drugs, such as Vicodin and Oxycontin. He also progressed to selling drugs in high school as a result of the influence of upperclassmen.

When he was 18 years old, Mr. Spinelli was kicked out of his house and arrested for stealing. He attempted to quit using drugs but only managed to stay clean for two weeks before yielding once again to the addictive substances.

Mr. Spinelli shared his own struggles resulting from drug use to warn high school students of the consequences that substance abuse can have. He also encouraged upperclassmen to set a positive example for the rest of their classmates since a main factor for his drug

use was the influence of upperclassmen. His motto was "stay aware, be aware," and he encouraged students to seek help from their teachers in times of trouble.

"I feel that the drug assembly was informative and helped students to see the horrors that can be inflicted upon them by taking drugs," said sophomore Amelia Pacht.

Mr. Spinelli and the detectives had also visited some of Schreiber's health classes and clubs, such as the Natural Helpers.

"It's good to be proactive and to stay ahead of the problem," said Ms. Pat Kosiba, a health teacher. "It is great for the students to learn about this topic from many different perspectives and angles; there is a better chance of a light bulb going off in students' heads."

Last year, the detectives visited to give a similar presentation. They focused on highlighting local examples of tragedies caused by drug abuse by featuring the story of Natalie Ciappa, a teen from Plainedge High School who died of an overdose only two months before she was to begin college at SUNY Old Westbury on a merit scholarship. The presenters emphasized that anyone can become a drug addict—even an honors student like Ciappa. They discussed the importance of avoiding dangerous situations and reporting suspicious activity to a responsible adult.

"If you see something, say something," said Ms. Kosiba.



Doriana Hyman

Retired Nassau County detective Mr. James Murphy (left) and recovering addict Mr. Mike Spinelli speak about drug addiction. The two, along with retired detective Mr. Michael Zotto, made a presentation about the dangers of substance abuse.

Broadway assembly

Performers present songs, dances, and stories from their careers

BY Celine Sze

Assistant News Editor

For the first time, in a recent assembly, students and staff had the exclusive opportunity to witness Broadway performers sing, dance, and improvise. On Nov. 29, actors from several Broadway musicals visited to perform selections from each musical and provide insight into their careers in the performing arts.

The concert involved performers with central roles on Broadway productions such as *Wicked*, *The Lion King*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Cabaret*. Ms. Kristy Cates, Mr. Burke Moses, Ms. Kissy Simmons, and Mr. James Monroe Iglehart performed a variety of numbers in character accompanied by Mr. Eugene Gwozdz on piano.

Because Schreiber's spring production in 2012 is *Beauty and the Beast*, Mr. Moses, the original actor who played Gaston on Broadway, sang "Me," which provided student actors with a firsthand example of how to portray this character.

"My favorite singer was Kristy Cates, who played Elphaba in *Wicked*. I thought

she was really passionate and played the part well," said senior Ali McCann.

Director of Creative Arts Ms. Sheri Suzzan helped coordinate this event through contact with Mr. Steven DeAngelis, a Port Washington resident and casting director. For this concert, his job was to put together a group of entertainers who would capture the interest of high school students.

"I customize the events based on performer availability, their versatility, and on whom I think the audience will best respond to," said Mr. DeAngelis. "I choose performers who will really open up and who really love the idea of performing for a student audience."

Although Mr. DeAngelis has produced a multitude of performances in different regions of the country, the concert at Schreiber and a similar one at Weber that occurred last year were his first experiences geared toward a student audience.

"This group was put together specifically for the Schreiber event and while some performers knew of each other, they had not worked together before," said Mr. DeAngelis.



Harry Paul

Ms. Kristy Cates, who played Elphaba in *Wicked*, expresses herself while singing "The Wizard and I." She also performed "Cabaret" from the hit Broadway production, *Cabaret*. She was one of the featured Broadway performers who presented songs and dances from their careers in a collaborative performance.

In addition to their performances, the actors and actresses devoted time to answering questions, ranging from what drove them to pursue acting to their favorite aspects of performing.

"I enjoy performing because it provides instant gratification, and there is an interaction between the performer and the audience," said Ms. Simmons.

Performances were both casual and interactive. Mr. Iglehart called for a volunteer who could beat box for his improvised rap during both assemblies. Sophomore Philip Sorensen and junior Philip Lee, urged on by many in the auditorium, climbed up and provided the beat on stage for the first and second assemblies, respectively. Mr. Iglehart created a rap using several verbs chosen by the audience and tailored it to focus on Schreiber. Lee also beat boxed for Mr. Moses in "Trouble," the first rap on Broadway, from the musical *Music Man*.

Students were not the only ones asked to come up to the stage. As part of her last act, Ms. Simmons called Principal Mr. Ira Pernick in the first assembly and Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller in the second

assembly to the stage. As a humorous joke, she used both administrators to help her perform "Cry Me a River" from *Swing!*

"I thought the funniest part of the show was when Kissy Simmons called Mr. Miller up to the stage. It was nice that the faculty was also able to participate in the assembly," said McCann.

The concert concluded with "Stand by Me" sung by Mr. Iglehart, and many students were enthused by the exclusive performance they witnessed.

"I enjoyed the assembly a lot because it seems like a rare opportunity to get to meet and interact with Broadway performers on a more personal level," said senior Nagisa Ozaki.

Bringing back this assembly next year is a possibility under further consideration.

"As far as the future, it was an extremely costly event," said Ms. Suzzan. "However, we do have a new fundraising organization in town called HEARTS (Helping Enrich the Arts in Port Washington) which will be raising funds to enrich the arts in our schools."



Harry Paul

Mr. Eugene Gwozdz opened with "Overture" from *Phantom of the Opera* and also accompanied the performers on the piano during the recent assembly. He, along with several Broadway performers, gave a concert featuring songs from popular Broadway musicals.

Select student musicians attend All-State Music Festival in Rochester

BY Erin Choe and Natasha Talukdar

Staff Writers

Selected music students from all over New York State gathered in Rochester to perform in the 2011 All-State Conference from Dec. 1 to 4.

While the various student ensembles rehearsed throughout the day, orchestra teacher Mr. Anthony Pinelli and chorus teacher Mr. John Spiezio III, among other educators, attended multiple workshops, such as "Have You Ever... Ridden a Roller Coaster to Teach Tempo?" and "Bach Makes You Better."

Last year, senior Jennifer Kim represented our school in the String Orchestra; this year she had the opportunity to perform with the Symphony Orchestra. In this orchestra, string and band instruments are combined

into one ensemble.

"It was a great honor representing the school. All-State was a great experience because not only did we get to learn and perform such high-level music, but we also got to play along with the state's best musicians," said J. Kim.

Seniors Alison Peraza, Celine Sze, Joonyup Yeom, and junior Halam Kim, also had the opportunity to perform at this year's All-State Conference as members of the Chorus, String Orchestra, and Symphony Orchestra.

Throughout the weekend, the different ensembles had an average of three rehearsals a day, each one ranging from two to three hours. Because the students only had a few days to practice together as an entire group, these rehearsals were planned out ahead of time in order to prepare for the concert.

"The eight hours of rehearsals we had

every day went by quickly and painlessly and were sometimes even really fun," said H. Kim.

Since the music was sent to the students a couple months ahead of time, the main purpose of the rehearsals was not to learn the music but rather to polish specific sections and work on blending the parts of the individual sections into a unified sound.

"The only thing that we had to work on during our rehearsals was decorating the music and making music out of ourselves," said H. Kim. "Instead of playing computerized, rhythmically correct music, we expressed ourselves by using different bow techniques, breathing together, and making music from our hearts."

When the musicians were not rehearsing, they had the opportunity to meet other students from different

regions of the state while reconnecting with those they may have met from other music festivals.

"All-State was a thrilling experience, being able to play and interact with fellow students with mutual liking and dedication to music. I am thankful for our school for being supportive of the music and arts," said Yeom.

All the dress rehearsals occurred on Dec. 3, but the concerts were spread out between Dec. 3 and Dec. 4 and were performed in the Eastman Theatre at the Eastman School of Music.

"Every year is unique with different conductors working with different groups of students. The students learned new techniques and ideas throughout their experiences. The groups and performances were spectacular and emotionally moving," said Mr. Pinelli.

Survey evaluates school atmosphere

52. On average, how much time do you spend on homework per night?

30 minutes to an hour

1 hour - 2 hours

2 hours - 3 hours

3 hours to 3 1/2 hours

more than 3 1/2 hours

Less than 30 minutes

53. Have you taken any Advanced Placement (AP) Courses during your time in high school?

Yes

No

Not yet but I intend to

<< Prev Next >>

www.surveymonkey.com

The survey, linked on the school website, queries students on school climate. The implementation team will use results to assess to what extent school objectives were met.

BY Minah Kim

Assistant News Editor

For the first time since 2008, an implementation team of administrators, teachers, and students in conjunction with the Middle States Association of Secondary Schools sought to evaluate school climate through a student survey. As a member of the Middle States Association of Secondary Schools, Schreiber is required to meet certain accreditation standards and set up a list of objectives. Every seven years, the Middle States Association visits the school to assess whether objectives were met and to implement new action plans to meet future objectives.

Currently, a link to the Middle States Student Survey is on the high school webpage. The survey contains a set of questions to which students can answer strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, or don't know, and students are prompted to provide a reason for answers lower than disagree. The first questions address each of the Middle States Association's standards including mission, governance and leadership, organizational design and staff, educational programs, student life, and facilities. The last section of questions regarding work load, school events, and AP tests were specifically created by the implementation team for Schreiber students.

For the past several weeks, students

have been able to complete the survey online. Additionally, several English teachers took their classes to complete it during class time in computer labs.

"The goal of this survey is to ask our most important clients how we are serving them," said Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller, a Middle States co-internal coordinator. "People look at college acceptance rates and regents diplomas, but there are other metrics we can use to measure school performance."

Comprised of internal coordinators Mr. Miller, English teacher Ms. Giliouf, Principal Mr. Ira Pernick, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Development Dr. Nicholas A. Sterling, the chairperson of each department, parents, and students, the implementation team meets every other month to initiate action plans and monitor progress.

The survey which is currently being conducted allows the implementation team to assess to what extent the school is meeting goals and provides feedback for the initiative being taken. Every student was supposed to be asked through the English department to take the survey. However, some students are neither aware of its existence nor of its purpose.

"I have never even heard of a climate survey. I was not aware that there was a survey available for us to fill out," said junior Bridget McDonnell.

The most recent set of objectives was created six years ago and since then there have been two student climate surveys.

Although they originally planned to have surveys conducted every other school year, other projects prevented the plan's execution since 2008. The survey was initiated again this year to prepare for the upcoming planning of new objectives with the Middle States Association in October 2013.

"The climate survey sets the wheels of progress in motion for the next seven years of visionary planning," said Ms. Giliouf. "This reflective study provides the Middle States Implementation Team with the tools by which they can commence to set new objectives."

The implementation team will analyze the data compiled from the survey and compare it with results from previous years and with other trends that are monitored throughout the year. Results of the most recent survey were compiled and published online, but whether the results of the current survey will be shared is at the discretion of the committee.

By analyzing data and looking for trends, the team is able to develop ways to improve the school. The team looks at data of the student body including overall grades, Regents scores, and the amount of tank, detention and suspensions assigned. The team is required to consider many aspects of the school and keep the objectives fluid and up to date.

Among other things, the committee noticed a negative correlation between the amount of tank/detention assigned and the amount of suspensions. They extrapolated that disciplinary action by teachers at a smaller, more personal scale can decrease the amount of larger-scale misbehaviors. While in the past, a decrease in tank, detention and suspension rates was an objective, since the noticed trends, the objectives have changed accordingly.

Despite the useful and positive results from previous surveys, as with any survey, the issue of error and reliability arise especially in a school setting where students may not take the survey seriously.

"There is a margin of error as there is with any survey. Analyzing results and making sense of them requires discretion and that is what the committee will do," said Mr. Miller.

Students visit Occupy Wall Street

BY Dan Miranda

Assistant Sports Editor

The Occupy Wall Street movement, which originated in New York, has sparked local, national, and international attention. The Canadian company Adbusters started this movement on Sept. 17 in order to nonviolently protest wealth inequality and the corporate influence on the government. Over the course of almost three months, hundreds of thousands of people have become involved in an effort to balance the skewed economic scale of the nation. According to MotherJones.com, the protests have spread to almost 500 locations in the United States and have led to more than 3,000 arrests. This has piqued the interest of many at Schreiber who have seen the protests at Zuccotti Park.

According to occupywallstreet.org, the protests are a "leaderless resistance movement with people of many colors, genders and political persuasions. The one thing we all have in common is that we are the 99 percent that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1 percent."

The protesters decry that the much of the wealth in the United States is controlled by an upper crust of monied institutions, which includes the stockbrokers, banks, and mortgage companies.

The movement sparked public interest, and at one point, thousands of frustrated people were camped out near Wall Street to show their solidarity. After many arrests, public complaints, and even some incidents of violence and illegal drug use, the group is no longer allowed to camp out. A police mandate evacuated their camps at Zuccotti Park on Nov. 15.

What started as a protest against supposed economic injustice turned into a general forum to express discontent.

"I went down with my husband... and it looked very chaotic," said social studies teacher Ms. Renee McClean. "Toward the south end of Zuccotti Park, that's where they had their drums going. In the north end, that's where the people's library was."

An Occupy Wall Street media frenzy sparked many students to visit the protests to observe and learn more about it.

"The media made these people seem like a lot of crazy rebellious hobos, when really they were typical hard working people who lost their jobs or just graduated college and cannot find jobs," said junior Samantha Lotwin.

"The sight of the hundreds of thousands or whatever amount of people is very compelling, but much less so when you see that most of them are peeing in bottles just a few inches down from your line of vision," said junior Benny Scheckner.

Aside from the political protestors with determined agendas, many individuals have joined the protests to promote their own ideas.

"The ratio of rational, politically active people to semi-hobos and crazy people was pretty uneven," said Scheckner. "You look in one direction and you see signs that say 'WE ARE THE 99%' and then you look in another direction and you see signs that say 'OBAMA'S A MARTIAN, I HAVE PROOF!'"

Genetics class analyzes its own mtDNA

BY Eleanor Kim

Staff Writer

The genetics class recently went on a field trip to the Dolan DNA Learning Center, which is part of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. There, students learned more about human geographic origins and performed hands-on activities with their own genetic material.

"I had so much fun at the lab. We did a lot of stuff we couldn't do just by sitting in the classroom," said junior Mary Puglisi. "I think it was cool that we could really do the things we've been learning about."

Each student extracted their own cheek cells from a solution of salt water that they gargled. After condensing the DNA from their cells, researchers working with students put the DNA into a program that sequences a portion of the DNA. Students will receive results from the analysis in a few days. They will then analyze their genetic similarities to their classmates and different hominids using an online database.

"It was a really fun and interesting

experience. I loved the hands-on aspect," said junior Lani Hack. "We were actually able to play around with our DNA."

The students performed a lab working with mitochondrial (mt) DNA. This DNA, found in the mitochondria of human cells, is ideal for analysis because it is copied exactly and passed down from mother to child. As a result, scientists can track direct maternal heredity through these genes. In addition, the information is compressed in large quantities, making it easier to extract the needed pieces.

"It's a trip that we do every year," said genetics teacher Mr. Andrew Apicos. "Because

the mutation rate is extremely small in mitochondrial DNA, you can literally draw on a map how humans have migrated. You can see where your ancestors came from; maybe they crossed over Africa and took a sharp right, or they could have gone across the plains or oceans."



Hannah Fagen

The genetics class recently went on a field trip to perform a lab on their DNA in Cold Spring Harbor. In the foreground, juniors Lani Hack and Mary Puglisi work on the experiment. In the background, senior Milan Tessler sports a Teletubby costume.

MSG Varsity films student council events

Local film network features "students making a difference"

by Jessica Commisso

Contributing Writer

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Student Council organized several humanitarian events that MSG Varsity filmed as part of its "High School Experience" segment. The Council organized a food drive as well as wall-painting, card-writing, and sandwich-making, which all took place on Nov. 22.

"The fact that MSG was there to record the food drive and take part of what is happening at Schreiber was what made it so awesome," said sophomore Michele Lammers.

In order to motivate students to take part in the food drive, Student Council set up a competition between the grade levels. Students dropped off their nonperishable food items in wheelbarrows placed in the lobby and the grade that donated the greatest amount of food would win the competition.

"The food drive was a great success. I was able to deliver an estimated 600 pounds of food to Twin Pines, which was the organization that the food was sent to," said Student Council adviser Ms. Patricia Burr. "At the end of the competition, the senior class ended up winning."

On the day MSG Varsity filmed, students gathered in the student commons after school to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for a nearby shelter, write cards to a student who was recently diagnosed with cancer, and paint walls in the commons. They worked for several hours and filled two boxes with over 50 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

"Making the sandwiches was a lot of fun. MSG Varsity was recording us the

whole time, which made it pretty cool," said Lammers. "It felt great to know that I was helping people who do not have as much, and for some reason seeing all the sandwiches that we were making made me feel really happy."

Students also participated in an event

"It felt great to know that I was helping people who do not have as much, and for some reason seeing all the sandwiches that we were making made me really happy," said sophomore Michelle Lammers.

titled "Leave Your Mark" in which they painted the walls in the student commons and left colorful handprints along with their signatures. Graffiti artist Mr. Ben Peters lent his artistic expertise to help the students create paintings on the walls.

"It got annoying to look at the drab white walls," said junior Evan Kerr, who is an executive officer of the Student Council. "The event itself went on without a hitch. We achieved all that we wanted and got plenty of people to come and help out with everything. All in all I am pretty pleased with the turnout of the event."

A video of these events is now available at msgvarsity.com.

"It was lovely seeing so many students and staff members participating in an activity like this. It was truly one of my highlights about what I do," said Ms. Burr.



Courtesy of Ms. Patricia Burr

MSG Varsity visited on Nov. 22 to film several Student Council events. Junior Debbie Oyarzun, an executive officer, was interviewed for the segment "High School Experience: Students Making a Difference."

Korean pop music inspires students to form dance club

by Shari Meltzer

Staff Writer

Among students' choices for extracurricular activities are over 50 clubs pertaining to just about any interest. The newest addition is the Hip Hop Dance Club.

Senior Will Zhou and juniors Andrew Kim and Halam Kim formed a dance club primarily centered around the genre of K-pop. K-pop, short for Korean pop, artists generally sing as well as perform choreographed dances that often incorporate hip hop and other dance genres. In the club, students learn K-pop dances from watching videos and teaching each other.

"My plan is for everybody in the club to learn a different song and form a dance with choreography, and then teach it to the rest of us. This way everybody will get a chance to teach a dance as well as have a diverse knowledge of the dance," said H. Kim. "I believe that this is an important skill that most should get to experience and this way everybody is able to enhance their abilities to teach."

H. Kim came up with the idea of

creating the Hip Hop Dance Club, when she saw many high school dance clubs in Korea this past summer. She decided to create a dance club for students who may not have the time or money to attend a private dance class, especially in today's economic climate. Zhou and A. Kim developed a similar idea at the same time, and the three decided to make one club together. This club now gives students the chance to dance when they have the time without having to make a large commitment.

"This club provides students with a chance to learn their favorite dance without having to worry about the time and money of it all," said H. Kim.

The club will be separated into different groups so that students can dance the type of dances they enjoy. There will be a hip hop section for both boys and girls, a section for slower dances, and a breakdance group.

After practicing, the club hopes to videotape their choreographed dances and possibly post them on YouTube.

Advised by ESL teacher Mr. John Davis, the club meets on Thursday mornings before school and sometimes Friday afternoons after school.



Kelly To

Students teach each other and practice dances in small groups. The Hip Hop Dance Club meets twice a week to rehearse and learn new dances to Korean pop music.

National English Honor Society makes donation to Friends of Karen



Elana Galassi

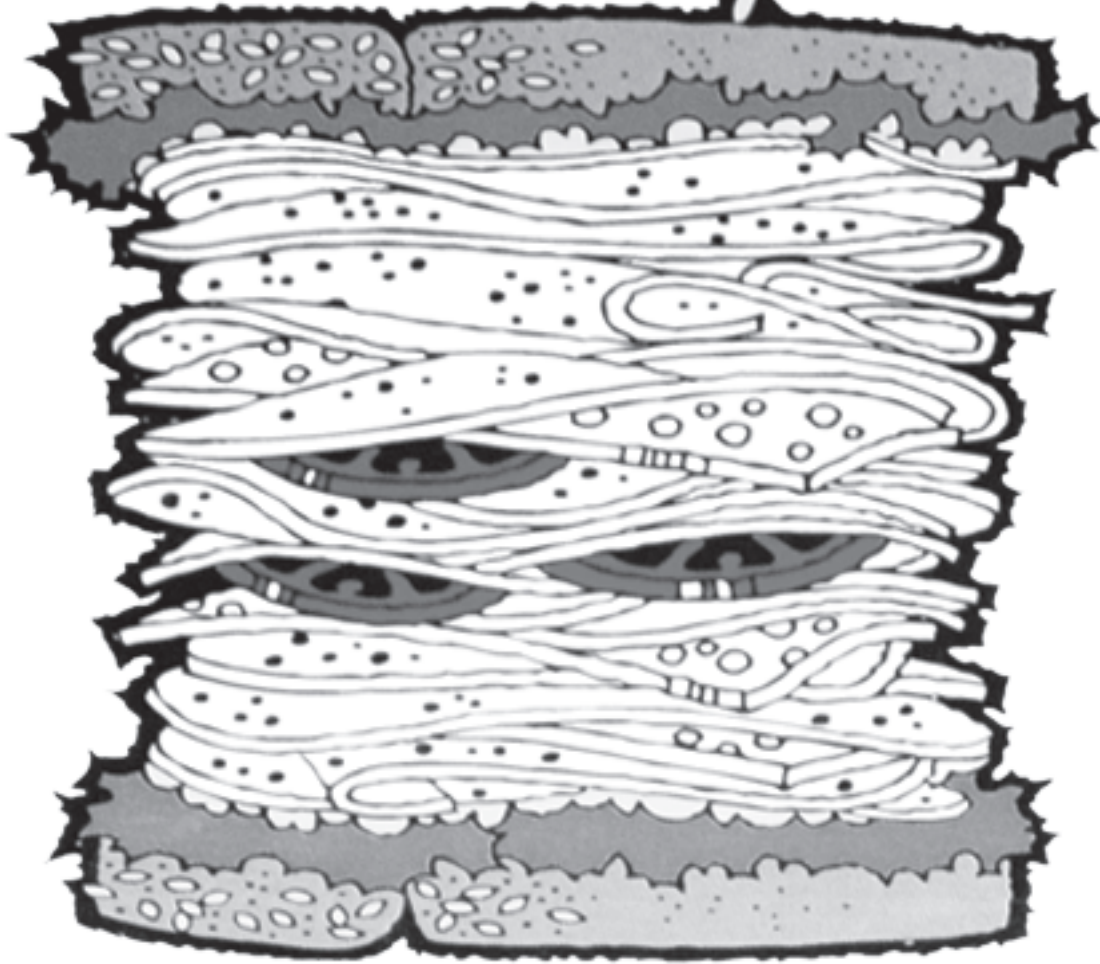
After holding several bake sales starting last year, Schreiber's chapter of the National English Honor Society presented gift cards to a representative from Friends of Karen, an organization whose goal is to provide support to families who have children with potentially fatal diseases. With \$500 from bake sales, the Honor Society purchased gift cards to stores such as: Target, Barnes and Noble, and Old Navy, so that parents can afford holiday gifts for their children. The Honor Society presented these gifts to Ms. Patricia Conway, the Special Events/Community Affairs representative for the organization, at a meeting on Dec. 13. Above, the Honor Society board members present their donations. From left: senior Nina Devas, junior Hallie Whitman, senior Alexis Fessatidis, senior Renee Cohen, Ms. Conway, senior Amanda Goorin, senior Genevieve Bellon, and junior Hannah Zweig.

~Celine Sze

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Point

Counterpoint

Are gifts from students to teachers appropriate?

BY Aaron Bialer

Staff Writer

The holidays are quickly approaching, and the air is filled with holiday spirit. Christmas music livens up the radio, and social media is full of holiday advertisements. Children have begun writing their letters to Santa Claus, and many have begun purchasing holiday gifts for their family and friends.

Despite this seasonal spirit of gift-giving, many students neglect to give presents to their teachers who deserve them for a plethora of reasons.

One of the largest reasons for students to bestow gifts on their teachers is to thank them for their hard work.

Students do not understand what some teachers go through in school. Like students who have large amounts of work, teachers have responsibilities of their own. In a given day, they must grade assignments, discipline bad behavior, withstand constant complaints from students, and receive phone call complaints from parents. A nice present may be a great stress reliever for teachers.

"I like giving gifts to teachers that mean something to both of us because it helps us connect with one another," said senior Nina Devas.

Students may also want to thank a teacher for a more specific reason. For example, if a teacher writes a college or work recommendation, the student should give them a token of their appreciation.

Additionally, students should be grateful for their education.

"The gift of knowledge is greater than any jewel," said sophomore Aviv Cohen.

Education is a gift that will help in every aspect of one's life, so it is natural that a student should reciprocate this gift with a neatly wrapped gift. A piece of jewelry only provides momentary beauty, whereas a good education endures for a lifetime.

Because education is so significant, students should give gifts as a show of respect to those who educate them.

Teachers have a huge impact on students' lives. Not only do teachers provide students with an education, but the teachers act as role models and guide students through their years together. Students will often go to teachers for advice and support.

These gifts can take a wide variety of forms, however small or inexpensive, because the gesture is more important than the object.

A present could be as simple as a homemade card or baked goods. In fact,

many teachers appreciate the effort put into a homemade gift more than they would a purchased gift.

Teachers appreciate a simple acknowledgement of their hard work with a little gift that embodies holiday spirit and gratefulness.

"It is not about what the gift is, but about the thought," said math teacher Ms. Tina Gallagher. "I got a handmade Valentine's Day card from a student a few years ago, and I still have it."

The thought and effort put into a gift are much more valuable than the price.

There are various reasons for giving gifts, even if it is simply to put a smile on someone

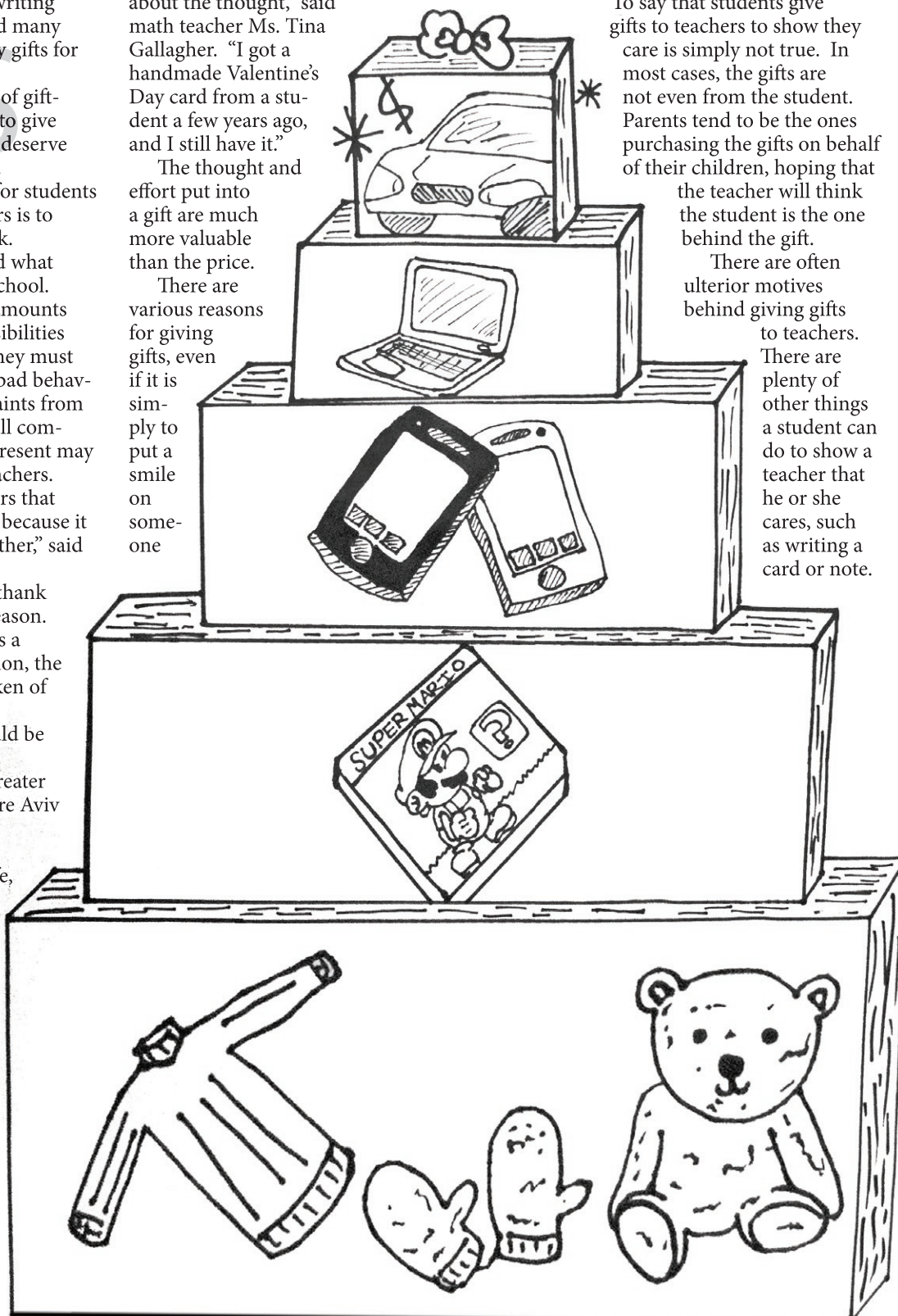
BY Ethan Weber

Staff Writer

Around the holidays, it is common for students to give gifts to their teachers. However, it is not an entirely appropriate way to thank teachers for what they do.

To say that students give gifts to teachers to show they care is simply not true. In most cases, the gifts are not even from the student. Parents tend to be the ones purchasing the gifts on behalf of their children, hoping that the teacher will think the student is the one behind the gift.

There are often ulterior motives behind giving gifts to teachers. There are plenty of other things a student can do to show a teacher that he or she cares, such as writing a card or note.



Marcelo Derek Chabla & Fuko Yano

else's face. Teachers welcome presents of any kind, but homemade gifts are the most special.

Students should definitely give gifts to their teachers for the holidays. It is a nice gesture and a small emblem of holiday cheer and spirit.

However, some students opt to give presents to teachers in order to get on their good side.

"A nice gesture, like giving a teacher a card or gift, is especially appropriate when a teacher writes a recommendation for a student. But a lot of the time, students think that teachers will be more

lenient with grades if they can flatter them with a holiday gift," said senior Alexis Fessatidis.

Gift-giving implies reciprocity. Cards do not create the same sense of indebtedness as gifts do. If someone gives you a card, there is no expectation of a card in return. On the other hand, students who give gifts to teachers may expect them to somehow return the favor.

"Friendly gestures of appreciation like gift cards are fine, but at a certain point you're just racking up brownie points," said junior Mike Krellenstein.

Indeed, allowing students to rack up brownie points with their parents' money is unfair. Those who are unable to afford gifts are at a disadvantage because they can not show appreciation with material items.

On the other side of the spectrum are the students who can afford to give every teacher a gift, which is not just a kind gesture but really a way of improving a student's standing with his or her teachers.

Gift-giving is more than just a simple token of appreciation. Though gifts do not directly affect grades or how a teacher interacts with a student, gifts will inevitably put the student in a fonder light from the teacher's perspective.

This may become important when a teacher is trying to choose whether or not to round a score of 89 up to a 90 or to give a paper a B or a B+. When a teacher is on the fence about a grade, the thought of a particular student's warm gesture could influence the teacher to be more generous in assigning a final score.

These effects can also become evident in class. Though we like to think of teachers as completely unbiased, we cannot overlook the fact that teachers gravitate towards those students with whom they develop a relationship.

Allowing students to essentially buy these relationships with gifts will lead to advantages for wealthier students. Students with monied families who value education have enough advantages in school already in the form of tutors, parents who finance their academic pursuits, and supplies. Allowing them to use their money to influence their relationships with teachers only exacerbates the problem.

A teacher is not wrong for accepting a gift, and a student is not wrong for giving a gift. Relationships between students and teachers are extremely important in order for students to do well.

The problem is that the system allows important relationships to be built on material things. Forms of flattery should never affect a teacher's opinion of a student. Notes or cards are far more appropriate gestures around the holidays to show appreciation.

Though it may seem harmless, the practice of giving gifts to teachers gives affluent students an edge and devalues the true meaning of gift-giving.

Students bear the burden of bunched buses

New budget cuts decrease expenses but increase discomfort

BY **Katya Barrett**

Editor-In-Chief

On a cold, rainy Thursday in November, I waited until 3:39 p.m. for my bus to arrive at the Schreiber circle. Though the weather that day was uniquely bad, the time the bus arrived was not.

My bus arrives at or around 3:35 every day, compared to the 3:20 pick up time that was typical during my first three years of high school.

The primary reason for this change? Budget cuts in the transportation department. Because of these, my bus now carries both middle-schoolers and high-schoolers. And although the middle school's dismissal bell rings later than the high school's bell, some of the buses go to Weber first.

I, along with all those who now share buses with Weber students, wait about fifteen minutes longer to get home from school.

Fifteen minutes might not seem like an extremely long time, but when it's cold, and your backpack is heavy, it seems like an eternity.

I'm not trying to say that the bus changes are inherently bad. According to a *Newsday* article published in September, by getting fewer buses to cover all the routes, the Port Washington School District cut \$412,000, or 17%, from its transportation budget. And, according to this same article, all the district had to do was reduce the bus fleet from 33 to 26.

While an article, titled "Smarter Busing," makes a valid point about the importance of saving money in tough economic times, it does not tell the whole story.



Brian Seo

It makes the district's new method of busing sound perfect, which, as I am sure all the other students waiting for their bus in the cold November rain would tell you that it is

not. My bus ride home used to be calm and peaceful. I could relax in my seat,

chat with a friend, or take an amazing 20 minute power nap.

Now, when I get on my bus, it is a challenge to even find someplace to sit. The middle-schoolers, given the chance to get on the bus first, exploit it by sitting one person to a row and propping their overstuffed backpacks and large musical instruments on the seat next to them.

I feel bad when I ask a seventh-grader to put her cello on her lap so I can sit down; I really do. But seating choice is now an infrequent luxury. And don't even ask about what has happened to my power naps.

There is a logical explanation for the fact that buses pick up middle-schoolers before high-schoolers.

"Having buses pick students up at Schreiber and then turning left into Weber would have caused a lot of traffic on Campus Drive," said Schreiber Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. "A factor was to keep the traffic pattern on Campus Drive moving in the same direction."

I do sincerely applaud the district on the budget cuts, which are reported in the *Newsday* article to have allowed the hiring of new teachers and new class options.

Obviously, crowded and loud buses are far from the worst things in the world. But let us not pretend that everything is perfect, and instead acknowledge that we have cut more than just seven buses in order to save this money. Bus power naps were an important part of my day.

And maybe we could think about picking up the high-schoolers first. I don't play an instrument, but I'll gladly put my backpack on my lap if a seventh-grader is looking for a seat.

The comforts of cooking felt by students and stomachs

BY **Danielle Ostrove**

Staff Writer

During a hectic day of homework and extracurricular activities after school, who has time to think about what they are going to eat for dinner?

Ordering food seems to be the quickest solution for a tasty meal. However, there is a downside to this convenient way of obtaining food: only a small percentage of our generation knows how to cook for themselves.

This proves to be an issue because cooking is much more than a hobby; it is a skill needed to survive. Cooking is a

"I think it is definitely important for our generation to know how to cook," said junior Kimberly Nahas.

beneficial skill to have not just for emergencies like storms or power outages, but as a part of maintaining a healthy diet and spending less money in the process.

A majority of students and young adults still feel that it's easier to order than cook, but they are ignoring the benefits of cooking one's own meals.

When a meal is home-cooked, all of the ingredients can be accounted for, and there is no mystery about what is being consumed. Additionally, students forget that it is much easier to maintain a healthy diet if one is aware of exactly what one is eating on a daily basis.

Also, people should be more versed on the art of cooking since it is a skill that is unaffected by age or location and should be preserved by the younger generations.

Not only a convenience, cooking is a way to keep family traditions strong. Many families take pride in cooking large and delicious meals as a way to come together and create traditions.

"I think it is definitely important for our generation to know how to cook. It is a great skill and obviously really convenient," said junior Kimberly Nahas. "It is also a great way for families to spend time together."

At Schreiber, the Family and Consumer Sciences Department is making strides to teach students how to cook for themselves. The two FACS teachers, Ms. Sally Reinhardt and Ms. Robyn Block, try

to make their classes fun and informative in many ways because cooking teaches students to become more independent.

"Ms. Reinhardt's class was fun, and I learned so much about cooking. It is a lot easier than I thought it would be, and now I love to cook. More people in high school should know how to cook so they can be more independent in whatever they do after they graduate," said junior Ashley Berliner.

Although having food delivered seems like the easiest option most of the time, it is important to know how to make your own food. Cooking at home is a lot less costly than ordering a meal because there are many delicious meals that can be made with common raw ingredients. The simplest dishes, such as pasta, can often be prepared without a trip to the supermarket.

Cooking is an easy and valuable activity that our generation could come to love.



Risa Choi

Editorials

Fulfilling hours does not equal a fulfilling Senior Experience

For the senior class, the last spring in high school is a wonderful time. Because concerns for school melt away with the last vestiges of snow, second semester should be treasured, not "gotten over with."

Yet the newly changed and once again mandatory Senior Experience program wraps the bittersweet end of high school in numbing red tape.

If we may quote Christopher Hitchens: "Virtue and merit can become their opposites if they are exacted or compelled." Under an optional Senior Experience program, the school would certainly have dozens of excellent projects from enthusiastic seniors.

Under the current, mandatory Senior Experience, the school will have 400 mediocre projects from 400 resentful seniors.

The changes to the program this year have not been entirely bad, but they do not fix Senior Experience entirely, something which will only happen if the program is made optional again.

To its credit, the administration has changed its policy that students in AP classes must work harder than their peers after AP exams in May by fulfilling more hours. Yet the system now still unfairly burdens AP students, who must squeeze a fixed amount of hours into a shorter span of time.

Additionally, teachers and students are still uncertain about their new roles, and there are no "official" answers that clear the air.

If the Senior Experience program was optional, the district would see students rushing to take advantage of an opportunity to explore their interests with a genuine learning experience.

We disagree with a mandatory Senior Experience program in principle, but even if the program remains in place, we think it is a shame that it relies on such shaky foundations.

In addition, the current Senior Experience policy assumes that learning ends when testing ends. This is precisely backwards.

A mandatory Senior Experience program implies that there is nothing worth learning in AP classes beyond that knowledge required for the test. Students who are simply interested in their classes, in learning more about calculus or chemistry or Italian, have no place within this program. Mandatory senior experience ignores the fact that the best learning occurs spontaneously.

The best experiences also provide time for a solemn, slow goodbye before we march on to the "real world."

Because of this, *The Schreiber Times* would like to encourage senior students and their teachers to attend the next Board of Education meeting at 8 p.m. on Jan. 10 to voice their opinions on this matter.

We also respectfully invite anyone who supports the program to attend as well or to write a letter to the editors of this newspaper.

Reaction against derogatory language

On two days in early December, students were ushered into the auditorium for the standard annual drug assembly. Each year, administrators make special efforts to be sure that, as students, we are constantly forewarned about the dangers of drug abuse. This year's assembly featured two former detectives and a recovering addict.

However, it wasn't just the colorful pills projected on the screen or the heart-wrenching story of a recovering addict that shook the audience.

While discussing the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, one of the two detectives indicated that a teenager acting foolishly with beer cans stacked on his forehead, "was acting immature and retarded."

Sources have also indicated that the detective used the same phrase to describe reckless behavior in several other lectures over the two days.

Retard, in actuality, means to delay or hold back; in music, ritardando is the term used to indicate that the pace of a piece decreases.

The more common usage of the word, however, is as a derogatory term stemming from the clinical term "mentally retarded," which has been used for decades to describe patients with delayed development or less-than-normal mental or emotional capabilities.

Over the years, "retarded" has become a derogatory word, often used to express the foolishness of one's actions. Derogatory use of this clinical term can be very offensive to individuals with mental disabilities and is not appropriate for any environment.

The Special Olympics started an initiative called, "R-Word: Spread the word to end the word," in 2004. Since then, they officially removed the term "mentally retarded" from all of their literature, and replaced it with "intellectually dis-

abled." Rosa's Law, a 2010 bill signed into law by President Barack Obama, removed such terms from all federal health, education, and labor policies.

The Schreiber Times was very disappointed to hear the detective inappropriately describe foolish behavior as "retarded" during the assembly.

The two former detectives indicated that seniors should act as role models for the underclassmen. Similarly, the speakers themselves should act as respectable role models for the community. And this was not exemplary behavior.

The use of inappropriate language during the presentation took away from the speakers' message. *The Schreiber Times* would like to encourage school administration to invite speakers who are more conscientious of their use of language.

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

Times Policy Statement

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

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

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

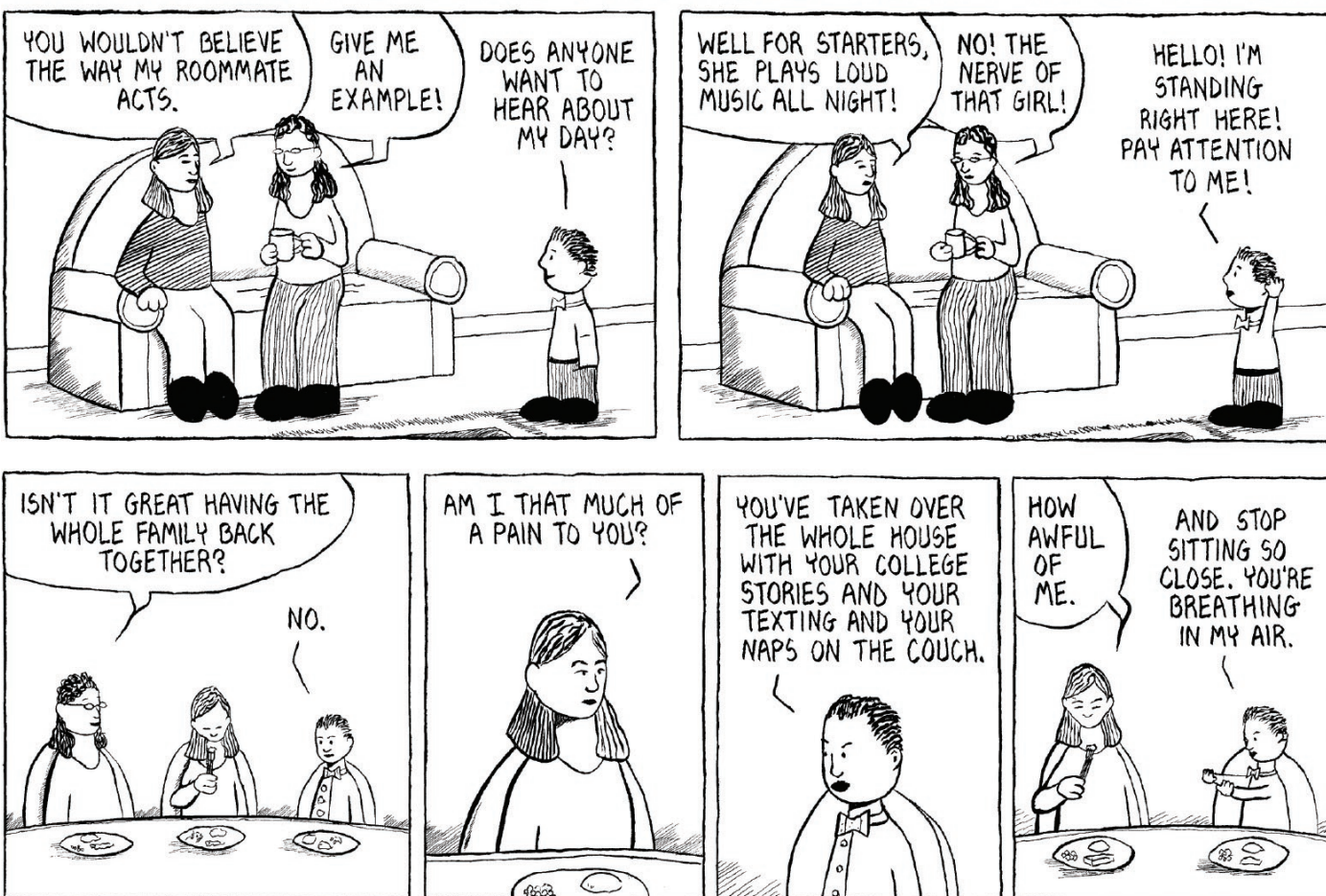
We will print letters to the editors if judged to be of sufficient quality and importance on a space-available basis. We will not print letters that are obscene, libelous, or contain unfounded charges. The Times reserves the right to shorten letters if doing so does not alter their meaning, and to choose a representative letter from a group of related ones. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors. We will not print any anonymous letters.

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

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

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

THE HART KNOCK LIFE: WHEN YOUR OLDER SIBLING COMES HOME...



Students describe Schreiber in three words

Top picks include diverse, cliquy, competitive

BY Steven Krainin and Hannah Zweig

Contributing Writer and Features Editor

When asked which three words he would use to describe the student body, Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller conveyed the difficulty of completing this task.

“I find the Schreiber student body to be incredibly diverse and thus lacks a singular description,” said Mr. Miller. “Schreiber is a cacophony that becomes a

“Schreiber is a great school, but it suffocates your life and is increasingly stressful,” said junior Nathan Lefcowitz.

symphony.”

The Schreiber Times, however, asked students to choose three of fifteen previously chosen word to most accurately describe the student body.

This survey was based on a similar study conducted at Harvard by students at Dalton, a New York City private school known for its academic culture. The survey yielded much insight about Dalton’s culture both inside and outside the classrooms.

“Diverse” was one of the few words that Schreiber students generally agreed upon. Even faculty members agreed that this school has one of the most heterogeneous communities they have ever seen.

Due to our proximity to New York City and the range of ethnicities present in the district, many students might take

this for granted. However, it is certainly something that separates our school from many others across the country, as well as in many of our neighboring towns.

As seniors embark on their college adventures, they will inevitably encounter individuals who have never met a student of an Egyptian, Pakistani, or Vietnamese descent, and some of them will never have met a first or second-generation immigrant.

Our diverse district will undoubtedly leave students with a more worldly perspective upon their departure from Schreiber.

But there are some considerable downfalls to the wide range of ethnicities that Schreiber incorporates into its large student body. Cliquy was the second most prevalent answer chosen by students to describe the entire student body.

“I think students tolerate, not accept, each other because there is a huge difference between the terms,” said junior Christianne Bharath, president of the Gay-Straight Alliance.

Tolerance requires a fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward those who are different, while acceptance is more personal and requires legitimate interaction and favorable relationship between individuals.

Students at Schreiber appear to only exhibit the former. With one look at the cafeteria, it is not difficult to sense the feeling of indifference towards other students.

Each group has their own table and each group talks amongst itself. There is little to no interaction other than the occasional “can I borrow this chair?”

Which begs the question: do cliquy and diverse actually go hand in hand? While they might have opposite connotations, the two do seem to mesh within the walls of Schreiber.

On the contrary, the two have the potential to be rival descriptions in a perfect world in which everyone of different races, ethnicities, and religions were completely accepting of one another.

While Schreiber may be unique from many other high schools across the country, cliquy-ness is inevitable.

As stated in the mission statement, “Schreiber High School endeavors to ensure that excellence is achieved through high expectations and accountability.” Alas, it is no surprise that the third word most chosen by students to describe our school was competitive.

“Schreiber is a great school, but it suffocates your life and is increasingly stressful,” said junior Nathan Lefcowitz.

Perhaps this is one of the most accurate insights into the culture of Schreiber. While we are not all as competitive as others, among certain students, the contentious atmosphere is palpable, especially in honors and AP classes.

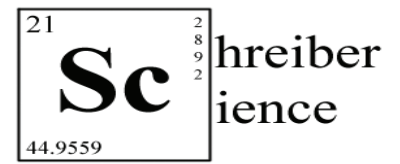
Some students’ parents hire several tutors in order to allow students to stay in more rigorous classes. Perhaps this is why the description “laid-back” garnered 32 less votes than that of “competitive”.

Interestingly, many of the top adjectives picked by students were not necessarily positive ones.

While many students strive to remain honest and inclusive, they feel that the student body as a whole neither shares nor embodies these values.

In essence, many students felt disconnected from the Schreiber community. Some, especially in the faculty who constantly strive to eliminate cheating, may find the low rating for words like honest concerning.

While capturing the complexity of the student body in three words is nearly impossible, it is extremely insightful.



BY Kerim Kivrak

Assistant A&E Editor

While the world of particle physics hardly seems like the stuff of exciting news, scientists and science fans around the globe recently tuned into a much-anticipated announcement out of the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, in Geneva. On Dec. 13, after years of frustration and a seemingly endless search, researchers at CERN have significantly narrowed their hunt for the elusive Higgs boson.

The Higgs boson, or “God particle” as it has been nicknamed, is an important missing piece in the puzzle of our current Standard Model of the universe. As of now, it still cannot be explained why anything has mass without the Higgs field. The Higgs boson, and the theoretical quantum field it creates, would explain the existence of mass and fill the gap in the Standard Model.

The confirmation of the Higgs boson’s existence (or nonexistence) would be a massive discovery and would finally complete the Standard Model of the universe. Many prominent scientists, including the famous theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking, maintain that the Higgs boson does not exist.

“It will be much more exciting if we don’t find the Higgs,” said Hawking on BBC Radio. “That will show that something is wrong, and we need to think again.”

Either way, the efforts at CERN will provide a definitive answer.

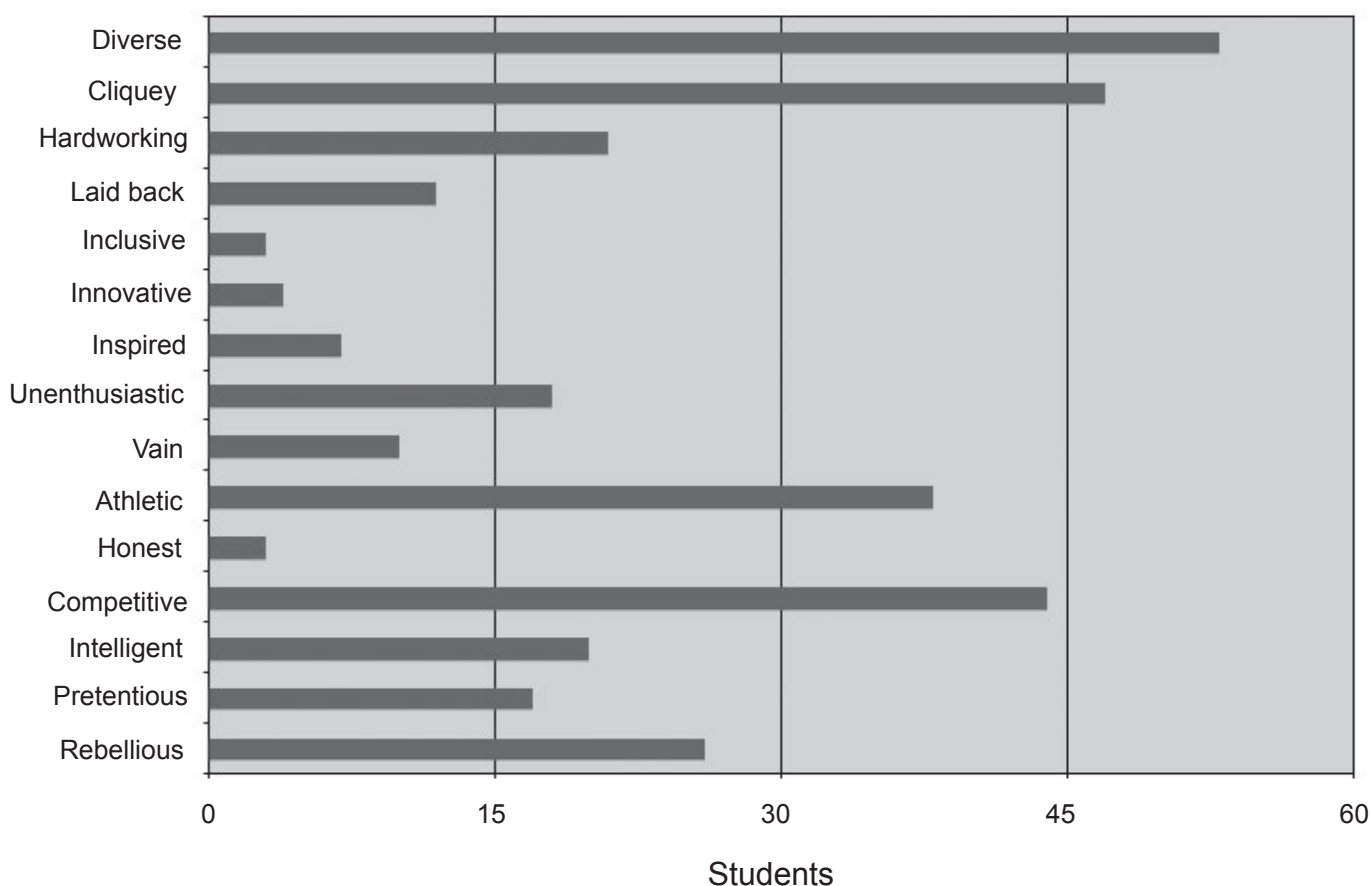
CERN was appropriately prudent in its announcement. Earlier this year, CERN’s OPERA experiment announced that they had clocked neutrinos, a type of subatomic particle, traveling faster than the speed of light, in violation of Einstein’s theory of special relativity. The finding was met with harsh scrutiny and criticism, and investigation is ongoing.

CERN has avoided this sort of problem by simply announcing they have narrowed their search for the Higgs boson, stressing that no “discovery” would be announced until they were entirely positive that the particle does or does not exist.

The lack of results out of CERN’s Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which is a key component to the potential discovery of the Higgs boson particle, has frustrated scientists and laymen alike. While researchers recognized that results would take time, most people expected some sort of result—whether an Earth-devouring black hole or the discovery of the Higgs boson—when the first beam traveled around the 27 kilometer circumference of the colossal particle accelerator in September 2008.

Shortly afterwards, an accident put the LHC out of commission until November of the following year. Many began to question whether the instrument, which is anticipated to cost a total of over \$5 billion, was worth that amount, but these critics have been silenced amidst the excitement over CERN’s announcement.

Researchers are incredibly optimistic as we enter the new year. Many anticipate a discovery or confirmation of the Higgs boson’s existence or nonexistence within the next few months, with some experts pointing towards this summer. We are closer to the discovery of the evasive “God particle” than ever before.



Steven Krainin

Out of 105 students surveyed, 17% chose “diverse” to describe the Schreiber student body, which garnered the greatest amount of votes. Coming in with the second and third most votes were “cliquy” and “competitive.” The chart above shows the most and least popular adjectives that students used to describe the school.

(S)(T)(A)(N)(D)(A)(R)(D)(I)(Z)(E)(D) (S)(T)(R)(E)(S)(S)

In the past few months, there have been countless exposés written on standardized test cheating occurring in nearby Long Island communities. What few of these exposes delve into, however, is why exactly these students felt that all the risks of getting caught were worth taking just to get that one good grade.

In Denise Clark Pope's book, *Doing School: How We Are Creating a Generation of Stressed-Out, Materialistic, and Miseducated Students*, Pope tries to explain this phenomenon: "These students explain that they are busy at what they call 'doing school.' Instead of thinking deeply about the content of their courses and delving into projects and assignments, the students focus on managing the workload and honing strategies that will help them to achieve high grades."

Apparently, for some more desperate students, these strategies include cheating. While previous studies and articles have discussed the frequent cheating that occurs within a high school, cheating on standardized tests tends to be viewed as more serious.

Therefore, when students are caught cheating, the cases usually have a high profile, as seen with the Great Neck-centered scandal.

To students who believe that a good SAT or ACT score is key to their future,

"I took unprescribed ADHD medication to take a major standardized test because I heard it would help me concentrate," said one student, who requested that his or her name be withheld. "I had heard of a lot of other students taking it and saying it helped them. In the moment, it seemed like it was going to help, but it did not actually seem to make a big difference."

the payoff can seem huge, while the risks seem less important.

Out of 180 students recently polled by *The Schreiber Times*, more than half said that cheating on the SAT would be worth it, because the possibility of not getting caught outweighed the risk of possible repercussions.

"It is a lot more difficult to consistently cheat during four years of high school than it is to cheat during one day in June," said senior Michelle Gil. "One day in June should not tell the story of your entire

high school career."

While the SATs, and other standardized tests including the ACTs, certainly generate a lot of hype, it is unclear how much they actually count when it comes to getting into college. While they reflect only a four-hour test taking experience and the student's transcript reflects four years of work, many colleges view standardized test scores as the second or third most important aspect of an applicant's resume.

"I personally think that your SAT scores are as important, if not more, than your grades," said social studies teacher Mr. Petro Macrigrigiane. "I think the reason why is because it would be very hard for universities to compare students. How do you know how the grade-point average of a student here compares with the GPA of a student in New Hyde Park? It is a question of standardization."

Students may prefer to believe that the numerical data of the SATs is not one of the primary things that they are judged on.

"Every college information session that I have attended says that the most important part of your application is the rigor of your class workload and how well you do in your classes," said senior Juliana Beall. "I think that is a fairer way of judging students."

The fact remains that because of the pure volume of students that apply to college each year, standardized tests remain an easy way to evaluate and compare students.

"Many schools will only use numerical criteria when looking at applicants for efficiency reasons," said Director of Guidance Mr. Hank Hardy. "A great amount of pressure has been put on this one test. This test is just one blip on your educational performance and to base a student's total academic ability on it is misleading. I have some concerns about the whole process."

Despite such misgivings about how accurate a reflection a student's standardized test score is of their intellectual ability, it seems an almost unchangeable and unchangeable system. The College Board recently concluded that a student's score on the writing section of the SAT can be a predictor of the success that student will have in their freshman year of college.

In a study published by the University of California, however, after over 75,000 students were analyzed, data showed that the SAT's role in predicting the grades of a student in his or her freshman year of college was almost non-existent.

Essentially, this study showed that the SAT score added basically nothing to an admissions officer's ability to predict how a student will perform in college.

"The SATs measure your natural test-taking ability and how much you practiced," said senior Renee Cohen. "It is not a good measurement of academic ability."

It is clear that the high pressure system of standardized tests has more than a few valid arguments against it. What it comes down to today, however, is that as long as this system will continue to exist, the pressure will continue to intensify.

"The approach is not perfect, but the pressure is certainly on," said Mr. Hardy.

CONCERNING STANDARDIZED TESTING CONDUCT, SCHREIBER STUDENTS IN GENERAL ARE:

VERY HONEST
(NO CHEATING)



SOMEWHAT HONEST



ABOUT AVERAGE



SOMEWHAT DISHONEST



VERY DISHONEST
(FREQUENT CHEATING)



 = 10 PEOPLE

WHAT I GET ON THE SATs IS:

MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY GRADES IN SCHOOL



AS IMPORTANT AS MY GRADES IN SCHOOL



LESS IMPORTANT THAN MY GRADES IN SCHOOL



IS CHEATING ON THE SATs EVER WORTH IT?

YES



MAYBE



NO



"We have students coming in to high school worrying about every grade and every change in their schedule. It has become more competitive than ever before."

Alas, in a system where standardized test scores have amassed so much significance, students are often driven to play a

dirtier game when trying to maintain the perfect resume. In light of the recent SAT scandal that has smeared the reputations of students and schools across Nassau County, it is important to analyze the factors that have contributed to such cheating.

Long Island, which is known for producing highly competitive and qualified applicants, is an extremely intense environment to apply to college from. With competition from classmates, as well as from the ever-increasing number of applications from both United States students

and international students each year, students involved with the scandal may have felt that a high, however unfairly earned, SAT score was the only way to get ahead and stand out among their classmates.

Does all of this pressure, however, mean that students should be pardoned

for their immoral, not to mention illegal, behavior?

"We will never condone lying and cheating, and despite the increased amount of pressure, we cannot lose sight of the same basic concepts and morals

"It is a lot more difficult to consistently cheat during four years of high school than it is to cheat during one day in June," said senior Michelle Gil. "One day in June should not tell the story of your entire high school career."

that we grew up with," said Mr. Hardy. "The fact that there is more pressure does not mean that the ends justify the means."

Other than the blatant type of cheating discovered recently on Long Island, namely paying another student to take the test for you, there are other, also questionable methods that students use to get ahead on standardized tests.

One strategy that is particularly prevalent in Schreiber is the unprescribed use of ADHD medication both leading up to and while taking such tests.

"I took unprescribed ADHD medication to take a major standardized test because I heard it would help me concentrate," said one student, who requested that his or her name be withheld. "I had heard of a lot of other students taking it and saying it helped them. In the moment, it seemed like it was going to help, but it did not actually seem to make a big difference. I could concentrate better on some sections, such as math, but it made doing reading sections even more difficult."

This student was then able to name more than ten other students who had used similar techniques in an attempt to raise their scores on standardized tests.

While such amphetamines, including Adderall, Ritalin, and Concerta, can help students study more effectively, they are also dangerous drugs when not prescribed. They come along with side effects such as increased heart rate and mood swings. These drugs also can have very different, and sometimes very harmful, effects on each person, so by taking them without consulting a doctor and receiving a prescription, students are putting themselves at risk.

There are multiple threads on the popular community discussion website collegeconfidential.com regarding taking such amphetamines to both study more effectively and perform better on standardized tests. While the many posts on the subject bring up the facts that these drugs are illegal (if they are not pre-

scribed), dangerous, and possibly addictive, the general consensus appears to be that a lot of students do it and that such drugs seem to be helpful.

So with different, unfair forms of improving scores, ranging from hiring a test-taker to impersonate you to taking medicines intended to enhance concentration, to the classic peaking at another student's answers, the emphasis placed on standardized testing begins to make less sense.

If less emphasis was placed on such tests, the students might feel less desperate and therefore less inclined to cheat.

There are ever more reasons why standardized tests are an ineffective way of evaluating a person. The word standard, as used in the word standardized, is defined as "used or accepted as normal or average."

The idea, therefore, of standardized test is that they provide a baseline for students from all regions and all backgrounds to be judged on. A valid argument, however, exists that the SATs and other such tests can never really be standard.

There are various arguments stating that the SATs are, in many ways, a wealth test. Being able to afford standardized testing preparation, from review books to tutors, often contributes to getting a high score.

Without the help of my tutor, I would have failed the math section much worse than I already did," said senior Elyse Belarge.

With the increased prevalence of tutors and extensive preparation for the SAT, it is now more frequent that students stand out for their poor scores than for their high ones.

"Back when kids just got a good night's sleep and took the SAT, it was a leveler that helped you find the diamond in the rough," said Steve Syverson in a *New York Times* article. Mr. Syverson is the Dean of Admissions at Lawrence University, one of a handful of colleges that has made sending standardized test scores optional. "Now that most of the great scores are affluent kids with lots of preparation, it just increases the gap between the haves and the have-nots."

So while standardized tests are a way of differentiating between applicants for many colleges and universities, this barometer of academia has many flaws. But as long as the importance of these tests, instead of the logical points about their fallacies, is emphasized, students will continue to feel overwhelmed and stressed about them. And yes, some students will continue to take unfair steps to get ahead.

"No, if the tests were not seen as so important then I would not have felt the need to take the steps I did," said another student who took unprescribed ADHD medication to prepare for the SATs and who requested that his or her name be withheld. "But with everyone saying that they were so important for my future, it was what I felt I needed to do."

By Katya Barrett, Sophia Jaffe, and Hannah Zweig

The forbidden voyage: Journey to the center of the teacher's lounge

Matthew Heiden reveals the scintillating details of his perilous excursion

BY **Matthew Heiden**

Copy Editor

For a student, which place is the greatest object of curiosity, wonder, and fear? The teachers' lounge. My task: enter the forbidden territory to report on the magical artifacts and amazing features inside. Can it be done? Only one way to find out...

Attempt 1: Seduction

You can catch more flies with honey than vinegar. So I've been told, but it seems that I would need to work up my uncton and politeness to get some teacher to let me in. The trouble is, who? Since my assignment was the teacher's lounge near the social studies department, I figured a social studies teacher would be best. That narrows it down to Dr. O'Connor, Ms. Cotter, and Mr. Macrigiane.

I imagine the worst case scenarios: Doc Oc staring me down like an undertaker, Cotter laughing in my face, or Mac beating me to a pulp. Wait, that last one can't possibly happen, can it? Gulp, Mr. Macrigiane it is.

A few days pass. At the beginning of the period, I get in my seat, only to have Mr. Macrigiane call out: "Heiden, can you talk to the juniors' research class?" He tells me to see him after class, so I can tell them about my experience making my

project at the University of Iowa. Perfect. I've got an opening. An hour later, I go speak to him. Now's my chance. I ask him if he'll let me in the teachers' lounge.

"The teachers' lounge? What do you want to do in the teachers' lounge?" Mr. Macrigiane asks.

"Umm.... I don't know, look around and bask in the glory of being a kid in the teachers' lounge," I stammer.

"Oh. C'mon, Heiden! This is a quid pro quo thing isn't it?" He sounds irritated. "I'll go look into it."

He didn't get back to me. I thought about it, and my decision turned out to be pretty lame. I mean, how much fun could it be to eat the forbidden fruit under God's supervision? It's much better with the serpent around. Time for a different tactic.

Attempt 2: The Break-In

It's a Thursday at around 4:15 p.m. I hoped that the lounge would be empty this time of day. The janitors were cleaning starting from the other end of the hallway, so I had some time. Armed with a hair clip and some mediocre lock-picking skills, I just might be able to get in. Okay, first test. I try to jiggle the smaller end of the clip into the lock and twist it. Darn, the plastic thing isn't strong enough. Quickly, since a custodian was in one room for a while, and he might emerge any second. Next: 30 seconds of frantic attempts. Oh. The door is unlocked.



Jacob Eisenberg

Heiden uses his cunning to avoid janitors and break into the coveted "Lounge."

I twist the doorknob and slowly push.

I take a deep breath. The long-awaited moment was finally happening. The room was dark, mercifully devoid of any suspicious teachers. The room beckoned. I couldn't see anything in detail, other than the rather large dimensions, so I flicked the light switch and let the door close behind me. Wow.

First, the size! This room is about as big as the full stage of the auditorium. Next, I see the wondrous gizmos and appliances that students could never use in the school day. There's a refrigerator, a microwave, a coffee machine, an Ocean Spray vending machine, a couple of couches, and a wooden table with chairs around it.

One wall is devoted to countertop. Here, every lunch related item sprawls across, from silverware to plastic containers for food. I look in the freezer, which strangely has chopsticks in it.

I wonder, if I were a teacher, what would I have around when I'm away from students? The answer seems to be various plaques and posters of ex-faculty members and a small snapshot of Harry

S. Truman as a boy, who resembles junior Chris Hart.

The floor is tiled, and the whole room seems fairly spacious with a quiet that comes from a room with no windows. There are also faculty bathrooms for both sexes. The closet has assorted jackets and about a dozen water cooler replacement jugs. Wow, people could live in this room.

Well, if I'm doing anything, I'm doing it in style. Better to live it up in the next few minutes, because this is my only shot. I investigate everything around, from the paintings that lie in the corner (which feature sails, wine, and a bird), to the furniture (the couches were rather comfy, the chairs decent, and the table and countertops slightly worn but serviceable). Awesome!

Unfortunately, the clock was ticking, and I had no intention of getting caught. After one last survey, I try on an interesting-looking black cowboy hat hanging in the closet, uncover a dull drawer full of condiments, crackers, and utensils, turn off the lights, take off the hat, and leave in triumph.



Hannah Fagen

Pioneer Heiden relaxing on a comfortable couch.

#Trending topics gain popularity with Twitter hashtags

BY **Noah White**

Contributing Writer

#schreibertimes #portwashington
#irapernick #pwwikings
#schreiberhighschool

What is this symbol called? What is it used for? Where does it belong?

The symbol, known as a hashtag is commonly used on the website Twitter.

On Twitter, hashtags are used to emphasize key words or a topic in tweets. Hashtags are used in front of words to categorize tweets, allowing people to search for tweets with that common idea. For example, searching #House brings up a list of tweets pertaining to House MD, a past hit program on FOX. Hashtags allow Twitter users to connect to other people who have similar interests.

A hashtag is not an official product of Twitter. Any user can create one by

adding it to their tweet. Once someone creates a hashtag, other users may find it entertaining or beneficial and add that hashtag to one of their tweets.

People take great pride in formulating different hashtags. For example, this past Sunday twitter was buzzing with the hashtag #upsetcity as the previously undefeated Green Bay Packers lost their first game of the season to the 6-8 Chiefs.

"I was the one who started the #upsetcity hashtag," says senior Noah Tanenbaum. "It makes me so mad when people try to take credit for my creations!"

When used effectively, hashtags allow users to connect to others in exciting ways. They also allow users to find instant information about a variety of topics.

Due to the ability of users to create their own hashtags, they can become popular in minutes. When a topic becomes popular on Twitter, which occurs when it is hashtagged more frequently

than normally, it is known as a trending topic. There is no single source of trending topics. Trending topics are created by Twitter users, for Twitter users, intentionally and unintentionally.

For example, on the morning of Dec. 11, some trending topics were

"I was the one who started the #upsetcity hashtag," says senior Noah Tanenbaum. "It makes me so mad when people try to take credit for my creations!"

"#breakfast" and "#HappySunday." Trending topics can change without any notice. Later in the day, some trending topics might be "#sundaynightfootball" or "#simpsons." Trending topics allow people to quickly find current news stories and happenings.

Hashtags have left the confines of Twitter and have made their way into many other forms of social media and personal interaction. They have been found in advertisements, TV show corners, casual conversation, and Facebook newsfeeds.

The latter has sparked some controversy. It appears that the use of hashtags outside Twitter, especially on Facebook, is a divisive issue for many people. There are several groups on Facebook about this, which criticize those who use hashtags on Facebook.

"They're annoying on Facebook, but okay on Twitter," said sophomore Avanti Schroff.

Yogomonster attracts sweet-tooths and health nuts alike

Second frozen yogurt shop in town offers wide variety of snacks

By Daniella Philipson and Alexa Pinto
Staff Writers

The opening of Twisted in March sparked frozen yogurt cravings throughout Port Washington, which prompted Yogomonster, a franchise originating in Brooklyn, to open in early November only blocks away from the Landmark and the public library.

The small venue offers organic frozen yogurt in six flavors that get switched in and out. The flavors include cappuccino, strawberry, peach, chocolate, pineapple, peanut butter, mango, and original tart flavor.

Customers can choose from 16 different toppings ranging from M&Ms and gummy bears to the crowd favorite mochi and freshly cut fruits.

All flavors are less than 25 calories per ounce, offering a healthy and organic substitute for ice cream while still maintaining a great taste.

Frozen yogurt is not typically the cheapest treat, but Yogomonster's prices rival those of Twisted and Red Mango.

In addition to frozen yogurt, Yogomonster offers a wide range of healthy snacks including granola bars, trail mix, and dried fruits and vegetables all year-round.

Yogomonster also provides customers with organic snacks including Popchips, Tate's cookies, Cliff Bars, and Luna Bars, which are perfect for hungry customers on the go.

Whole Foods-style snacks like dried fruits, nuts, and yogurt-covered pretzels are now more accessible to local customers



Harry Paul

Yogomonster offers customers a variety of organic products, snacks as well as their unique frozen yogurts. Their convenient location allows customers to purchase cakes, chocolates, bread, and cookies instead of going to grocery stores.

who don't want to drive to Manhasset to purchase healthy and organic food.

"I like how it's not only frozen yogurt," said junior Katie Ferrero, who works at Yogomonster. "We have the best pastries, health food, and drinks here. Everything is organic."

For health conscious customers,

the variety of healthy foods offered at Yogomonster allows them to easily stop by on their way home from work to pick up a cup of yogurt or organic dairy products, instead of running into one of the many grocery stores in town.

Besides organic fruit drinks such as Naked or Bolthouse smoothies,

Yogomonster also offers chocolates as well as hot chocolate, tea, and coffee, which are perfect for the wintertime.

"Even though I prefer Twisted's frozen yogurt, Yogomonster has so many choices regarding snacks, and I really like how much they offer," said junior Shalini Radhakrishnan. "Their hot chocolate really warms me up."

Cookies, muffins, corn bread, and challah loafs are also available for purchase, and tuna, egg, ham, and turkey sandwiches are available for \$3.50 and fresh salads as low as \$2.99.

Black forest, sponge, strawberry, and other cakes are available for special occasions at prices starting from \$20, and fruit smoothies with a customer's choice of banana, strawberry, blackberry, raspberry, blueberry, and mango for \$4.08.

"Their yogurt is really good, and I really like the original and peanut butter flavors," said junior Michael Gilmore. "The sandwiches are pretty decent too. I love to grab a bite with my glee club pals after practice."

Although Yogomonster's location isn't as convenient as Twisted across from the train station and 16 Handles right next to the school, it still generates a lot of business from students and adults strolling down Main Street.

"16 Handles and Twisted are kind of directed towards kids, but here we have a lot of adults coming in to buy health foods," said Ferrero.

Yogomonster offers many options that not only satisfy their customers, but also provide them with healthy and organic food staples.

Let the iPhone app decide

By Jack Weinkelbaum
Contributing Writer

The Decide.com app by Decide, Inc. may be one of the most important tools for consumers to have in our world filled with technology.

The app was made as a companion to the website decide.com which was founded in June 2011.

The app allows users to search different products and tells customers when it is the best time to buy a product taking



Search
Find the product you're looking for >

Scan
Quickly find a product via barcode or QR code >

Browse
See top electronics from over 30 categories >

www.igoiphone.com
The decide.com app displays buttons allowing users to navigate through a variety of media categories.

fluctuations in prices into consideration. The app is currently only available for iOS users.

The app has a very slick design as well. The look is very simple with a minimal amount of buttons on the homepage. There is a search button to search information about a specific product and a scan button in order to use the camera on an iPhone or an iPod to scan a barcode or a QR code.

The scan will bring you directly to the product you are looking for. The browser provides users with a variety of media categories, such as Blu-Ray players, cameras, headphones, and even video games. Once you select a category, you are brought to a list with products ranging from ones with the best reviews to the ones with the worst. You can even refine your search into certain brands, different price ranges, and release dates.

According to the website, decide.com has a 77% accuracy rate of predictions, and on average, customers save \$54 per product. When you finally decide to purchase a product, the app shows you a page with a picture, details, prices in stores, and prices online from retailers including Amazon, Best Buy and J&R.

Details, such as how many weeks later the price will increase or decrease, allow users to feel more confident in purchasing products.

Decide.com is such an incredibly useful tool, especially during the holiday season.

Happy Holidays!

THE SCHREIBER TIMES
STAFF
WISHES YOU A SAFE
AND HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON

ENJOY YOURSELVES AND
COME TO THE NEXT
GENERAL MEETING
IN ROOM 117
ON JAN. 4



Fashion

Tribal prints turn heads in hallways Despite the winter months, tribal prints remain a staple

BY Alexandra McCann

Staff Writer

Although the winter months may be gray and dreary, your wardrobe doesn't have to be. This season, tribal prints are making a colorful splash in not only the world of high fashion, but also in Port Washington. So ditch the neutrals and step out in a bold, new look!

The tribal print trend made its most recent debut this past summer. From shorts and flowing tops to sandals, the unique and versatile designs quickly became a new trend.

"Like most trends, the tribal trend is cyclical, appearing every few years on runways and then the retail front. These prints often feature bodacious colors and geometrical shapes. The results are usually bold, statement-making pieces of clothing," said Joshua Kissi, co-owner of Street Etiquette, a menswear style blog.

While it may be too chilly to wear popular summer styles, tribal prints have been transformed to work in your winter wardrobe. Bursts of color now appear in chunky sweaters, scarves, outerwear, and boots.

"Over the summer I really liked wearing my tribal print wardrobe. The colors and shapes were perfect for going to the beach or hanging out with friends. I am happy to see that the trend is carrying over to the winter months," said senior Nagisa Ozaki.

No matter what your budget is, you can afford this trend. Tribal prints have been spotted on celebrities and teens



www.forever21.com



www.mystreetchic.com



www.mystreetchic.com



www.stevemadden.com

Forever 21, Urban Outfitters, and designers like Steve Madden feature tribal prints in their winter lines.

alike. Actress Kate Bosworth recently sported a blue and orange print dress at the Burberry Body Event in October. The complementary colors created a bold fashion statement that was sure to turn heads. If you are a teen on a budget, don't worry. Clothes in these styles are available at Macy's, Forever 21, and Lulus.com.

While trying to incorporate a loud tribal print into your ensemble, it is important to remember that a little burst of color can go a long way. Try coupling a printed blouse with dark jeans and a neutral cardigan. Accessorize your solids with a colorful scarf. If you are wearing a statement piece, try pairing it with a small clutch or black heels.

Steve Madden TBlanket booties are great for teens who want to subtly incorporate prints into their wardrobe. Combining the tribal print trend with the moccasin trend, you are sure to show off your fashionable side without looking over the top.

"I like to wear prints but tend to declare my own trends," said senior Ashley Oelbaum. "Now that more and more students are wearing tribal prints in the winter, I might start to follow the trend too."

Catch this trend while you can. As Kissi said, tribal prints often circulate in and out of fashion. Search for clothing and accessories that can be used for multiple events or styles.

There are so many options for tribal prints, with a variety of designs and colors, so you will surely find the one that suits you perfectly.

The season of giving inspires gifting tradition

Secret Santa stirs up Schreiber's social scene

BY Veronkia Onishenko

Staff Writer

As a highly anticipated time of year, the holidays bring families and friends together over various traditions. From buying gifts to giving gifts, friends and families embrace different gift-giving customs during the holiday season. One of the many gift-giving traditions, commonly referred to as Secret Santa is a Christmas gift exchange in which members of a group are randomly and anonymously assigned a person to whom they will give a gift. These procedures ensure that everyone both gives and receives a gift, and there may be fun in trying to guess someone's identity based on the gifts someone receives.

Some families and friends use online programs to determine their assignment while others prefer to simply pick names out of a hat.

"At first there were some issues with who's allowed to participate but other than that it's been pretty fun," said junior Salia Hovanec

Secret Santa is appealing to many because of the suspense of not knowing "who has who?" However, in order to avoid purchasing a gift too extravagant, Secret Santa is often limited by a price

cap.

"My friends and I are doing Secret Santa this year. We give each other small thoughtful gifts, and this year we have a \$30 price limit," said junior Jacqueline

"The website Elfster was extremely helpful in organizing our Secret Santa. It draws the names after everyone signs up and you can even create wishlists to give your buyer some hints about what you'd like," said junior Alison Peltz.

Langro.

Although Secret Santa may sometimes be more difficult to do in a larger group of friends, the fun in giving gifts still remains.

"Secret Santa can be really hard to organize, but it's fun to be a part of and receiving the gifts is the best part," said senior Emily Nicholson.

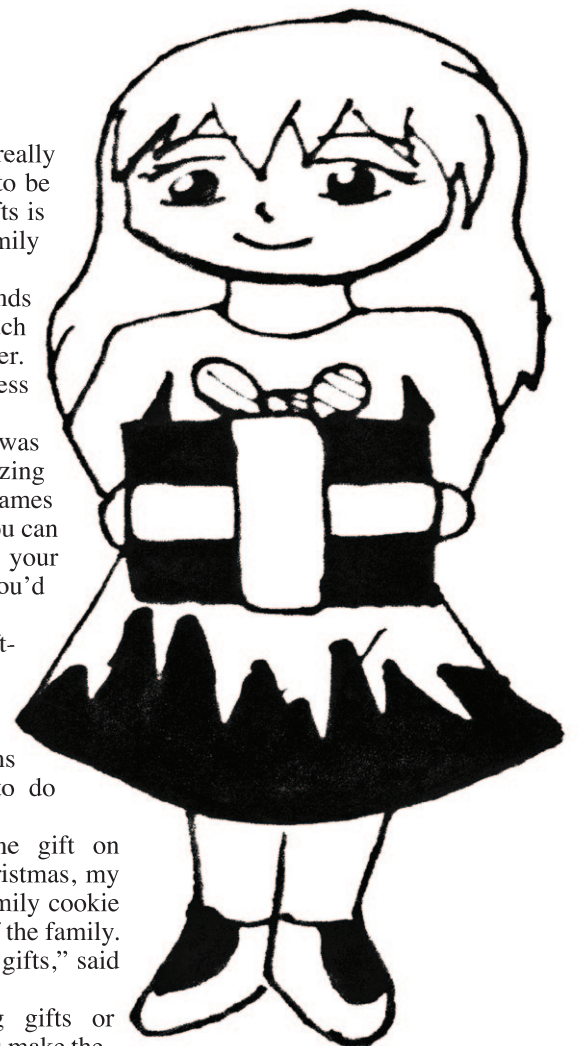
For large groups of friends and large families, websites such as secretsanta.com or elfster.com can also make the process of picking names easier.

"The website Elfster was extremely helpful in organizing our secret Santa. It draws the names after everyone signs up and you can even create wishlists to give your buyer some hints about what you'd like," said junior Alison Peltz.

For many families, gift-giving traditions often include a particular time of the day the family opens their gifts. Some families have traditions of certain rituals they like to do before they open their gifts.

"We all get to open one gift on Christmas Eve. Then on Christmas, my sisters, mom, and I bake a family cookie recipe and give it to the rest of the family. Then we open the rest of our gifts," said junior Jacqueline Langro.

Whether you are giving gifts or getting gifts, holiday traditions make the season more memorable.



Loren Giron

arts & Entertainment

The Muppets excites fans with a nostalgic return

BY Dan Bidikov

Staff Writer

American puppeteer Jim Henson first imagined the Muppets, an iconic cast of anthropomorphic marionettes, in the 1950s. Obscured but not forgotten, the lovable crew has inspired children with songs and television programs for much of the late twentieth century. In November, the Muppets returned to the big screen for the first time in many years in the aptly titled *The Muppets*.

The Muppets follows the journey of a young Muppet named Walter (Peter Linz), who, on a visit to the decrepit Muppet Studio in Los Angeles, uncovers tycoon Tex Richman's (Chris Cooper) plan to buy the property, destroy the studio, and drill for oil beneath the grounds.

Walter and his best friend Gary (Jason Segel) embark on a quest to reunite the Muppets for one last show to raise enough money to buy back the studio and save the day.

While it is not exactly building on the most original premise, *The Muppets* manages to be fresh and inventive. The film's creative, accessible humor will entertain even the most modern viewers. Cameo appearances from big name actors, including Neil Patrick Harris and Rico Rodriguez, deliver short, sweet bursts of laughter and go a long way in making the film engaging for those who are not Muppet diehards.

Between its slapstick and more witty constructions, *The Muppets* presents a plentiful variety of comedic styles.

Most importantly, the film's humor works on cinema-goers of all ages. The appeal is universal, not in the sense that there is something for everyone, but because what it offers will bring joy to anyone.

While it does not attempt to tackle difficult philosophical issues like a lot of modern comedies, *The Muppets* is able to flesh out more serious themes modestly without diminishing fun factor.

Playful songs like "Man or Muppet" and "Party of One" illustrate gripping internal conflicts, while still being entertaining. Satire sneaks in through Veronica (Rashida Jones), a television network executive, who pokes fun at pop culture and comically criticizes today's youth.

Although the main focus may be the original Muppet cast, the new characters in the Muppets are given plenty of screen time to develop. The complicated



Gary (Jason Segel) and Mary (Amy Adams) embark on a journey to reunite the gang and put on one last show to save the old Muppets studio from destruction at the hands of an oil tycoon. *The Muppets* is faithful to the original series in both its characters and spirit.

relationship between Gary and his girlfriend Mary (Amy Adams) is explored in depth through dialogues and musical numbers.

Walter's coming of age is meshed nicely within hilarious puppet hijinks. Cooper's character is a cookie-cutter villain, which is understandable, but a rare disappointment. Ventriloquists and actors alike deliver phenomenal performances. In particular, the supporting cast is stellar.

The Muppets makes clever use of mini-performances by having its absurd lineup of characters act out delightful short scenes, adding vignette-like variety to the film. Even Nirvana drummer and Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl adds to the uproarious experience as a part of the "Moopets," the antagonistic Muppets offshoot with much less musical talent.

Sure, the film might have held its own without Kermit, but do not be fooled- this movie is all about the real Muppets. Even if you go in to *The Muppets* completely cold, you will feel as if you had grown up watching the ragtag crew sing and dance.



Gary, Mary, Kermit, and Walter come across Rowlf the Dog as they try to reassemble the Muppets and put on their final show. To hardcore Muppet fans' delight, the film utilizes many classic characters.

Martin Scorsese's latest masterpiece, *Hugo*, captivates audiences

BY Gabe Lyons
Staff Writer

Martin Scorsese has a fine repertoire of films to his credit, ranging from period gangster dramas to biopics to concert films, but never before has he done anything like *Hugo*.

His first 3D film is directed towards younger audiences.

It is also quite possibly the best film of Scorsese's fruitful career.

Hugo, based on Brian Selznick's hit novel *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, tells the story of Hugo Cabret (Asa Butterfield), an orphaned boy operating the clocks at a Paris train station.

Skilled with the ability to fix a wide variety of different objects, Hugo cares about fixing the only existing object, an automaton (or mechanical man) that connects him to his deceased father.

The automaton, now complete, is missing one final piece, a heart-shaped key. Georges Méliés (Ben Kingsley), a filmmaker-turned-toy-booth-operator, steals Hugo's notebook, which contains Hugo's father's drawings of the automaton.

In his pursuit to regain possession of his notebook, Hugo forms an unexpected friendship with Méliés's goddaughter, Isabelle (Chloë Grace Moretz), and the movie explores the automaton's connection with Méliés's past as a magician and filmmaker.

The film, shot entirely in 3D, succeeds in keeping the focus on plot.

Hugo keeps the audience interested in the story and supplements the 3D very nicely.

The performances also stand out, especially Kingsley's portrayal as the legendary filmmaker Méliés.



Hugo (Asa Butterfield) works with Isabelle (Chloë Grace Moretz) to figure out how to complete the automaton. The movie had great visuals and kept the audience captivated with its incredible 3D effects.

There are moments in the film where you can see the gleam in Kingsley as he recites the occasional monologue, while in other scenes, you can see the rage in him as he rants.

He took his character, and transforms himself, something that is rarely found in

mainstream motion pictures

The cinematography itself is eye-candy. Robert Richardson, who has worked with Scorsese before on *Shutter Island*, is a virtuoso with the camera.

The shots often cause the viewer to at times literally stare, motionless, in

awe. The mesmerizing, 15 minute introduction is worth the price of the ticket stub by itself.

With amazing visuals and an intriguing story, *Hugo* stands out in the world of entertainment.

New Year's Eve entertains with light-hearted laughs

BY Lauren Whitman
Contributing Writer

New Year's Eve came early for movie fans this year. Holiday cheer is in the air and on the big screen with the release of

New Year's Eve. With an exciting, fun-filled plot and a star-studded cast, this film is sure to be a hit with movie fans who enjoy a good romantic comedy.

Director Garry Marshall follows several different people celebrating New Year's, following the same format as his

earlier film *Valentine's Day*.

The plotlines vary widely, and although some of them intersect during the course of the film, they come across as a little random.

The movie almost becomes a bit hectic at certain times with the multitude of characters and stories that the audience has to follow.

Jessica Biel plays Tess, a mother-to-be who is competing with Grace (Sarah Paulson) to see who will have the first baby of the new year.

Also in Manhattan, Robert De Niro plays Stan Harris, a dying man with one wish: to see the ball drop at midnight. His nurse, Aimee (Halle Berry), kindly decides to keep him company for the night.

Paul (Zac Efron), a young bike messenger, tries to help secretary Ingrid (Michelle Pfeiffer) check off all her New Year's resolutions by midnight, a seemingly impossible task given that the goals include visiting Bali.

Paul and Ingrid strike a deal that if he helped her complete her list by midnight, she would give him her ticket to a New Year's party.

Playing the part of Elise, Lea Michele takes on another role similar to Rachel, her famous role in the television series *Glee*. She is her usual talented self, showing off her impressive vocal skills.

The biggest laughs come from an overprotective mom (Beth Kennedy) who appears to have no limits when it comes to following her daughter and her friends around.

If you have ever dreamed of being in Times Square at midnight on December 31, this is the movie for you.

This movie takes you there without you ever having to leave your seat.

The filmmakers use actual footage from last year's New Year's Eve to show images of the crowds in Times Square. This created a realistic feeling to the movie.

The film has a great soundtrack, featuring a duet of "Can't Turn You Loose" by Jon Bon Jovi and Lea Michele, "Have a Little Faith In Me" also by Bon Jovi, and the popular Pink song "Raise Your Glass."

As predicted, all of the stories resolve nicely in the end. If you are looking for suspense or plot twists, this is not the movie for you.

While the subplots are predictable and the film is full of sentimental (and cheesy) moments, for the true romantics out there, here's an early holiday present.



Randy (Ashton Kutcher) and Elise (Lea Michele) fall in love as they make plans for New Year's Eve. Much like director Garry Marshall's previous film, *Valentine's Day*, *New Year's Eve* follows multiple people on their searches for love.

American Horror Story shocks and grips audiences

BY Rachel Johnson

Contributing Writer

In just the pilot episode, *American Horror Story* managed to confuse and frighten the audience, thus successfully grasping its attention.

Questions come about the characters' identities and their fates. Before you know it, *American Horror Story* has you hooked.

The series, a brilliant mixture of thrilling horror and drama, focuses on psychiatrist Ben Harmon (Dylan McDermott), his wife Vivien (Connie Britton), and their teenage daughter Violet (Taissa Farmiga). The family of three, after going through a tragic miscarriage and infidelity scandal, moves from Boston to a beautiful, old house in Los Angeles.

However, the house is not as perfect as it seems, and soon they encounter spirits and other supernatural presences that reside within its walls. The Harmons learn more and more of their new home's dark and disturbing past as the episodes progress.

Though some may be quick to judge, *American Horror Story* is not just a classic haunted house story. Interwoven with the creepy occurrences and scenes of graphic violence are intricate plot twists and cliffhangers. Unlike the average haunted house stories, *American Horror Story* makes it unclear whether the story is reality or a dream, whether some characters are really alive or dead, and whether certain spirits are inherently good or evil.

Surprisingly enough, the show has its funny moments, too. Tate Langdon (Evan Peters) and Constance (Jessica Lange) make clever references and witty remarks which punctuate the seriousness of the premise with moments of comic relief.



Violet Harmon (Taissa Farmiga) refuses to leave her home because, unbeknownst to her father (Dylan McDermott), she is already dead and can not escape. The show offers thrilling twists that keeps the audience at the edge of their seats.

This blend of horror, suspense, drama, thriller, and comedy does not leave much to be desired for fans of these genres.

Aside from the intriguing horror and intricate plot, one of *American Horror Story's* driving forces is its characters. No two characters are exactly alike.

Ben is weak, but well-intentioned, and Vivien is strong and opinionated. Violet, though obviously troubled and depressed, is likable and relatable. Quirky and creepy neighbors, like the oddly hostile Langdon and her intrusive daughter Adelaide (Jamie Brewer) visit often. Every character introduced is unique and fascinating, each adding something unique to the overall feel of the show. Their interactions with each other and the relationships they form get viewers emotionally invested even after just one

episode.

A common question is whether or not *American Horror Story* is actually scary. The answer, of course, is subjective. If you are someone frightened by gore, dead babies, disfigured forms, or the dark, I do not recommend this show for you. The show is so addictive and intriguing that the gory scenes do not bother you so much because the plot is so entrancing.

If you do plan on starting this series, please keep in mind that FX's mature content warning is a serious one. Scenes of violence, gore, and sensuality are both graphic and frequent. If you can sit through the thrills and chills, though, *American Horror Story* is one show you definitely should not miss.

Classic Video Game: Shadow of the Colossus

BY Austin Duquette

Contributing Writer

Shadow of the Colossus, an action-adventure game, is a prime example of video games as an art form. Published by Sony Computer Entertainment (SCE) for the PlayStation 2, it stands out for its sheer scope and artistic vision.

The game follows the adventure of a young man named Wander as he attempts to revive a young woman known as Mono. Wander must travel to an ancient burial ground of colossal beings known as the Forbidden Land.

When he arrives at what seems to be a shrine, a booming voice echoes from above. The source of said voice, the mysterious Dormin, explains that all 16 colossi that reside within the Forbidden Land must be slain in order to rescue the damsel in distress.

The gameplay revolves around exploration, puzzle solving, and battling the sixteen colossi. The fact that the colossi are the only enemies within the game allows the environment to stand out as a character, as it too must be defeated. Exploration is extremely satisfying due to the incredible detail that developer SCE worked into the environment.

Puzzles in *Shadow of the Colossus* are simple but rewarding. Some standout puzzle-solving moments include scaling a temple using wit and reflex to navigate the steep inclines and rocky crags and



Wander, the game's protagonist, challenges one of the sixteen colossi atop his trusty horse and companion, Agro. Shadow of the Colossus's unparalleled originality and artistry make it one of the few true classics of video games.

finding your way through a narrow ravine in pursuit of your next battle.

Both puzzle solving and navigating the beautiful terrain of the Forbidden Land are imperative in your quest to slay all 16 colossi.

Each engagement with a colossus is an engaging experience as well as a technical marvel. The battles themselves revolve around locating specific weak points on the colossi's bodies marked by illuminated symbols into which you must plunge your sword. These battles are exemplary of the immense amount of detail that SCE put into the game. Each colossus is unique and has its own distinct personality that accompanies its specific weakness.

In addition to its beautiful graphical engine, the game is accompanied by one of the most memorable video game soundtracks ever composed, accentuating moments of beauty with soft delicate strings, and moments of suspense and terror with a booming full ensemble.

The originality of *Shadow of the Colossus* has not been matched since its initial release in 2005. The game is something to be praised and cherished for its stunning visuals, its immersive environment, and its fantastic battles with the colossi. *Shadow of the Colossus* should be known as a true classic for its originality more than anything else.

QUACKING UP WITH KWAK



BY Bethia Kwak

A&E Editor

There is a lot to learn from the year 2011.

Not only was this the year that I was able to finish my first super large half and half and got rejected from my first university (shout out to my fellow Stanford rejects), it was also the year I learned my most important lesson from a woman named Mariah Yeater. If you want the attention of your favorite teenage heartthrob, just claim he is the father of your baby. This girl was able to convince Justin Bieber to take a paternity test just for her.

(Okay, I am obligated by newspaper regulations to say: do not actually claim you are pregnant with some celebrity's baby.)

2011 was the year of break-ups. Our favorite cougar couple, Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore split. And let me just say, about time. Even though everyone thought they would work out eternally, the lesson learned here is that when I am 40, I will definitely not be going for a 20 year old. This will only lead to crude jokes and a life that ends with me and twenty cats, to commemorate the age of my ex-boyfriend.

And let's not forget the 72-day marriage of Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries. That wedding was almost as big as the Royal Wedding.

Now I am going to list things that are longer than their marriage: Sarah Palin's career and our summer vacation. Enough said.

It seemed that every single award show this year featured celebrities trying to upstage each other with the craziest outfits. Whatever happened to wearing a nice black dress?

Now, you have Nicki Minaj wearing a rib cage to the American Music Awards and Lady Gaga dressing as a guy to the MTV Video Music Awards. Look out for me at Senior Prom. I will be the one wearing fish glued on to my dress and an umbrella on my head.

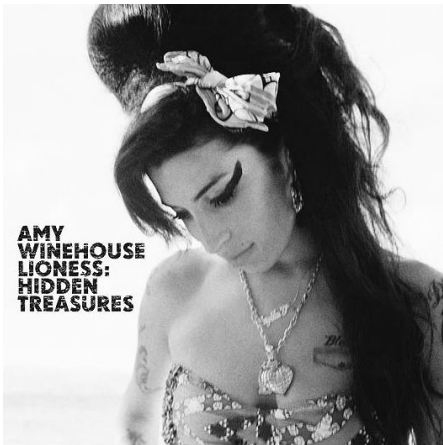
This year, I learned that anyone can be a star. When I first saw the video, "Friday" by Rebecca Black, my first reaction was not that this was the worst video ever.

In fact, I thought that this girl's mother went through the efforts of paying a company to make her famous, and it happened! My mind was blown. I had no idea it could be that easy. Unfortunately, my mom refused to do the same with me, so currently I am raising money for the Get Bethia Kwak Famous Foundation. Donations are welcome.

Thanks, 2011, for a fantastic year. Hopefully by this time next year, the Earth will be saved by the Haussmann twins, and our world will remain intact.

Music Box

A lost voice roars in *Lioness: Hidden Treasures*



AMY WINEHOUSE
LIONESSE:
HIDDEN
TREASURES

BY **Caroline Ogulnick**
Contributing Writer

Although close friends and family attended Amy Winehouse's funeral to say their final goodbyes, she was not ready to do the same. Passing away just eight weeks before her twenty-eighth birthday, Winehouse was found dead in her home in Camden, London on July 23.

In honor of the five-time Grammy Award-winning artist, Winehouse's long-time producers, Salaam Remi and Mark Ronson, with the help of her family, put together a posthumous collection that includes tracks she had produced

throughout her career.

Much time was put into the selection of recordings in order to pay proper tribute to such a powerful and influential artist. This compilation became known as *Lioness: Hidden Treasures* and incorporates alternative versions of classic songs and previously unreleased tracks.

Lioness: Hidden Treasures was released on Dec. 6 in the US and on Dec. 11 in the UK. It placed in the top 10 on the iTunes top album chart and topped Britain's album chart. A portion of the proceeds from *Lioness* will be given to the Amy Winehouse Foundation, set up by Winehouse's parents in memory of their daughter.

The tracks on the album cover a variety of genres, from jazz to reggae, and even hip hop. Each recording is unique in its style and sound, which reflects the creativity and ingenuity that Amy Winehouse will be remembered for.

Although this album lacks the depth and emotion present in Winehouse's second album, *Back to Black*, it does accurately portray the rise and fall of Winehouse's life and career.

The album opens with a reggae version of Bob Hilliard and Morton Garston's



Tony Bennett and Amy Winehouse did an exclusive duet before she passed away. *Lioness* displayed Winehouse as an artist with a beautiful voice, despite her scandals and reputation.

"Our Day Will Come," recorded by Winehouse in 2002. "Between the Cheats" and "Like Smoke" featuring Nas, the only two original tracks on the album, were both recorded in 2008.

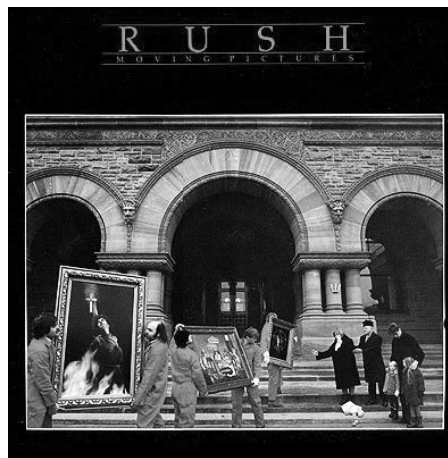
Though many seem to like the hip-hop feel of the rap incorporated in "Like Smoke," it overpowers and takes away from Amy's soulful voice and lyrics. *Lioness* concludes with "Body and Soul," a duet with Tony Bennett, and a cover of "A Song for You," by Leon Russell. Winehouse and Bennett made "Body and Soul," originally

recorded in 1930, a song of their own.

Listening to *Lioness: Hidden Treasures*, one realizes what a truly gifted singer and songwriter Amy Winehouse was. Although *Lioness* does not embody a specific time in Winehouse's life like her other albums did, it still manages to tell a captivating story.

From track one to track twelve, one can hear the singer's voice transition from polished to ragged. Amy Winehouse's voice really roars in *Lioness: Hidden Treasures*.

Classic Album: Rush: *Moving Pictures*



BY **Robert Gray**
Contributing Writer

Moving Pictures, the eighth studio album by Canadian progressive rock band Rush, is an absolute necessity for any enthusiast's library. Like most of Rush's albums, *Moving Pictures* is excellent and has received appropriate acclaim; it has been rated quadruple platinum and has sold more than four million copies.

Rush has always excelled at writing philosophically interesting lyrics, a beautiful departure from the gum-chewing vapidness of most new popular music. The first track on the album is "Tom Sawyer," a song about individualism, no surprise from this libertarian-leaning band. This "modern day warrior" with his "mean stride" offers his mind for rent "to neither God nor government." This man retains a silent defense and separation from the broader society. "Red Barchetta"

is a slightly less lyrically interesting song, but no less enjoyable.

"YYZ" (pronounced "why why zed") comes next. This song is an instrumental in which the triumvirate of band members Alex Lifeson, Geddy Lee, and Neil Peart demonstrate their technical ability. "YYZ" is the airport identification code for Toronto Pearson International Airport. The introduction to the song is the morse code for the letters "YYZ" being played on crotales, guitar, and bass. This song has become a staple of their concert performances, in addition to securing a Grammy nomination for the group.

"Limelight," the fourth track, describes the gilded cage of stardom. Those who want the limelight only wish to "seem," but those who actually wish to be someone need to get past the fascination with celebrity. "The Camera Eye" deals with the loss of one's personality. In the teeming "angular" mass that is urban civilization, we become "oblivious to a soft spring rain."

In "Witch Hunt," a "hideous" mob hunts its enemies. Rush's philosophy shines clearly in their music once again. We are warned here not to allow prejudice and fear of the "other" to twist our consciences in a way that permits violence and inhumane behavior. Suffice it to say, the track ties the entire album together.

Moving Pictures is exemplary of Neil Peart's exceptional lyricism and representative of everything that has made Rush legendary. It is a must-listen for not only fans of prog rock, but for anybody with an interest in music.

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Online reporting changes the way fans follow teams

Websites such as Grantland and Twitter revolutionize sports reporting

BY **Brett Fishbin**
Senior Sports Editor

For the past 10 years, technology has expanded vastly, making many functions of daily life much simpler.

From communicating with friends, to sharing photos, to finding information, to doing research, our exponentially growing technological abilities have mostly been for the better. Yet, an unsettling trend has grown amongst all of the improvements: the decline of print journalism.

This has large implications in the way that sports fans follow their favorite teams, players, and leagues.

During the two week period of NBA free agency, people wrote thousands of tweets, citing sources. But, because these sources are left unnamed, the reporters are inclined to make things up, simply citing their "sources" in order to gain more followers.

In the 90s, a fan would have had to read about rumors and off-the-field happenings in the paper or watch it on television, but now, there are several new and fascinating ways to instantaneously receive this information.

While these "improvements" have made information sharing quicker and easier to access, it has seriously jeopardized the quality and accuracy of sports journalism.

While everyone loves 140 character jolts of breaking news, Twitter's emergence as a sports reporting service has become undependable and unpredictable. This is because a beat writer's relevance greatly depends on his ability to "break" emerging stories. Because of this, writers are inclined to falsify and exaggerate rumors, pointing to an unnamed source as their proof.

As long as a writer points to a source, it is no longer his liability.

During the two week period of NBA free agency, people wrote thousands of tweets, citing sources. But, because these sources are left unnamed, the reporters are inclined to make things up, simply citing their "sources" in order to gain more followers.

While this is certainly a negative effect of Twitter reporting, there are positives. The speed in which information is transferred is greatly increased, giving the fans more access.

"You get the inside scoop much faster from reporters, rather than having to follow mainstream media," said senior Rob Weinstein.

"I check twitter almost daily to get news on my favorite NBA players, such as Wilson Chandler, Nick Young, and DeMar DeRozan. It connects me with these athletes that I normally would never have access to," said senior Jon Weber.

But the real problem emerges when

 **@SI_JonHeyman**
Jon Heyman

#Phillies, #Royals agree in principal to trade Zack Greinke in exchange for Antonio Bastardo, Ross Gload, and 2 minor leaguers.

19 minutes ago via web ☆ Favorite 13 Retweet ↻ Reply

Retweeted by cscoordinator and 36 others



www.Twitter.com

ESPN Reporter Jon Heyman tweets that Zach Greinke was traded to the Phillies, yet, this report was wholly inaccurate.

true journalism and newspaper content are jeopardized by simple tweets. Why would sports fans pay two dollars to purchase a newspaper just to read the sports section, when they already know everything being reported?

This question has been answered by ESPN's Bill Simmons.

Noticing the trend of print journalism to online reporting, he has combined the two, creating a website called Grantland. The website publishes articles Monday through Friday, detailing the sports and entertainment stories that are currently happening.

The difference, however, between Grantland and other sports websites is that the website is completely driven by quality writing and fascinating insight. Topics

that normally would never be discussed in general sports media are covered in depth due to the creative freedom given to the writing staff.

The best part is that it's all online, and it's all free.

Websites like this could prove to be the solution to our growing conundrum of wanting free and accessible information, but in a complete way.

"Grantland has been a wealth of information since it was founded," said senior Zach Halperin, "I especially love the articles by Simmons."

The future of sports journalism is certainly murky, but innovations such as Grantland could eventually save the shrinking print market.

Calling the Shots

BY **Drew Friedman**
Senior Sports Editor

We've all seen the insurance commercials where a guy in a frumpy-looking black suit and a head of unruly hair causes all kinds of grief for people, destroying their cars and houses in new and unusual ways. He calls himself "Mayhem."

That's also the name Jets linebacker Aaron Maybin has on his vanity license plate.

But Maybin doesn't destroy cars and houses.

He wrecks defensive schemes with his speed and relentless style of play, finding ways to take down quarterbacks long after other guys would have given up.

"All I can do and all I plan on doing is coming in and working as hard as possible and let my play speak for itself," said Maybin in a CBS sports article.

At this point in the season, he has nine tackles, a whopping four forced fumbles, and most importantly, six sacks. Even more importantly, he has injected energy into the Jets' front seven, which is exactly what Jets Head Coach Rex Ryan was looking for him to do when he picked Maybin up off the scrap heap.

Back in August, as a member of the Buffalo Bills, Maybin wasn't living up to the "Mayhem" tag.

In fact, he wasn't even close.

He had very visibly fizzled out after being a first-round draft pick in 2009, the 11th choice overall.

The fans had started calling him "May-be" instead.

The problem, according to Chan Gailey, Maybin's head coach in Buffalo, was his size.

The coach wanted Maybin, who is 6'4" tall, to weigh in at 250 pounds, which is prime linebacker territory.

Maybin, coming out of college at Penn State, matched Chan Gailey's view of a prime linebacker at nearly 250 pounds.

At Penn State, "Mayhem" stood out with a Big Ten best 12 sacks. He also impressed with his ability to get into the backfield quickly.

However, Maybin, who claims he has a fast metabolism, had a hard time topping 230 pounds.

As a result, he was getting manhandled in the backfield by brawny defensive linemen.

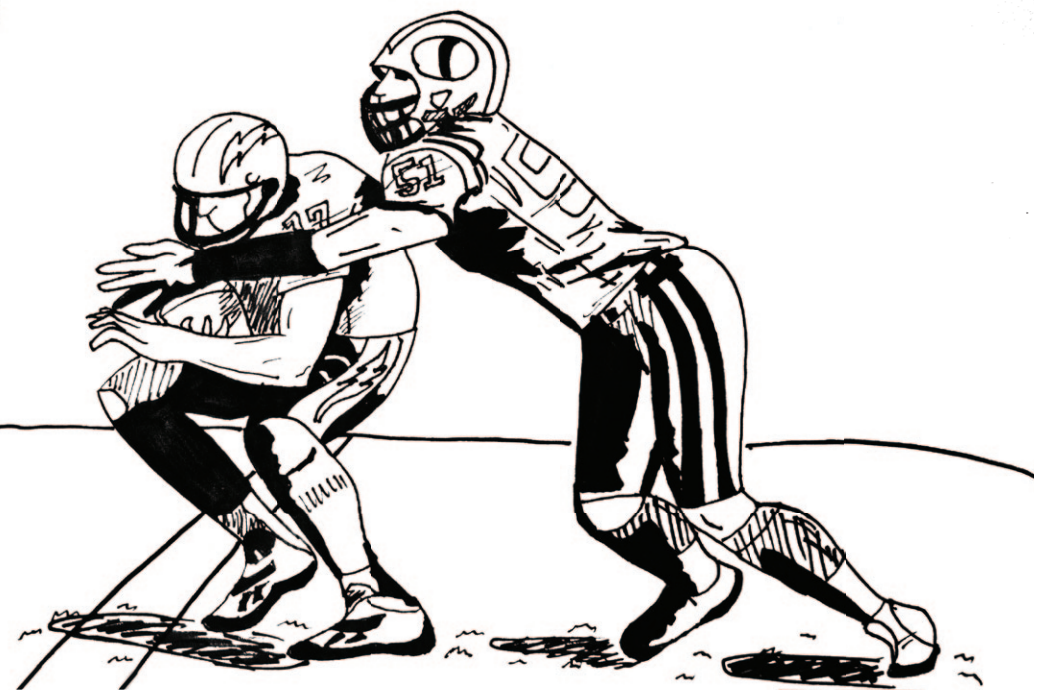
After 27 games with the Bills, Maybin had failed to record a single sack. Not even one.

Going into the 2011 pre-season, the Jets gained interest in Maybin who, despite still maintaining his 230 pound build, showed the relentlessness and smack talking that fits perfectly with Rex Ryan's persona.

In the last few seasons, the Jets have been searching for a pass rusher and have not been successful.

Since pro bowler John Abraham left the Jets in 2005, the only pass rusher that has been consistently in the backfield is Calvin Pace who is 31 years old and aging quickly.

The Jets drafted Vernon Gholston who



Lauren Giron

was supposed to take care of the Jets vulnerability on the edge, but instead is marked as one of the biggest busts in NFL history, not recording a career sack in his four seasons in the NFL.

Aaron Maybin is just what the team needed, a youthful force in the backfield.

All of his abilities excite Jets fans and hopefully will continue to for years to come.

Whether it is his unique quickness that he uses to attack the quarterback or his hard work ethic that clearly shows on the field by never giving up on a play, Maybin shows

real potential that the Jets have not had for many years.

As a Jet zealot, I feel that Maybin has endless potential and the only thing that is stopping him is himself.

It all comes down to whether he wants to work hard or not on a consistent basis.

If Maybin takes his second chance at fame in the NFL and fails, he will have to start practicing his lines for insurance commercials.



Athletes



of the



Month



Chris Castillo

By **Hayden Quigley**

Contributing Writer

Junior Christian Castillo is one of the schools most experienced wrestlers. He began wrestling when he was in fifth grade, after being largely inspired by his father.

Besides wrestling, Castillo also runs track in the fall and plays on the baseball team in the spring.

Castillo also played football, but due to an elbow injury, he decided to take time off to be fully healed for the wrestling season this winter.

"Christian works hard during practice and proves it on the mats," said freshman Johnny Nahas.

Castillo wrestles in the 152-weight class, which is one of the hardest weight classes in high school wrestling because it is the most popular and most competitive.

Castillo not only wrestles for Schreiber but also competes during the summer. This summer season, his run at success was cut short due to his injuries that he incurred in January and April.

"In January, I dislocated my elbow and tore my labrum in my left shoulder. Later on in April, I also had surgery on my shoulder. Rehab was a long process, which took up all of my wrestling time in June and August," said Castillo.

In the past, Castillo has gone to many different summer camps to improve his wrestling. Unfortunately, due to his shoulder injury, which happened two weeks before the county championships, he was not able to compete.

"My injury could affect me this year, but I am honestly not trying to think about that right now, I am just focusing on getting better and winning matches," said Castillo.

The team has had two tournaments so far and has done fairly well at both of them. Castillo, being one

of the most successful on the team, had a personal record of 7-2 in these tournaments.

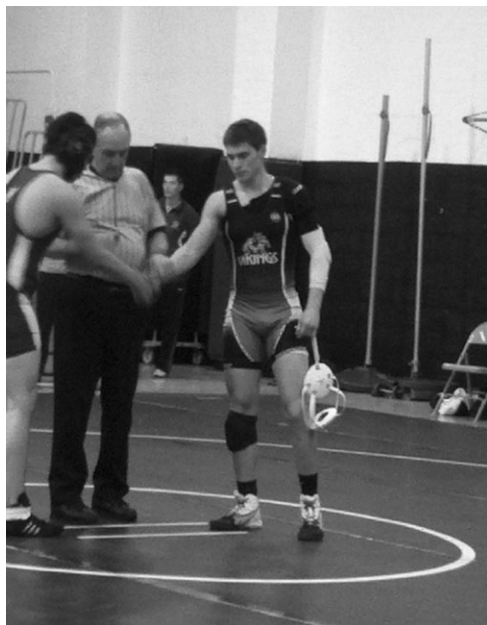
"The team is looking pretty solid so far. We have a bunch of key guys that can do some damage this year like seniors Anthony D'Aversa, Mike Froccaro, and Noah Tanenbaum, junior Tony Kim, and sophomore Nick DeLucia," said Castillo.

The team is made up of many talented players who can lead this team, especially Castillo.

This year there are two Castillos on the Port Washington wrestling team. Joining Chris this season is his seventh grade brother Timmy Castillo.

Timmy also wrestles outside of school and recently won the state championship.

"I am not sure about my plans for the future yet, but I would love to wrestle in college," said Castillo.



Noah White

Junior wrestler Chris Castillo shakes hands with his opponent before his most recent match.

Jillian Ring

By **Jack Simon**

Contributing Writer

Jillian Ring is only a sophomore, but she plays one of the most crucial roles for the girls basketball team: center. As the squad kicks off its season, it looks to push the tempo and rely on Ring's contributions for success.

Like many of Port Washington's athletes, Ring started young. In third grade, she decided to play basketball with Port Youth Athletics (PYA), and the rest was history.

"From PYA, I went on to play in Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and then all through middle school and then varsity last year. My best friend's mom convinced my parents that I should play. Best decision," said Ring.

From CYO now to varsity basketball, Ring has found a love in basketball, but not necessarily the professional game.

"I don't have one particular basketball hero, but I do admire college basketball. I feel like they play with the most heart, drive, and desire than most of the NBA because they're still working on achieving it," said Ring.

On the team, the sophomore looks ahead to this year with excitement.

"I think the team will do really well this year. What we lack in height, we make up for in speed and agility. We're going to be looking to push the ball up the court fast for those easy points," said Ring.

Ring relies on her athleticism, but not superstition to help her during the season.

"I'm not a very superstitious person, but I do listen to certain songs. I have a very particular playlist when it comes around to the season that really gets me in the zone for the game," said Ring.

Her commitment to her team can be seen even in the off-season when she works hard to keep up her skills.

"In the off-season, I play volleyball and work out at the gym. I also play basketball before and after the season to keep up my skills. And I try and lay off the sweets," said Ring.

Ring has laid out both her personal and team goals in order to succeed.

"My goal this season is that we make it to the playoff," said Ring.



Courtesy of Hayley Kerr

Sophomore Jillian Ring has become an essential part of the Vikings this season. It is now her second season on the team.

Girls gymnastics team excited for remainder of season

By **Chad Edelblum**

Staff Writer

After sending 10 competitors to the coaches' invitational last season, the Port Washington girls gymnastics team looks to improve and add a county championship to its banner.

Despite the loss of two top gymnasts, last year's senior captains Sherry and Dorothy Kim, Port Washington will now be led by a new core group of seniors. These seniors include Gabriele Davidoff, Tali Levin, Jessica Medaglia, Carolyn Nevins, Sloane Nyugen, and Candice Yap. The gymnasts stress their friendship off the mats as a reason for their success.

"Our team is always known for the friendships we make. I know that sounds really cliché but it's true," said junior Ashley Berliner. "We are a family. Also, the girls on the team this year are all exceptionally talented and dedicated. We have so much respect for our seniors on the team. They are our role models and in-

spire us to really work hard."

The girls participate in many events including the uneven bars, beam, floor and vault.

Seven girls compete in each event, one of which is in a spot called exhibition, the score from which does not count.

Then the five highest scores from those six scores are counted towards the meet.

Last season, the team's scores ranged from 6 to 8. The team's high scorers in uneven bars were Medaglia and Yap.

As captains, these seniors look to set the tone and train many of the underclassmen to learn the aspect of the bars.

On the beam, junior Carly Grieco and sophomore Ally Stewart are the top point scorers.

On the floor, Medaglia, Yap, and sophomore Liz Wolf attempt to repeat their success from last season.

On the vault Medaglia, Nevins, and Wolf are among the strongest gymnasts.

It is not only the seniors on the team who are garnering praise, however, as the underclassmen are impressing as well.

"Liz Wolf might be the best gymnast on the team," said Davidoff.

"This season we have a lot of good new freshman and a lot of the people from last year got a lot better so we expect to get higher scores this year," said Medaglia. "We also have a new coach who knows a lot about gymnastics and will help us do better."

One of those new faces is freshman Sam Hoffman.

Hoffman is expected to excel on varsity after doing club gymnastics for many years.

"Sam Hoffman has a ton of potential and she is really headed far on the team," said Davidoff.

"She is an amazing gymnast and has a good chance of making the state qualifiers this year."

This season, the team has very high expectations for itself and wants to place at regionals this year.

"I have high expectations for the team this year. The girls are all really strong and the level of talent is higher than it has been in the past," said Davidoff.

The team has very high hopes especially with recently introduced assistant coach, Mr. Nolan Sullivan.

"We are excited and looking forward to getting to know Coach Sullivan," said Grieco.

"He brings a lot of useful knowledge to our team and we hope he helps propel us to the level that we should be competing at," said Medaglia.

Coach Melissa Havern and Coach Sullivan have high expectations for the girls and themselves.

"The team is really close overall despite the age differences. Overall we are hoping to have a good season and hopefully have people on our team place at invitational this year," said Grieco.

The team plays next on Dec. 22 at Great Neck South at 5 p.m. This will be the team's second match of the season.

Girls and boys squads prepare for difficult schedule ahead

Despite bowling's lack of media attention, team has big turnout this season

BY **Aaron Brezel**

Staff Writer

Though bowling is often overlooked as a serious extracurricular, it is a sport that demands the utmost commitment and drive to succeed. Both the girls and boys teams compete in a tough division that includes powerhouses such as Great Neck South and Garden City, the latter of which boasts an undefeated boys team.

From Monday through Thursday every week, both teams practice at Herrill Lanes in New Hyde Park. With 10 students on the boys team and 12 on the girls team, bowling can become highly competitive amongst teammates who jockey for varsity positions, as the roster is fluid and can change at any time. This provides for intra-team competition that brings out the best in each player. Aside from competing against one another, each player recognizes the importance of hard work individually.

The boys team, led by seniors Matt Bregman and Sen Ninan, have risen to meet the challenges they encounter.

"They will realize their full potential to be good if they understand how to compete on a daily basis," said Coach Joseph Delgais.

Coach Delgais brings to light an important goal for this season. In order to improve on their less than optimal two win campaign a season ago, the players must bowl consistently. Since matches

are decided by the cumulative points for each player, a player who bowls a low score hurts the team as a whole. For the second year in a row, sophomore Jameson Santelli leads the team with a 180 point average, a statistic that also places him third in the league.

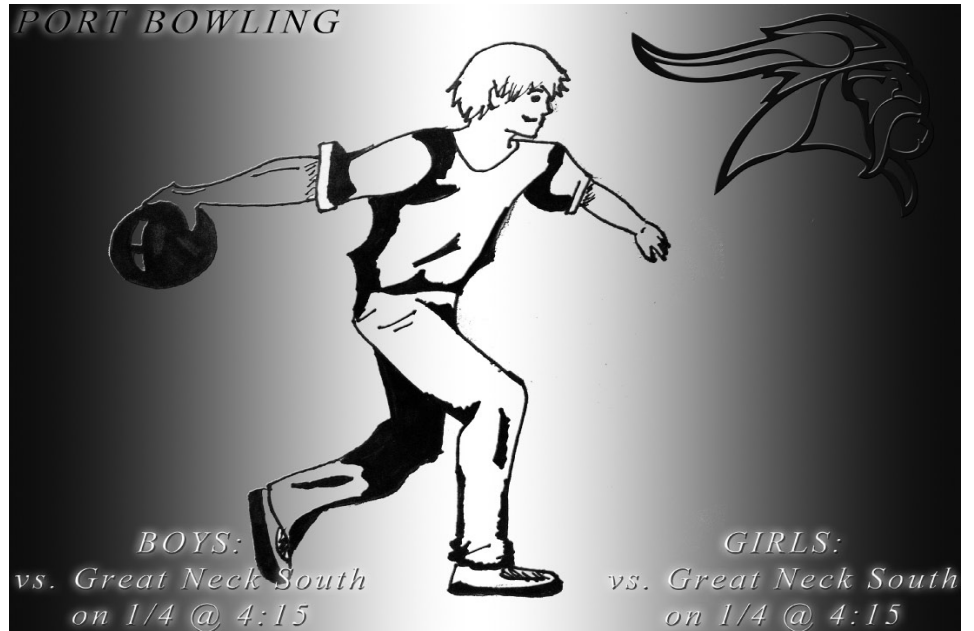
In order for the boys team to succeed in the future, they realize they must cultivate and develop the talents of young players.

"We need to work on building a concrete base of underclassmen," said Santelli.

Along with Santelli, sophomores Chris Goh, Bradley Gordon, and Murphy Siegel, and freshmen Trevor Marks and Chris Zolli all contribute to the team. According to their coach, all these players show flashes of greatness but are not always consistent, something which must happen if Port can compete with every team.

This season, the boys bowling team has gotten off to a shaky start, with the varsity team achieving a 1-3 record which includes losses to Garden City. The junior varsity has fared slightly better going 2-2 in the same stretch. Despite this undesirable record, according to the players and coaches, the team is steadily improving.

"We have a lot of new talent this year, and over the course of the season so far, we are progressing very much skill-wise, and we are only a little bit away from being able to compete at a high level," said Siegel.



Harry Paul

The girls team faces a similar situation as the boys team. This year they have benefited from excellent play by seniors Melisa Kennedy and Jenna Lipman, junior Emily Zorfass, and sophomore Grace Solmida.

One of the biggest achievements of the girls team this year has been attracting interest to the team. Having 12 girls on the varsity and junior varsity squad is a vast improvement from four years ago where Lipman can recall barely having enough players to fill both teams.

"Bowling is a growing program at our school, each year we have more girls try

out," said Lipman. "This makes me feel as though I am leaving behind a talented and dedicated group of girls who will help the team stay alive in the future."

Indeed, despite present setbacks, the leadership of the team is optimistic as well.

"Both teams as a whole work really hard, while enjoying the time we spend at the lanes. What the coaches and players want everyone at Schreiber to know is that Port bowling is going to be making headlines very soon," said Coach Delgais.

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VIKING SPORTS

Boys basketball team creates hype with 2-1 start *With many players returning, team's experience helps create quick success*

BY Dan Miranda
Assistant Sports Editor

The squeaks of sneakers and the side chatter from players could be heard throughout the gym as the boys basketball team stretched and completed their practice workout.

In just three days, the team would take the floor against East Meadow, hopefully in a gym packed with rowdy fans. But today was a day to put work in, to prepare for the challenges that the home opener would bring.

The preparation proved to be worth it on Dec. 15, when the Vikings defeated East Meadow by a score of 51-48.

In his first game on the varsity squad, junior Josh Gordon led the team with 18 points, six rebounds, and four steals. Sophomore Ryan Kriftcher also saw a lot of time on the court with the starting team, which included seniors Josh Feshbach, Jake Froccaro, and Matt Valenti.

Feshbach, a point guard with dazzling moves, transferred from Friends Academy to play under Coach Sean Dooley in Sept. 2010. Although he was playing with an injury in the home opener, he finished with 10 points against East Meadow.

"Josh Feshbach's our returning point guard, very talented player; he can do a lot of things with the ball, can shoot from the outside, so we expect big things from him," said Coach Dooley.

Valenti, a small but "strong defensive player," in Coach Dooley's words, has the hustle in him to find rebounds over much taller forwards.

He scored nine points, including a clutch layup that put the Vikings over East Meadow with a minute remaining, but

his most significant contribution came on the boards. Coach Dooley noted that the Vikings' size does not benefit them, so they will be forced to play with a faster pace.

Last Thursday marked a particularly special day for Froccaro, as he was accepted to Princeton University, where he will play lacrosse.

The self-appointed "six-foot power forward" also hit two key free throws with seven seconds remaining in the game to put the Vikings up 51-48.

Dec. 15, the day the game was played, also marked the birthdays of his two grandmothers, one of whom passed away last summer.

"It is almost hard to put into words how great this day was for me," said Froccaro directly after the game. "My grandmother Sally Froccaro passed away this summer, so I wanted to play this game in her memory and make her proud."

Coach Dooley praised Froccaro's scoring abilities, particularly his newfound ability to take control on the court.

"Jake Froccaro's looked really good at the beginning of the season, making jump shots, getting to the basket strong, finishing strong around the rim," said Coach



Harry Paul

Junior Josh Gordon attempts a lay-up over the hands of an East Meadow defender in the most recent homegame on Dec. 15.

Dooley.

While no sophomore made the team last season, Ryan Kriftcher and Matt Siegel are two underclassmen who have played well when given the opportunity this year.

"They have both looked really good. We have been impressed that they have been able to pick up what we're trying to do. They are not afraid, have not been backing down at all, and we expect them to play and be contributors this year," said Coach Dooley.

In the game as a whole, many were impressed with the team's performance.

"I didn't expect them to go on that run in the fourth quarter. Gordon kept them in the game," said alumnus K.C. Ozcayir, who graduated in 2011 and is a freshman at Hofstra University.

The reason for the victory could be attributed to the new offense Coach Dooley put in place last season.

The goal of the offense is to emphasize reacting, instead of thinking, and knowing how to play against certain types of defenses.

"Last year we started the new offense; since it was a new system it was kind of a struggle for us," said Coach Dooley. "Now that it is the second year for almost all the guys in the offense, it is really made a huge difference from what we have seen so far."

Another reason for the home opener victory could have been the fans who tenaciously attacked East Meadow from the stands.

"Fans were... awesome. Thanks for coming and showing

your support for the team," wrote Froccaro on the event's Facebook page after the game.

On Dec. 16, the Vikings played in the Manhasset Tournament and lost in their opening round match. They went on to beat Carle Place in the consolation game, where Froccaro (19 points), Kriftcher (11) and senior Jay Cohen (10) all hit double digits in the Vikings' 63-22 route to third place.

Coach Dooley noted how the team has played together in their pursuit of victory.

"It has been great so far. We do not have a lot of size so we are really stressing having the whole team play together to be successful," said Coach Dooley.

Practices have taken on new meaning and the team has bonded doing work that is sometimes considered boring or dull. The team does a drill every practice called "Perfection" where they have to do a series of layups, jumpers, and weaves running up and down the court.

"The guys all get along and push each other in practice. Practices have been fun," said Dooley. "They have been competitive and are working hard. I think it is because they like each other so much."

Sidelined thus far have been senior Mahlik Merriweather and junior Joey Alagna, the latter of whom is out with torn cartilage and is expected to return after the new year.

"It is a very exciting team to watch, especially our first home game," said Alagna. "Sometimes when we do things wrong I want to go out there and help but I can't, so I am trying to get healthy as soon as possible."

The team has gotten off to a 2-1 (1-0 in conference) start this season.

Their next game is against MacArthur on Jan. 3 at 6:15 p.m. After that, they meet up with their division rival Plainview/JFK at home on Jan. 6 at 4:30 p.m.



Harry Paul

Point guard Josh Feshbach brings the ball up the court. His leadership is part of what makes him such a valuable asset to the team.