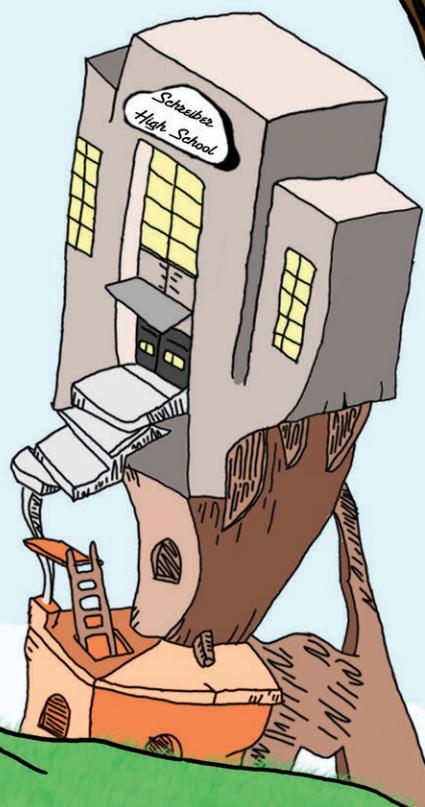


THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXII No. 7 March 2012



"I am the Lorax, I speak for the trees.
I have some small thanks for report cards like these.
You no longer put paper in trumpled trash
to look at your grades on machives that do flash"



Project X
-A&E-



Music Ensembles
-News-

Sex in the Media
-Opinions-
Desk Arrangements
-Features-

IN THIS ISSUE...

NEWS.

Music month p. 3
Budget update p. 4
Online report cards p. 5

OPINIONS.

Sex in the media p. 9
Snow days p. 9
Teaching the Bible p. 8

FEATURES.

Desk arrangements p. 16
Mojito review p. 14
Hair narrative p. 15

A&E.

The Lorax p. 17
Project X p. 18
Mass Effect 3 p. 19

SPORTS.

Badminton preview p. 21
Busiest day in sports p. 21
Tennis preview p. 23



Junior Jelane DaSilva took this photograph in the secluded woods near her house. It was not for a school assignment but rather for recreation. This picture features Keara Doyle, a Port Washington resident who attends Our Lady of Mercy Academy.

NEWS BRIEFS

Auditing Staff Salaries

In order to verify that the staff members are indeed the ones collecting their paychecks, an auditor paid a visit to the school.

On Feb. 29, an administrator made an announcement at the end of first period, requesting that teachers retrieve their paychecks during the course of the day, when the auditor could verify that they were actually employees.

Earlier that day, Principal Mr. Ira Pernick received instructions to make this announcement at the specified time. He did not receive prior notification concerning the auditor, nor did any of the teachers.

"The purpose is to make sure everyone receiving checks is working here," said Mr. Pernick.

An auditor comes to the school annually for this reason. Staff members are required to present photo identification. The results of this process are sent to the superintendent, and the school is only notified if a problem arises.

However, there was some confusion throughout the building about the announcement itself.

"It was an unusual announcement, so I was worried about the unusual nature of it," said Mr. Pernick. "Thankfully,

everything went well."

Perhaps the most unexpected aspect of this announcement was that it broke the barrier that usually exists about discussing teachers' salaries.

"The way that they mentioned teachers getting paid was strange," said junior Emily Lipstein.

It is important for this procedure to take place periodically to ensure that taxes are not misused or exploited by "ghost employees," or someone who embezzles money with a fake name. Because teachers are public employees, their salaries are funded by taxpayer money.

"For example, I could say that my wife was working here, even though she isn't, and she could get paid," said Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald. "This is to prevent that from happening."

Teachers at Weber have also experienced similar incidents in the past. Many teachers were annoyed by the unusual disruption the announcement caused during class time.

"Although I thought they could have had it at a better time, the announcement didn't bother me," said math teacher Ms. Elizabeth Kamerer. "Maybe they could have sent an e-mail the day before."

~Lena Kogan and Ana Espinoza

Mardi Gras

On March 15, the Foreign Language Honor Society hosted its annual Mardi Gras celebration in the cafeteria. Mardi Gras, usually observed earlier in the year, is traditionally a festival for the last day of eating rich foods before Lent.

"Mardi Gras is a multicultural celebration that is celebrated all over the world. It has ties to most of the languages that are studied here," said LOTE Chair Mr. John Placella.

After several months of planning, the Honor Society invited all foreign language students to attend. The dinner was potluck style so each attendee brought in a dish. There was an assortment of pastas, salads, dumplings, cookies, and other such foods.

"I liked the foods from different cultures," said French teacher Ms. Jeannine Reed. "It's a very nice way for students to meet new people and celebrate Mardi Gras."

Aside from the food, students were able to participate in limbo, musical chairs, and a conga line. Prizes were awarded to the winners.

"The fun is ongoing at Mardi Gras, and it's great to hang out with your friends," said junior Emily Schmidt.

~Rachel Cho and Crystal Ren

The Schreiber Times

Editors-in-Chief

Katya Barrett
Sophia Jaffe

Copy Editors

Matt Heiden
Will Zhou

News

Editor
Hannah Fagen
Assistant Editors
Minah Kim
Celine Sze

Opinions

Editors
Alice Chou
Brendan Weintraub
Assistant Editor
Jake Eisenberg

Features

Editor
Hannah Zweig
Assistant Editors
David Katz
Heidi Shin

A&E

Editor
Bethia Kwak
Assistant Editors
Katie Fishbin
Kerim Kivrak

Sports

Senior Editors
Brett Fishbin
Drew Friedman
Assistant Editor
Dan Miranda

Graphics

Senior Editor
Loren Giron
Assistant Editor
Risa Choi

Photo

Editors
Elana Galassi
Harry Paul

Business

Manager
Adam Pollack
Assistant Manager
Aaron Schuckman



Published by the student body of Paul D. Schreiber High School. Letters to the editor should be addressed to The Schreiber Times, 101 Campus Drive, Port Washington, New York 11050. The editors reserve the right to refuse, print, edit, return, or not return any submitted material. All letters must be signed by each author. We have a circulation of 2,000 copies per issue with subscriptions available for \$12.00 per school year. We accept camera-ready ads or will design ads to your specifications. For information, call our business office at (516) 767-5862.

Staff Writers: Dan Bidikov, Aaron Brezel, Rachel Cho, Erin Choe, Jessica Commiso, Julia Deriu, Chad Edelblum, Ana Espinoza, Ryan Havens, Sydney Heiden, Lena Kogan, Shari Meltzer, Caroline Ogulnick, Veronika Onischenko, Harry Paul, Daniella Phillipson, Alexa Pinto, Penina Remler, Crystal Ren, Jack Simon, Hallie Whitman, Lauren Whitman.
Contributing Writers: Jenni Barshay, Hayden Quigley. **Cover:** Loren Giron, Chris Goh, Jane Nolting-Kolb, Brian Seo. **Centerfold:** Hannah Fagen, Minah Kim. **Backpage:** Dan Miranda.

Subscribe to The Schreiber Times!

Subscriptions cost \$12.00 for the 2011-2012 school year

Mail to: Schreiber Times, Attn. Craig Medico or Evelina Zarkh
101 Campus Drive, Port Washington, NY 11050
Make checks payable to: Port Washington Schools

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Ira Pernick, principal
Craig Medico, Evelina Zarkh, advisers
© 2012, The Schreiber Times

Dallas Brass and Ithaca College Orchestra visit

Professional music ensembles perform with and for students

By Celine Sze

Assistant News Editor

As March is the National Association for Music Education's "Music in Our Schools Month," both the Schreiber bands and orchestras invited high-level musicians to watch their rehearsals, teach them new skills, and play alongside them. The bands and orchestras each had an in-school field trip with Dallas Brass and the Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra, respectively, and performed a musical piece with them at a free admissions concert that was open to the community.

Dallas Brass

Dallas Brass is a group of five brass players and one percussionist which travels across the nation and visits school bands. The members of Dallas Brass are Mr. D.J. Barraclough, Mr. Juan Berrios, Mr. Paul Carlson, Mr. Ben Handel, Mr. Michael Levine, and Mr. Lorenzo Trujillo. Funded by contributions from the Port Washington Education Foundation, the six visited Schreiber on March 7 to hold a clinic for not only the high school students but also for the sixth and seventh grade band students from Weber as well as the fourth grade band students from all five Port Washington elementary schools. Dallas Brass focused on teaching the students to practice effectively in order to learn a piece, transpose music into different key signatures by simply listening to it, and work cooperatively in an ensemble.

"My favorite part was watching my students mature as musicians throughout the day and play with greater focus and precision," said band director Mr. Mark Brenner.

At 7 p.m. that night, Dallas Brass held a concert, which also featured the high school and Weber eighth grade bands in the auditorium. The theme of Dallas Brass' performance was to provide an "American Musical Journey" by showcasing songs from different times in American history.

The group started with songs that were written around the American Revolution. They played "Hail Columbia," originally written by Philip Phile for George Washington's first inauguration, "Yankee

Because many of the members were able to play several different instruments, they introduced and showcased a number of them, including the piccolo trumpet, B flat trumpet, and frugal horn. Mr. Trujillo, Mr. Berrios, and Mr. Barraclough played a short song together, so the audience could compare the timbres of the different instruments.

After intermission, the Weber eighth grade band joined the Dallas Brass members on stage to perform the *Star Wars* theme song composed by John Williams. The eighth grade band director Mr. Paul Moyer helped prepare the music with the students beforehand and conducted the piece at the concert.

Next, the concert and symphonic bands performed "American Tableau" with Dallas Brass conducted by Mr. Levine. This song incorporated various popular patriotic tunes, such as "America the Beautiful" and "I've Been Working On The Railroad."

Despite the main focus on brass instruments, the group had some performances that included other instruments or lacked instruments completely. The percussionist, Mr. Handel, played Billy Joel's "Streetlife Serenade," originally for the piano, on the xylophone. He drew cheers and applause from the audience with his quick range of motions and comical expressions. In addition to this, the whole group only used their hands in a synchronized percussive performance called "Hands" by Mary Ellen Childs.

With the end of the concert approaching, Dallas Brass played more modern day music. They performed a mash up of various songs from American pop culture, including Maroon 5's "Moves Like Jagger" and LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem."

For their finale, Dallas Brass played a very upbeat song off the stage and in the audience. Mr. Trujillo even had one of the band players stand up and play with them. The piece ended with a lengthy drum solo from Mr. Handel that elicited a standing ovation from the crowd.



Sloane Volpe

Dallas Brass performs pieces for high school, middle school, and elementary school students. The group spent a full day in town as a part of "Music in Our Schools Month."

"Outstanding! Best event ever. The audience response was overwhelming," said Director of Creative Arts Ms. Sheri Suzzan. "The talent and showmanship of the Dallas Brass is unmatched to anything that has ever come to Port."

Ithaca College Orchestra

The symphony orchestra, string orchestra, and mixed choir also had the opportunity to interact with high-level musicians. On March 12, the Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra, a group of about 80 string and band instruments, conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Meyer and accompanied by opera singer Jessica Julin, came to Schreiber for a full-day workshop and evening concert on the second day of their three day tour.

The event began with a master class during which several students had the opportunity to play excerpts of musical pieces that they had been preparing. Violist senior Jennifer Kim and violinists sophomores Bomin Choi and Annie Kim played parts of solos. Afterwards, Dr. Meyer worked on specific sections with each of them.

"Playing for an audience is always a good experience for a performer; playing for someone like Dr. Meyer was one of the best experiences. I really appreciated the feedback he gave. It really allowed me to analyze my playing and what I could do to improve as a musician," said A. Kim.

Some students from the mixed choir performed a piece in front of a professional musician. Ms. Julin also interacted with the whole mixed choir by discussing proper vocal techniques and her experiences as a professional performer.

"I would have liked more of our students to get a chance to perform at the Master Class Workshop but due to time restraints, only three got to receive comments," said orchestra teacher Mr. Anthony Pinelli. "The district wide assembly was wonderful. I received all positive feedback by email from the teachers of the schools and parents that attended."

The fourth grade and middle school

orchestras were present for the main workshop. The graduate conductor, Mr. Patrick Valentino, spent time analyzing the four movements of Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 4 in F minor," one of the pieces the Ithaca Symphony Orchestra would perform in the concert later that evening.

In order to prepare for the evening concert, the symphony orchestra rehearsed "Adagio for Strings" by Samuel Barber with the Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra.

The Ithaca College School of Music had requested that members of the orchestras house the Ithaca students for one night to eliminate housing expenses. Moreover, by the time the concert would end that night, it would be too late for the college orchestra to travel to Troy in upstate New York, which was their last destination on their tour. Most of the high school students that had available space in their houses hosted two to four college students each.

The Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra opened the concert with Dvorak's "Carnival Overture." Ms. Julin, accompanied by the orchestra, performed solos from Verdi's Don Carlo, Puccini's Manon Lescaut, and Verdi's I Vespri Siciliani before the intermission.

Following the break, the high school and college string students came together on stage to perform Barber's "Adagio for Strings," a somber piece that is featured in many film soundtracks, including the Vietnam War movie *Platoon*.

"I believe the Barber went exceptionally well. The students played very maturely. The opportunity to work with Jeff Meyer was further enhanced with the students' level of playing," said Mr. Pinelli.

For the finale, the Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra played Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 4 in F minor," a 45 minute piece that brought the audience to its feet.

"My favorite part was having our students get to work under such a world renowned conductor and have him tell me how wonderful our students were. I felt so proud of the string program!" said Mr. Pinelli.



Harry Paul

The Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Meyer perform for students and community members. The orchestra visited the school to work with students and provide an evening concert for the community.

Doodle," and "Home on the Range."

Dallas Brass surprised the audience with "The Pink Panther Theme" by Henry Mancini. They used different colored lighting against a white curtain background and wore sunglasses that were appropriate to the jazzy mood.

Although this was the finale, they provided an encore performance that included more than thirty different songs in five minutes. Dallas Brass concluded the entire performance with bursts of confetti, and the crowd gave them a standing ovation once again.

Diversity committee hosts potluck dinner

by **Hannah Fagen**
News Editor

Staff, administrators, and students representing several groups recently came together with a common goal—to learn how to embrace diversity.

The Diversity Committee, which Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon chair, held the school's first ever Diversity Dinner, a night to discuss the needs of students from underrepresented groups, on March 8.

The committee began meeting last school year and aims to bring together people from both various schools and the community to support diversity.

"We have a mission statement, but it's very open-ended, which I think is good," said Dr. Fitzgerald.

During their meetings, the Diversity Committee focused on certain groups of students who are often paid little attention in the educational sphere.

"We started understanding from doing literature and internet searches and discussions that certain groups are really not getting enough support," said Dr. Fitzgerald. "One of them was the LGBT group. Now, we have a lot of need to help all sorts of groups. We all agree that the Latino population probably needs a lot more visibility, support and acceptance. Same with our African American population."

After Dr. Fitzgerald attended a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) meeting during the first semester and noted a general lack of acceptance, support, and knowledge of the cause, he invited a few leaders from the club to make a presentation to the Diversity Committee.

"The committee really enjoyed their presentation," said Dr. Fitzgerald. "They got a huge ovation, and they got 100 percent support. Everyone agreed, 'fair enough, we understand.'"

Their presentation included the idea for a dinner, and GSA President Christianne Bharath suggested the theme "free to be." The Diversity Committee finally decided to pursue the dinner idea,

but expand it beyond the LGBT group to include other minority groups. A GSA subcommittee of Bharath and senior Rachel Ellinger and junior Shuvo Abedin formed to help with the event planning.

"We decided to have a night where we could bring together the Bridging the Gap kids, which is so much of our energy in the African American and Latino population, the GSA kids, and the ESL kids, and we invited the entire diversity committee," said Dr. Fitzgerald.

Because the Diversity Committee operates without funding and could not afford to purchase food for a large event, they decided to make this year's dinner a small potluck dinner, rather than inviting the whole student body.

Approximately 50 guests attended the dinner in the Student Commons. The event opened with a variety of student performances. Afterwards, each group made a presentation to the committee. These presentations included one about African American History month, one from ESL Director Ms. Shirley Cepero and from Bridging the Gap Adviser Ms. Marisa DeMarco, and one from the GSA subcommittee.

After the group presentations, the Diversity Committee discussed the new "Dignity for All Students Act," which is a collaboration of the New York State Education Department and the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU). Specifically, the act protects students from being targeted due to their "race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion and religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, and gender."

This act will be in effect starting July 1 at all schools in the state.

"The event was a lot of fun; I had a good time," said sophomore Luis Orellana, in Spanish.



Courtesy of Dr. Brad Fitzgerald

Juniors Christianne Bharath and Shuvo Abedin and senior Rachel Ellinger make a presentation about how to embrace diversity. The Diversity Committee planned a dinner to discuss the needs of underrepresented students.

'12-13 budget plan progresses as vote approaches

by **Matt Heiden**
Copy Editor

Complicating the discussions of next year's school budget is the new two percent property tax cap that Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law last June, which will require that Port scale its programs back, unless at least 60 percent of voters decide to override that cap in a referendum.

"The problem is that with the new tax levy cap all over New York State, districts are being forced to either have lower costs for clubs or sports or being forced to reduce offerings," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon.

Because of the two percent cap on tax increases, as well as the problems of balancing the budget in a tough economy, the district has to weigh spending cuts against maintaining new programs. These include the Port Enrichment Program (PEP) in the elementary schools and middle school, more course offerings at Schreiber, and sports teams.

"I support all of the arts, athletics, and clubs for students. When I came 10 years ago I added 9 AP's at the high school, including AP Macro, AP Micro, AP Psych, and AP Physics B and C. We are one of five high schools in Nassau offering our students 25 or more AP choices. Ditto with athletics where we now have 89 teams and during our partnership for students went from 990 interscholastic athletes at

Weber and Schreiber to more than 1,600," said Dr. Gordon.

The process of forming the budget, though, has yet to begin in earnest.

"There's no specific cuts at this point, except what the administration offered to the public," said Board of Education member Mr. Bob Ryan as *The Schreiber Times* went to press.

According to Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Mary Callahan's budget presentation from March 6, there will be at least two high school teachers cut, four sections in the elementary and middle schools, and three PEP teachers. Possibly, the PEP program could end entirely, losing all six teachers.

Many of the thornier issues still have to be resolved with the Port Washington Teachers Association.

"At present there is still no agreement on unit cost reduction with the teachers union," said Dr. Gordon.

Many of these changes have been discussed and finalized at the Board of Education meeting on March 20.

"While we will have to deal with fewer dollars next year, I am confident that Schreiber will have the resources to run the programs that have made it a unique school," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick

Student Actions

People do not often anticipate the calculations for the budget by more than one or two years in advance. But aided

by two investment bankers from Sands Point, Mr. Michael Duran and Mr. David Schamis, four juniors have begun to help create models of the budget in potential scenarios.

From math research, junior Harry Pan, and from social science juniors Robert Gray, Mackenzie Drukker, and Hallie Whitman, in cooperation with Ms. Callahan, will begin to help model the budget around the next five to 10 years.

"A multimillion dollar budget that doesn't look at years in the future is kind of irresponsible," said Whitman.

The two businessmen use similar tools to inform them when they buy businesses, and they are teaching the juniors to each create their own mini-models and to deal with specific aspects of the budget, such as teachers' pensions and insurance issues.

"It would help the district plan for long-term costs," said Drukker. "There is still a lot of information we need to get from the school and Ms. Callahan."

"As a thoughtful community member put it at the last meeting, last year administrators told us that certain employees and expenditures were essential, and that those necessities were protected by the budget. This year, these same indispensable staff and programs are vulnerable to cuts, and district officials and members of the community have a long way to go before a budget without dangerous cuts is produced," said senior Noah Reisman, a student representative on the Board of Education.

Junior math research competes in Moody's Mega challenge

by **Minah Kim**
Assistant News Editor

Taking part in Moody's Mega Math Challenge (M3), junior math research students faced the challenge to create a model for a cost-effective railline across the United States and produce an extensive paper of their findings. The competition required them to apply math to a complex problem and submit their solutions in exactly 14 hours.

The ten juniors split into two teams of five to compete against over 1,900 other teams in the nation. The two teams, led by juniors Drew Feldman and Ali Peltz, received a PDF document detailing the challenge the morning of the competition, and students had to conduct extensive research and write a detailed analysis by 9 p.m.

Relating to Congress's recent elimination of High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) funding, the prompt entitled "All Aboard: Can High Speed Rail Get Back on Track?" provoked students to tackle the issue of rising fuel and transportation costs. Through research and critical thinking, students produced a report forecasting ridership numbers, maintenance and building costs, effects on dependence on foreign energy, and rankings of cities that would benefit from HSIPR.

"I didn't really know what to do when I saw the problem because I had never heard of HSIPR or dealt with this kind of problem," said junior Matthew Kim.

Stationed in the foreign language computer lab and the math research classroom, the two teams had access to any publicly available resource on the internet or in the library. Their only limitation was that the competition prohibits receiving aid from teachers or any other individuals outside of the five member team.

"It was a wonderful experience to see the kids work together," said math research teacher Mr. Anthony Tedesco.

By researching and developing mathematical models for costs, profit, passengers, time, efficiency, and other transportation systems, the teams each created a model that would make HSIPR viable in today's world.

After organizing the elements to be researched and analyzed, students divided up the work into conducting research, making calculations, and writing the paper. Even during lunch and dinner breaks, students had to remain with their teams.

"We were pretty relaxed in the beginning, but we became really stressed after dinner because we realized that after many hours of creating our project, we still had several hours left. It was a pretty exhausting thought," said junior Eleanor Kim.

While dealing with the problem at hand, participants also had to cooperate with teammates for a lengthy period of time.

"It was tough to be stuck in a room with the same five people for 14 hours," said junior Ali Peltz. "I not only learned strategies on how to solve a problem but also the struggles of working as a group."

The stressful environment affected some of the participants' attitudes.

"I didn't know people could turn into twentieth century dictators," said junior Drew Feldman.

Administrators plan to send report cards electronically

by **Hannah Fagen**
News Editor

In the year 2012, one can watch films, buy clothes, or even go to class on the Internet. Starting next year, parents will be able to access their children's grades online as well.

In an effort to save funds and trees, and also to take advantage of available technological resources, starting next semester, the school will open up the Powerschool Parent Portal to the Schreiber community. This online program will enable the school district to reduce, if not eliminate, printed report cards, progress reports, and informational letters.

"I do think it is part of a logical progression for Schreiber to provide information in a more efficient way," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick.

Before the new school year commences, parents will receive confidential login information with which they can access their children's grades.

The use of this program will ultimately save our district funds. Postage costs have been rising each year, and the paper, envelopes, printing supplies, and labor required to physically mail out information is expensive. For example, according to Mr. Hardy, just the postage for the four report cards and four progress reports that go out to the 1,577 students cost the district close to \$6,000 annually.

"We send out many mailings throughout the year that we can reduce for a significant savings," said Mr. Pernick. "Most of this started as a way to save money."

The online portal is a part of the

Powerschool program that teachers throughout the district already use for the purposes of grades and attendance, among other things. The use of this program will not cost the district any additional money.

As an added bonus, the transition to online grades is an ecologically sound move. Instead of using endless reams of paper to get information out to families, the school will do it with the eco-friendly World Wide Web.

"I'm sure there will be pros and cons of an online grading system; reducing paper use is one of the pros," said Environmental Science teacher Ms. Julie Brandt.

Among many other mailers each year, all students receive four report cards, four progress reports, two class schedules, and two testing schedules. This alone accounts for 18,924 sheets of paper, and the same amount of envelopes.

Families who so choose can opt out of online grading before the program starts, and they will be able to receive the standard mailings in their homes. Those without home computers or Internet access may prefer this choice, while others may simply prefer the printed word.

"I definitely prefer getting report cards in the mail," said junior Jennifer Schild. "I like having something tangible to hold on to that shows my achievements."

As of now, administrators have yet to decide if and how students may utilize this service. At this time, parents will be the first to gain access.

"I am not sure about student access," said Mr. Pernick. "We are still learning about how the system works. Our needs are unique, and we are trying to get the system to adapt to them."

Another benefit of using the online

Students herd around Mr. Pernick



Sloane Volpe

Dressed as a cow, Principal Mr. Ira Pernick poses with seniors in the lobby. Keeping his promise to dress up as a cow if the Social Studies Honor Society raised \$300 for Heifer International, Mr. Pernick wore a cow costume during lunch periods on March 9. Heifer International donates livestock and seeds to families in poor countries to end poverty and hunger.

grading service is the time factor; no longer will students and parents have to wait the shipping time to get information. Once grades are finalized, they will be made available.

Much like the popular grading site Engrade, the parent portal can act as a real-time gradebook. Administrators are considering using this part of the service as well.

"I know that other schools (and even some of our teachers) use a system, such as Engrade, to provide greater

communication and information to parents," said Mr. Hardy.

Online grades and progress reports will add to a slew of other online services that the school offers, including plagiarism checkers and databases of scholarly peer-reviewed literature.

"Becoming a more technically savvy school is important and it will help us in the future," said Nathan Lefcowitz. "This is just one step in bringing this school into the twenty-first century."

THE WRITING CENTER

"The art of writing is the art of discovering what you believe."

—David Hare



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

WHERE?

Room 212

WHEN?

Every day during 4-1/4-2

Seniors continue to win the Spirit Week competition

BY Jessica Commisso and Julia Deriu

Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

For a week in March, costumes, colors, and, mostly, competition, abounded as a part of the annual Spirit Week events.

Students from the Spirit Week Committee decorated the lobby with blue and white balloons and banners to set the spirit for a week of activities including chess, face painting, and charity events from March 5-9.

"Throughout the week, I was able to meet with grade representatives from the Spirit Week Committee in order to organize and prepare the activities for the students," said Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres. "I was amazed by the dedication and initiative that the students took in order to make Spirit Week a success. I want to emphasize the fact that Spirit Week was started by and run by the students. All grades have a huge impact, and everyone should take part in this school event."

The committee also placed coin jars and trash receptacles in the lobby so the students could participate in penny wars and the recycling competition.

For penny wars, students who put pennies into their grade's barrel earned positive points for their grade. Any other bills or coins put in the barrels counted as negative points. At the end of the week, the winning grade, the seniors, got to keep a portion of their earnings. The rest of it will be donated to the Invisible Children charity.

Perhaps the most obvious indication

of Spirit Week were the dress-up days. Every day throughout the week, each grade was assigned both a theme and a color; students could dress up according to either category for points for their grades. Dress-up themes included sports, twin day, various holidays, and spirit day. On Friday, before the pep rally, student volunteers painted faces in the lobby, and the Junior Class Club sold blue hairspray.

The Treehuggers environmental club organized the recycling competition. Each class had an individual garbage bin in which students could place recyclable bottles or cans. When the event finished, members of the club counted the bottles or cans in each bin to determine the winner. The members then took the recycled items to a grocery store where they exchanged their bottles for money. The money retrieved was then awarded to the winning class, the class of 2012.

During Spirit Week's culminating event, the pep rally, students competed to determine the winner. At the start of the pep rally, the seniors were just barely ahead of the juniors, with the freshmen and then sophomores following.

Diverging from the traditional pep rally activities of tug-of-war, free-throw contests, and relay races, this highly-anticipated pep rally included a simultaneous hula hooping and ball-tossing competition, a human burrito contest, cereal-box dominoes, and an eating contest with whipped cream and watermelon.

"We wanted to come up with new events so we researched Minute to Win It games, which is where all of our activities



Harry Paul

Juniors Andrew Cullen and Matias Franco participate in a cup stacking competition. This was one of many contests at the Pep Rally on March 9. The points from this competition, among others, determined the senior class as the winners.

come from," said senior Alexandra Sater, who was part of the Spirit Week Committee. "Overall, I am happy with the outcome of Spirit Week, but wished that more students participated and dressed up."

The breakdancing competition, which ended up as the determining factor for the week's winners, brought forth one student from each grade to showcase his dancing skills. The judges narrowed down the competitors to senior Adam Cuthill and junior Matt Carras for the final round.

In accordance with tradition, seniors took the first place trophy. In a close second place came juniors, followed by freshmen and sophomores. The final point breakdown of Spirit Week was 32,810 points for seniors, 31,230 for juniors, 22,870 for freshmen, and 16,580 for sophomores.

"As my first year here, I am very impressed and proud of the result of Spirit Week and the pep rally," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. "I think it is a great way to get students involved in supporting



Harry Paul

Senior Adam Cuthill and junior Matt Carras face off in the breakdancing competition. Carras' unexpected ensemble and choreography were not enough to win. Cuthill's win for the seniors made them the overall winners.

Although he did not win, Carras surprised the student body and staff with his dance style and his ensemble, which consisted of a pink tank top, metallic leggings, and a tutu.

"Matt Carras's dance moves may have been derivative of the Flamingo style of the seventeenth Century Spaniards, but he was still able to evoke a sense of swagadeliciousness with his aggressive fluidity and skills," said junior Benjamin Lerner.

Seniors Sater, Shannon Balaban, and Adam Pollack emceed the event and cheered on their senior classmates.

their class. It makes school more fun, and having the staff involved adds to the spirit. I would love to see more students participating and would like to find a way to increase more student involvement."

With many of its central members graduating in June, the planning committee welcomes any prospective new members.

"I encourage students to take part in the Spirit Week Committee. It is not an exclusive group, and many more people should get involved. If you are interested in joining next year, you should see Ms. Torres for more information," said Sater.

CURRENT EVENTS CORNER

The one year anniversary of the tsunami that struck Japan on March 11, 2011 was commemorated. The tsunami led to a nuclear radiation leak that cut short attempts to rescue survivors.

On March 11, US Army Staff Sergeant Robert Bales is a suspect for the murder of 16 Afghan civilians, nine of whom were children, in a rural area in Southern Afghanistan. The reason for these killings is still unclear.

On Super Tuesday, March 13, Rick Santorum won the Alabama, Mississippi, and Kansas Republican Presidential Primaries while Mitt Romney won the Hawaii and Wyoming primaries.

Locals raised nearly \$85,000 for the Special Olympics at the Polar Plunge on March 5. Around 500 participants were present for the event at Hempstead Harbor.

"KONY 2012" video, advertising for the charity Invisible Children, went viral, with more than 100 million views.

ADVERTISEMENT



DELICATESSEN

666 Port Washington Blvd.

Port Washington, NY 11050

⁵¹⁶ 883-3730 • ⁵¹⁶ 883-6580 fax

STUDENT-TEACHER SPECIAL

(Because we heard you!)

SMALL ICED TEA or MEDIUM FOUNTAIN SODA

with purchase of any

HINCK'S HERO

Now taking orders for PARTY PLATTERS
filled with any of your favorite HINCK'S SANDWICHES!!
Monday to Friday - 11:00 AM-2:00PM with School I.D.

Point

Counterpoint

Is there room for the Bible in public school curricula?

By Hallie Whitman

Staff Writer

For many decades, people have debated whether or not to teach the Bible in school. Some see teaching the Bible in secular classes as a violation of the doctrine of separation of church and state. However, the Bible has hugely influenced literature, philosophy, morality, and society throughout much of history.

When viewed through this purely secular lens, it is not inappropriate to teach the Bible in school, and students can in fact benefit from learning about the Bible's many ethical, social, and historical influences.

The Bible is the foundation for many studies in the vast disciplines of the humanities. For centuries, Bible stories have inspired countless works of art, music, and literature.

In order for students to acquire a comprehensive knowledge in any of these areas, it is necessary to learn about their origins in the stories of the Bible.

In courses at Schreiber, such as Comparative World Literature, the Bible is used as a reference point for learning the evolution of literature across continents.

"The goal of the course is to span the ages as well as the globe, so we start at the very beginning with the Bible and end with contemporary literature," said English teacher Ms. Donna Valenti.

Novels such as *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck and *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant that allude to the stories from Genesis illustrate this idea. Without reading the Bible, the study of works like these would be incomplete.

"The Bible demonstrates that literature is cumulative, which means that the biblical stories have been and continue to be referenced by writers throughout humanity's existence," said Ms. Valenti. "In essence, the more that people know about the seminal stories, the more they can understand the literature that has been written since."

Studying the Bible can also deepen students' understanding of today's world.

"I think it is important to read the biblical stories, not for their religious aspects, but because they were so influential throughout history and still have an impact on today's society," said junior Makenzie Drukker. "I had never read any of the Bible before I took Comparative World Literature, and now I realize how many references there are to biblical stories in pop culture."

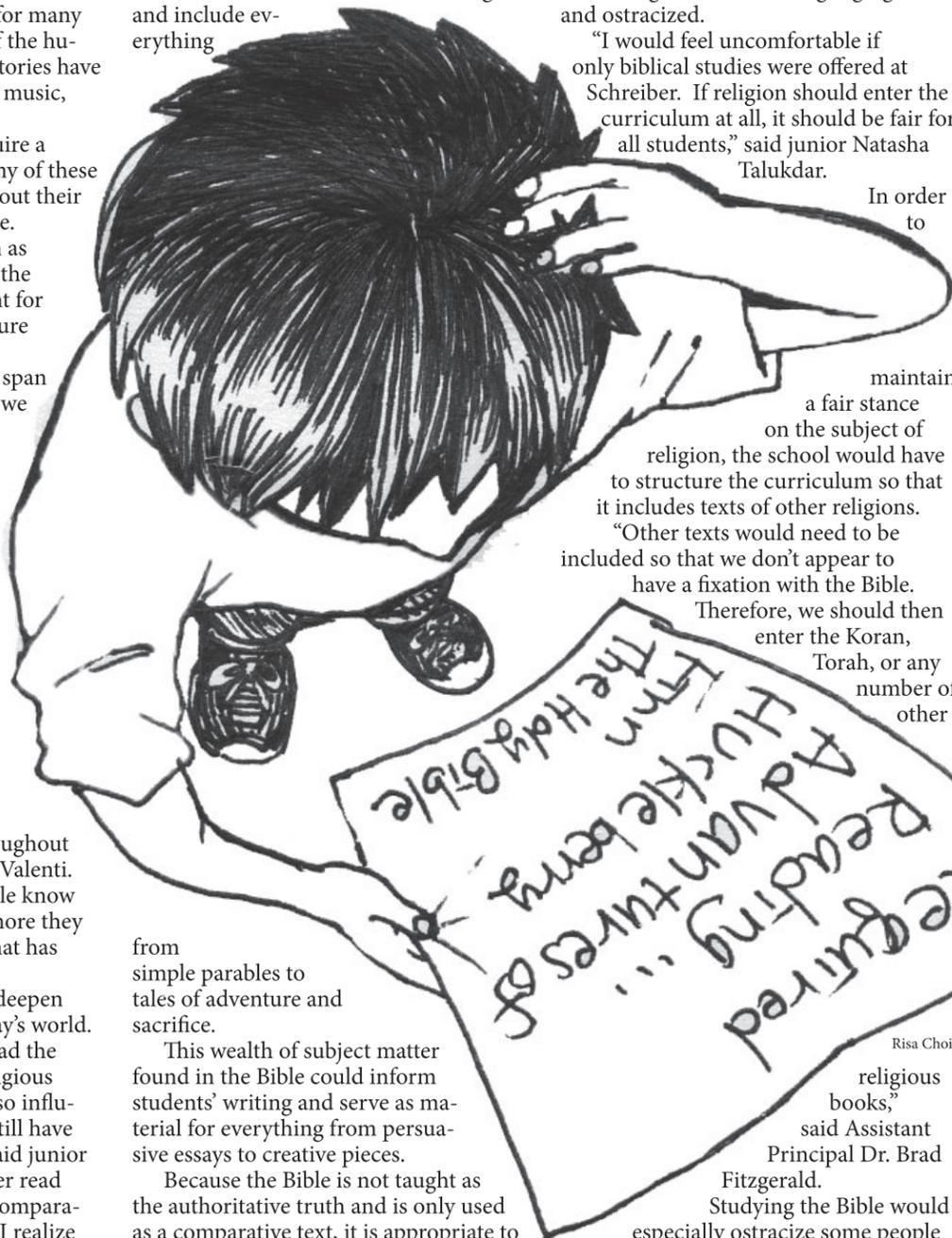
The aspects of the Bible that address human nature give students an appreciation for the ideas of others and a better understanding of mankind as a whole.

"When we look at the seminal stories, we see the many similarities that we share

as human beings, as well as the differences," said Ms. Valenti.

In social studies classes, students study the Bible from a historical perspective. For example, in Global History I, students learn about the origins of world religion. In this context, teachers use the Bible as a historical example of one of the cornerstones of religion, alongside other similar ancient texts like the Torah, the Talmud, and the Koran, to demonstrate the influence of the early belief systems on global history.

The wide range of topics discussed in the Bible also provides a useful source of stories for students to use in their own writing as comparative texts. The stories of the Bible are so far-reaching and include everything



from simple parables to tales of adventure and sacrifice.

This wealth of subject matter found in the Bible could inform students' writing and serve as material for everything from persuasive essays to creative pieces.

Because the Bible is not taught as the authoritative truth and is only used as a comparative text, it is appropriate to study it in secular school.

The purpose of the doctrine of separation of church and state is to keep religious beliefs and prayer out of students' secular education. The study of the Bible as a historical, literary, moral, and social text in no way violates this principle.

By Erin Choe

Staff Writer

The idea of teaching the Bible in public schools is a subject of ongoing debate. Some individuals argue that religion is important to everyday life and that students should have the ability to fully analyze this sacred text. However, the Bible is not appropriate to be taught as a religious text within a public school setting.

The first and foremost issue with inclusion of the Bible in classes is that it would seem to favor a certain sect of students. This would leave students of other religious faiths feeling segregated and ostracized.

"I would feel uncomfortable if only biblical studies were offered at Schreiber. If religion should enter the curriculum at all, it should be fair for all students," said junior Natasha Talukdar.

In order to

maintain

a fair stance

on the subject of religion, the school would have to structure the curriculum so that it includes texts of other religions.

"Other texts would need to be included so that we don't appear to have a fixation with the Bible.

Therefore, we should then enter the Koran,

Torah, or any number of other

Risa Choi

religious books,"

said Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald.

Studying the Bible would especially ostracize some people of atheist belief, who are against religion and find it immoral. To be fair, atheist writings should also be open to classroom discussions if these religious texts were to be implemented into the public school setting. This way, the curriculum wouldn't disregard anyone's point of view.

However, if executed thoroughly and justly, this plan to organize all these classes would take a great deal of effort and money.

Even students who do adhere to the Bible may have issues with a religious curriculum. Some may find it insulting to academically analyze this sacred text in school because it opens up opportunities for many interpretations.

For instance, if a student has grown up viewing the Bible through a certain perspective, he or she might be offended if a teacher has a different point of view. Some parents, for this reason, are uncomfortable with the idea of teachers informing their children about Biblical concepts.

Complex analysis of the Bible in a classroom setting may end up turning even religious students away from their faith.

"When you are forced to read a religious text in class, even if you are devout, you probably will start to hate it," said junior Ashley Meehan.

Biblical study is a personal choice for students.

"Many families in Port Washington pursue religious teachings for their children at church or synagogue or mosque," said Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres. "Therefore, if a student chooses to study the Bible, it should be done on their own free time."

"Reading the Bible should be something you want to do and something you do on your own. It is inappropriate to be read at school," said Meehan. "It is unnecessary to spend time and money trying to implement biblical studies, especially when interest in these types of classes may be limited."

Many people feel that because of the unique circumstances, if students want to study the Bible, they should pursue it outside of class.

"I feel like few students would be interested in these classes because not many are that interested in religion.

If they are, they attend church or other religious institutions," said sophomore Kelly To.

Biblical teachings in school should be prohibited for technical reasons. All school districts of the New York State Education Department have to adhere to the law of separation between church and state. If faculty members would like to institute religious studies, it may violate their license agreements.

"Faculty must work within the general confines of licensure. Therefore, striking the right balance between church and state can be tricky," said Dr. Fitzgerald. "We are very conscientious to remain secular."

For all these reasons, it is apparent that the Bible is not appropriate for a school setting. Even if the drawbacks on the student body could be avoided, implementing all these religious classes would be too much of a hassle.

Sexual images: an epidemic in the media

BY Shari Meltzer

Staff Writer

While sex appeal has always been used as an advertising technique, it now seems that sex in the media is more pervasive than ever.

Teenagers' brains are like sponges; they soak up anything and everything in the surrounding environment, particularly things that they don't know much about. Advertisements featuring sexual images can ignite curiosity and, consequently, contribute to promiscuous behavior.

Some people might wonder why sex is being used to appeal to audiences. The simple answer is that sex sells; years of studies can prove that.

"I think the use of sexual images are now more popular in the media because companies feel like that is what the public wants to see," said senior Sarah Autz.

Sex grabs people's attention, especially teenage audiences. For example, stand in a crowded room and try to get everyone's attention.

I bet you that if yelling "HEY" or "OVER HERE" does not work, yelling "SEX" certainly would.

After the Super Bowl, multiple articles published in several news providers such as the Huffington Post and CNN came out stating that the commercials were racier than ever.

"Sexy ads are slinking back to the Super Bowl. At stake: the eyeballs of more than 100 million Super Bowl viewers," said

journalist Bruce Horowitz of USA Today. "And the urgent need to drive all of them online to find out more, socialize, and tweet with friends and ultimately buy that beer, smartphone, or luxury car."

Not only did the commercials sell the products, but the fact that other parts of the media noticed and wrote about it brought more attention to the products as well. In this case, there truly is no such thing as bad press.

The companies that use this technique range in what it is that they are selling.

The Fiat commercial for the new 500 Abarth features supermodel Catrinel Menghis while Kia has hired supermodel Adriana Lima to sell its latest cars.

Dolce and Gabbana uses sex appeal to help sell Light Blue Pour Homme. And for years, Victoria's Secret has used their Angels clad in lingerie to help grab the audience's attention.

Although many seem to think that using sex as a tactic does not work, it has been around for years. If it did not work, it would not still be around.

Of course, there are always differing opinions when sex is used to target audiences.

Though it may catch people's attention, the use of sex appeal does not suit everyone's tastes. "Advertising and the media in general has changed so

much over the years. In old movies, sex scenes were very conservative. But nowadays, you can practically see just about everything," said Autz. "When I am watching a movie with my parents and a sex scene comes on, it is ridiculously uncomfortable. The media has definitely taken sex appeal to an entirely new extreme, and it does not appeal to me."

The adults in our lives have been trying to protect us from racy and promiscuous images, which proves to be a difficult task thanks to the prevalence of sex in the media.

Most of the time, suggestive images in advertisements are seen in bad light, especially because they bear such a large influence on young, moldable teenage minds.

"I've seen a lot of advertisements in the media recently that I feel should be better censored and that are too open to the public," said senior Renee Cohen. "Some people do not want to or are too young to view inappropriate content on mainstream television."

Schools all over the nation have taken measures to educate teenagers about sex and the consequences of engaging in sexual behavior.

These efforts inform students of the precautions to be taken when reading into the sexual messages in movies, advertisements, and song lyrics.

You cannot always look to the media for morals.



Chris Goh and Brian Seo

Despite lack of snow, days off would be appreciated

BY Ryan Havens

Staff Writer

Let's face it, this winter has been a let-down. The usual snow days, so plentiful last year and the year before, were absent from our calendars.

Don't get me wrong; the recent warm weather is appreciated, but where did winter go?

It only snowed (and minimal snow-falls each time) on a couple of days, none of which were school days. And thus, the "unplanned vacations" that give such joy to students everywhere never materialized.

But the district planned for them, which came in handy after the brutal blizzard and the nasty nor'easters that overwhelmed Port Washington last year.

While this seemed like a brilliant idea

at the time, the lack of snow days this year just means that students lose out on the extra days off that they otherwise would have had. So should we get these days back?

"All schools have two days built into the school year in anticipation of snow days. If there is a lot of snow one year, we go into reserve days," said Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald.

When asked, students were enthusiastic about the idea that we should receive days off to compensate for the lack of snow days.

You would be hard pressed to find students who would deny themselves this treat.

"I would not mind a couple of extra days off," said senior Rachel Cohen. "We have learned to expect at least one snow day each year. It feels as if we are entitled to these days off."

It only seems fair that we get this time back. As they say, time is money (or in this case, just a bunch of hours of unexpected freedom).

Students can't be the only ones who were saddened by the lack of snow days; teachers must appreciate a break every once in a while as well.

"I love snow days," said science teacher Ms. Andrea O'Brien. "When they project that there's a snow day, I like to tell students to wear their pajamas inside out and put a spoon under their pillow."

All in all, it would make sense to at least take the unnecessary days off the calendar. I think everyone would appreciate time off, especially right before the strenuous month of June, filled with finals, Regents, and SAT IIs.

So let's take a snow day—in June.

The pros and cons of suburban life

BY Rebecca Herz

Staff Writer

High school students are often ambivalent about the balance between urban and suburban qualities in Port Washington.

A good loaf of challah is never too far away, and there is always a lever to pull for a swirl of a wide variety of frozen yogurt flavors.

But some students, who might as well live on the Long Island Rail Road, feel that this town is lacking the dynamics of the bustling nearby metropolis.

Manhattan may lack the safety of our suburban sidewalks. Yet, it has something to offer every student, whether he or she is seeking a stroll in SoHo or a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"The culture there is much different compared to that of Port Washington," said senior Nina Devas. "You meet people who have trekked across the world just to make it to New York. The best part is, you never run out of things to do, whether you're looking for some good food or simply enjoying the sights."

Some students love the city because it provides cultural opportunities for them not available in Port. However, others prefer to stay close to home.

These students acknowledge and appreciate the various quirky places in Port that can not necessarily be found elsewhere.

Many of the students who are enticed by the city still recognize the wealth of opportunities right here in Port. They see that what truly defines this town is beneath the surface.

These locales' unique attributes are not always perceptible when simply looking at the quaint storefronts. But when you dig a little deeper, the history as well as the daily workings of these stores may surprise you.

Frank's Pizza has been serving pizzas since the '60s, and Om Sweet Om Yoga, a popular studio on Irma Avenue, started in the owner's basement. Gifts 2 Go, a local gift shop, was born at the site of a bank. Through the eyes of a student who sees the pros of suburbia above the cons, every one of these details counts.

"Port Washington is fun and peaceful. It is beautiful since it is near the water, there is a good library, the schools are great, and there is a train straight to New York," said sophomore Erick Catalan.

Many of the students who are enticed by the city still recognize the wealth of opportunities right here in Port. They see that what truly defines this town is beneath the surface.

There are both pros and cons to a life in suburbia; however, Port Washington remains unique in what it provides for its residents.

Editorials

A warning against Invisible Children's misleading representation of Kony 2012

If you have been on the Internet in the past month, chances are you are one of the millions who have watched KONY 2012, a thirty-minute YouTube documentary by the organization Invisible Children.

This non-profit group is devoted to raising awareness of the crimes of Joseph Kony, a Ugandan warlord known for his inhumane exploitation of children as soldiers.

The video's initial popularity triggered a critical backlash, including criticism from Ugandan Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi, but whether you support Invisible Children or not, there are some lessons to be learned from this story.

First, we must make the distinction between Invisible Children and the issue of Kony as a whole.

Invisible Children does not have a monopoly on Joseph Kony. You can be in favor of bringing Kony to justice (a cause virtually everybody can agree with) without supporting Invisible Children, and you can certainly oppose Invisible Children without being sympathetic to Kony himself.

Skepticism towards Invisible Children does not make you insensitive or ignorant—in fact, *The Schreiber Times* feels that skepticism is well deserved.

Investigation into the financial information that Invisible Children releases should raise some red flags.

It's important to note that Invisible Children has never been publicly audited, and the information they release is likely

the most flattering data they can present without being fraudulent.

According to this data, only about a third of the money they receive goes to their central Africa programs—roughly the same amount they spend on “awareness,” which would include things like the fancy video you watched and the “Action Kits” they tried to sell you. This should be unsettling.

Invisible Children was also irresponsible in the way in which it presented the information in its video.

Had someone watched the video with no previous knowledge of the situation in Uganda (as—let's face it—most of us did), they would likely be under the impression that Kony is running amok right now, and that Uganda is currently in a state of conflict. This is not true.

Kony has not been in Uganda since 2005, and Uganda has long since recovered from the trauma his Lord's Republic Army has caused.

Putting a face on the many complex problems that plague Uganda may make for a good viral video, but it is a dishonest and impractical strategy for aid.

It is disturbing how easily millions of people have been manipulated into supporting what is ultimately an untrustworthy organization.

Obviously, we would all like to believe that people's trust in Invisible Children is not misplaced and that they will use their popularity and money responsibly and effectively to bring Kony to justice and aid his victims, but we cannot let such

optimism blind us.

This craze can teach us two things: first, people must maintain an attitude of skepticism and scrutiny whenever immensely popular trends like Kony 2012 emerge; second, the internet is an incredibly powerful force capable of rallying millions behind a previously unknown cause in a matter of hours.

The Schreiber Times hopes that it will be used more appropriately.

Publicized acceptances can be insensitive

Since many college decisions come out at the end of March and beginning of April, this is an extremely sensitive time for seniors. The next four years of their lives will be determined within the next four weeks.

While some students will be accepted to their dream schools, others inevitably will be rejected.

And although all students certainly deserve to rejoice at their accomplishments, they do not need to make every single college acceptance they receive public.

Facebook has enabled students to give out information to all of their friends and acquaintances with the simple click of a button.

It is a common trend for students to post a celebratory status when they get into a college.

However, *The Schreiber Times* feels that college acceptance publication should be kept to a minimum on Facebook.

Students are certainly justified in posting a status officially proclaiming the school that they will definitely be attending next year.

However, it is not necessary to post a status for every single college that accepts you. When it becomes excessive, it becomes insensitive.

Kids want to support their friends and “like” their friend's college statuses, but

every acceptance does not need to be an announcement on Facebook.

One student may get accepted into a school that is a safety or target for her, but it is a reach for her friend.

By posting all of the schools the first student gets into, the second student's feelings get hurt in the process because maybe she was rejected from those schools.

In addition, posting so many acceptances dilutes the celebration of the final decision. Some people will be less likely to like or comment on an update for every additional college.

Ultimately, *The Schreiber Times* believes that saving that “Facebook status” for the official decision will not only be incredibly satisfying for you, but will also avoid hurting other students' feelings.

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on March 29. 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.

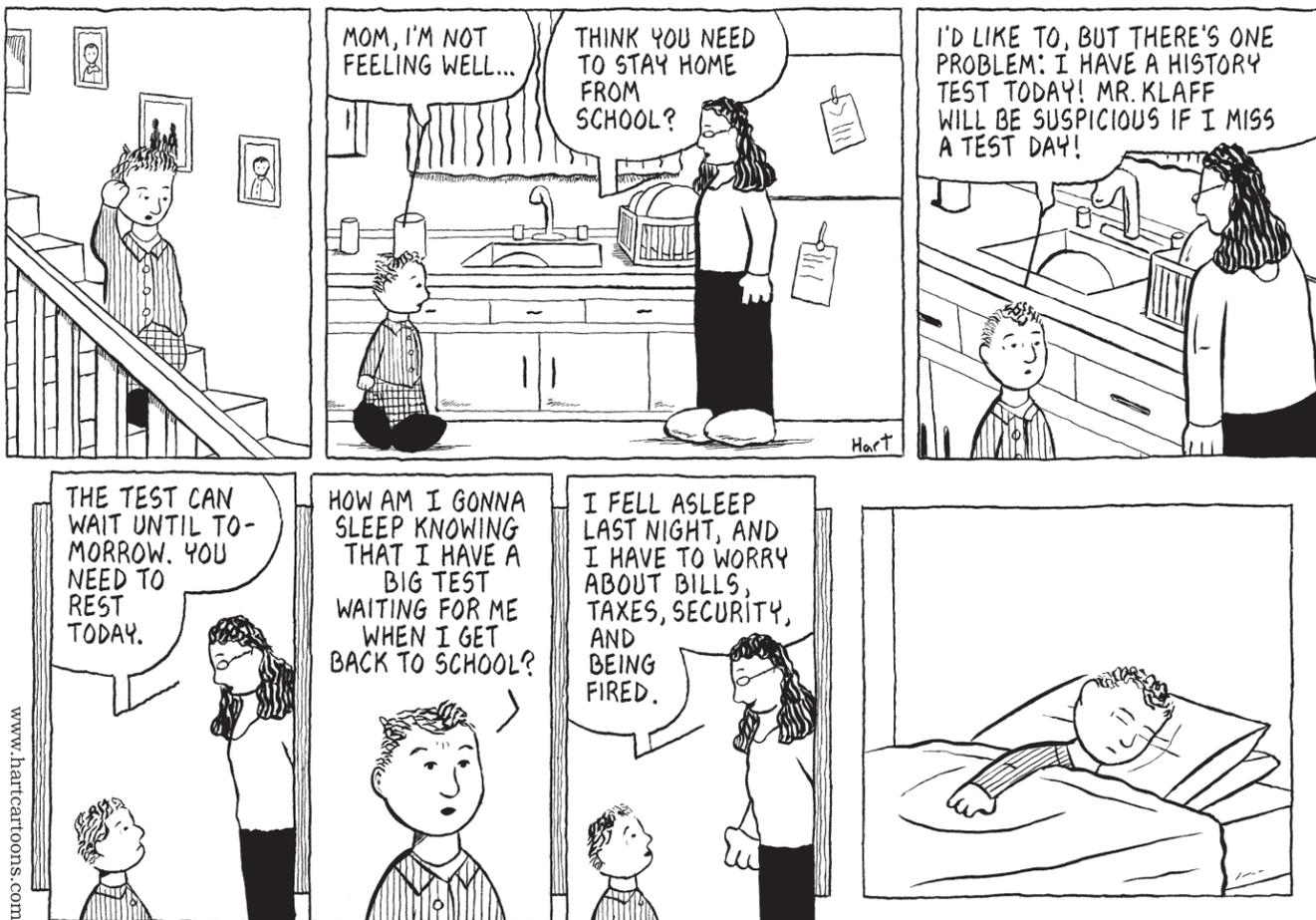
We will print letters to the editors if judged to be of sufficient quality and importance on a space-available basis. We will not print letters that are obscene, libelous, or contain unfounded charges. The Times reserves the right to shorten letters if doing so does not alter their meaning, and to choose 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



Animal prints on the prowl in this season's apparel

Stores are offering a wide array of jungle-inspired styles at affordable prices

by Caroline Ogulnick

Staff Writer

This spring's new stylish trend is infecting the fashion community and taking over this season's styles.

Ranging from leopard to snakeskin, clothes, bags, shoes, and accessories will be displaying the prints of a variety of animal.

The animal print epidemic is spreading quickly, hitting the runway, department stores, and your local boutiques.

But beware, because this eye-catching trend is definitely one to watch out for.

This spring is all about taking risks. Between color blocking and pattern mixing, creating a statement has become



www.stevemadden.com

Animal print shoes are affordable, allowing customers to expand upon their stylish animal print clothing.

a main focus.

Adding a jungle inspired feel to any outfit will spice up even the simplest of looks and will allow you to branch away from your typical wardrobe pieces.

As the cold days depart and the warm weather begins to roll in, people are preparing for this spring.

Store window displays will start to resemble the jungle itself with a collection of prints, from the animals of the canopy all the way down to those of the forest floor.

Animal prints have been on the prowl since this past fall and are finally making their ferocious spring debut.

As menacing as they may seem, adding animal prints to your wardrobe will provide so many more outfit options.

You can mix them with other prints, wear them with pastels, or add in bright colors to bring out your inner animal.

If you are a little apprehensive about the animal print trend for this spring, there is no need to fret. Taking it in doses is the best way to go.

Start out with a simple leopard printed headband. Pair it with your favorite blue jeans and a simple t-shirt, and you will see the difference in the outfit instantly.

Even the slightest pop of print can go a long way.

"I think you have to be careful while trying out animal prints this spring, but if you wear them the right way, it can be a great addition to any outfit," said sophomore Natalie Martinek.

If you are on the wild side and are ready to take this trend head on, find your favorite prints and mix them together.



www.forever21.com



www.zappos.com

Stylish animal print clothing is available both online and in stores, and it matches a wide array of everyday clothing items.

Take a pair of blue jeans again, but this time, wear a snake printed shirt and zebra striped belt.

Normally, these prints would create a major clash, but not this spring.

Pick any two, three, or four prints, and they will complement each other no matter what color, shape, or size they are.

When scavenging for animal prints

this spring, they won't be hard to find.

From high-end stores to your main street boutique, prints will be lurking in every shop.

You may find them roaming the floors of you local mall or wandering along the streets of NYC, so make sure to keep a look out.

Rock out with The Blue Suits band

by Sydney Heiden

Staff Writer

Schreiber's newest rock band, The Blue Suits, featuring sophomores Joe Betz, Derek Moss, Nate Krantz, Jordan Shedrofsky, and freshman Oren Barasch, is bringing competition to Schreiber's music scene. Last Spring, the original band members, Moss, Betz, and Krantz decided to turn their passion for music into a reality. For Moss, who has been playing guitar since the age of seven, music is second nature. Drummer Krantz, who took up percussion in fourth grade, has a considerable amount of experience as well. And although guitarist and lead vocalist Betz has been playing guitar for less than a year and is self-taught, he seems well-suited for his role. The Blue Suits draw their inspiration from the Foo Fighters and The Strokes, and attempt to emulate both their style and work ethic.

"Not only do both bands have great musicians, but those musicians have worked really hard to get to where they are," said Moss.

Formed last June, The Blue Suits are already a local sensation. You may have heard them at the spirit week pep rally, covering the song "Under Cover of Darkness" by The Strokes. But the Blue Suits have more events in store. They will be performing in the Battle of the Bands on March 30 and are looking to write and record several more original songs. The Blue Suits will be a worthy challenger for Decadence, the band that won twice and came in second its other year competing.



Ali Seltzer

Schreiber's newest rock band, The Blue Suits, play at school and local events.

One of their original songs, "How Could She Slip Away," written by Moss, is even available on iTunes. Some of the band's other originals include "Fly," written by Betz and Krantz, and "Source of Sanity," written by Betz.

These five students are looking to pursue their musical careers and possibly become professional musicians.

"I would love to take my music to a professional level," said Betz. "But if that doesn't work out, I just want to continue playing music as a hobby."

by Veronika Onischenko

Staff Writer

Senior Sara Rodrigues is a student making a difference. Rodrigues is an active member of Tuesday's Children, a non-profit organization founded by families and friends of 9/11 victims.

The organization has made a long term commitment to meet the needs of families that lost a loved one in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Rodrigues has been a member of Tuesday's Children since she was seven years old.

She has become devoted and close to the program over the years, taking a more active role in the organization.

"Tuesday's Children is like a second family to me," said Rodrigues. "It's weird for people to picture that kind of connection with all of our differences, but once you experience it, it's fantastic."

This year, Rodrigues has also started working for Tuesday's Children, becoming both an intern and a spokesperson.

Rodrigues is involved in Project Common Bond, which is one of Tuesday's Children fastest-growing programs.

Project Common Bond brings together teens, ages 15 to 20 years old from around the world who share a common bond: the loss of a family member from an act of terror.

"The teens that are impacted by terror meet in a college-style dorm and receive coping strategies and help dealing with their loss," said Rodrigues.

Rodrigues and the teenagers in Project Common Bond also speak to diplomats in the United Nations on the subject of global terrorism.



Courtesy of Harry Paul

Senior Sara Rodrigues has devoted her time to Project Common Bond, sharing her story and experiences with numerous teens from around the world.

"The program is super exciting since you get to meet so many people from different countries, and you get to meet and talk with high officials, like UN diplomats and senators," said Rodrigues.

Project Common Bond will be celebrating its five year anniversary during the summer of 2012. Rodrigues is planning to continue her work with the organization after she enters college in order to continue helping victims cope with the aftermath of terrorist attacks.



Beauty and the Beast

the making of a musical

Since early December, nearly 100 students and staff members have been preparing to present *Beauty and the Beast* as this year's spring musical. The culmination of nearly three months work, this

production opened March 22 and will play through March 25. *Beauty and the Beast*, a musical based on the Disney animated film, tells the tale of Belle (junior Julia Bain), a misunder-



Junior Julia Bain, who plays Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, jokes around with an unnamed wolf during rehearsal. The musical opened on March 22 and will play through March 25.

stood country girl, and a cursed prince (senior Michael Schweitzer), forced to live an isolated life in his castle with a full collection of servants-turned-household items. The two have led very different lives, but learn to love one another, despite the obstacles facing their relationship.

The production also features sophomore Sameer Nanda as Maurice, Belle's father, senior Jesse Weil and sophomore Nathan Krantz as Gaston and LeFou, respectively, and senior Christopher Falcioni, junior Kimberly Suzzan, and sophomore Sydney Ronis, as mythical objects: Lumiere, Babette, and Mrs. Potts. The cast is made up of 43 students, who play various other townspeople and enchanted objects, as well as ensemble members.

This weekend, students, staff members, and community members alike will have the opportunity to experience a production that really began back in December.

The audition process for *Beauty and the Beast* began with an informational meeting, at which students obtained sheet music for the audition song. Afterwards, interested students signed up for auditions and prepared short segments of songs from the musical. Each prospective cast member signed commitment contract and an audition form detailing their theater experience.

Usually students audition in front of all of the other students. However, for this production, students went separately into the auditorium where the director, the producer, the musical director, the conductor, and the choreographer evaluated the performer for various roles.

"Walking in there, it felt more like a professional audition than one for a high school musical," said senior Kalia Lay, who plays a hat seller, a wolf, and a napkin in the production.

After the initial auditions on Dec. 19, the production staff held dance auditions and callbacks on Dec. 20 and 21.

"Since we knew that we would be performing *Beauty and the Beast* for several months before auditions, I had the opportunity to become comfortable with the roles and audition material, so that on the first day of auditions, I walked in with a new confidence as I sang, danced, and performed scenes," said Suzzan.

After the 43 students had completed the audition process, Director Ms. Lauren Foster-Holzer, Producer Ms. Christine Nelson, Musical Director Mr. John Spiezio III, conductor Mr. John Meyer, and choreographer Mr. Jason Summers assigned each a role, either as a main character or an ensemble performer. The casting process is a multivariable one.

"We are looking for preparation," said Ms. Foster-Holzer. "We hope that each student who auditions is able to exude confidence, stage presence, and that they are able to fill the auditorium with their voice."

The students who had auditioned for *Beauty and the Beast* flocked to the cast list on the day before holiday break. No students were cut from the production.

While, of course, some students were disappointed with their roles, others were

overjoyed.

"Lumiere is my dream role!" said senior Falcioni. "When I was two, I went to see *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway, and even then I knew all the words to the songs. The usher had to come and quiet me down! Now, I'm living my Disney dream, and I couldn't be happier."

Immediately upon returning to school in the start of January, the cast of *Beauty and the Beast* began rehearsals. Every day from Monday-Thursday, and even some Fridays and Saturdays, cast members reported to the auditorium to block, choreograph, and sing through scenes and



Sophomore Sydney Ronis, who plays Mrs. Potts, wheels around freshman Jina Lay, who plays her son, Chip. The production team for *Beauty and the Beast* rented the costumes from Buffalo.

musical numbers.

Performers spent the first few weeks blocking non-musical scenes and rehearsing songs with vocal training and guidance from Mr. Spezio.

"For many of us, he is also our choir teacher, which lets us work with him on another level during the day. He quickly learns our voices and how they sound regarding our timbre and range, which only allows him to help us sing to the best of our ability in the musical," said Suzzan.

A large part of rehearsals, beyond simply running through the script, is character development. The directors help performers grasp their characters when they are alone on stage and when they interact with others and the environment.

"One of the struggles we all faced was learning exactly how to play a Disney character. It really is different from roles in many other shows because it's such an iconic animation," said Bain. "One of the notes I constantly got was to be more animated on stage. We have to over act everything because we are technically playing animated characters."

Because choreographer Mr. Summers was only available to come to rehearsals about once a week, students started learning choreography from the first day.

"In many ways, it is typical musical theatre—lots of energy, lots of pizzazz. All in all, it's very presentational—the idea is to be able to welcome the audience into a fairy tale world," said Mr. Summers.

In his fifth time doing *Beauty and the Beast*, Mr. Summers refined and accommodated the dances for the cast.

"To see a live fully costumed version of 'Be Our Guest' is breathtaking on many levels. The dancing in my opinion helps highlight the magic in the music," said Mr. Summers. "This particular cast has really worked hard to master these dances. There is an innate joy to so much of this music and these characters that it is hard not to have fun when working on it."

Mr. Summers not only taught dances, but also devoted a lot of time to practicing and experimenting with blocking.

low the cast and crew to get used to placement of the set pieces, timing of entrances and exits, and adjustment of lighting and sound cues.

"One major reason we run the show so many times is safety," said Ms. Foster-Holzer. "We have a stage crew, light crew, sound crew, and an orchestra, in addition to a cast of 43 and their huge costumes. It takes practice to be able to safely navigate the entrances and exits of the set pieces, props, and characters in an appropriate manner."

Cast, crew, and pit members generally stay late into the evening making final changes and making sure the production transcends just singing, dancing, and acting.

"The most challenging aspect of putting on any show, I think, is making the story believable. It's one thing to memorize lines, or a song, or dance moves, but to bring a character to life, and make the story believable and tangible is something that I strive to do for every show I'm in," said Lay.

One thing that audience members will notice as soon as the play transitions from the village to the Beast's castle is the extravagant costuming. The enchanted objects, including dishes, cookware, furniture, cleaning supplies, and more, are each costumed in larger-than-life, animation-style ensembles.

"In order to do *Beauty and the Beast*, all of the enchanted object costumes needed to be special ordered, as we are not costume designers or seamstresses," said Ms. Nelson. "We were able to costume almost all of the 'human' characters from our own costumes that we had in our collection, but many schools rent the entire show."

Ms. Nelson, the producer, measured each performer for his or her costumes and rented the appropriate garments from a company in upstate New York.

"We are renting nearly half of the costumes for this show, and it makes an incredible difference," said Falcioni. "The quality of the costumes is amazing and needs to be seen to be believed."

Because of the costs involved with the rentals, the cast only had one week from opening night to practice with their outfits. The elaborate, and sometimes restricting, nature of these costumes meant that the performers had to

make adjustments to what they did on stage.

For example, freshman Jina Lay, who plays Chip, a teacup, had to learn to perform with only her head protruding from a rolling cart.

"I can't do any choreography whatsoever," said Lay. "Basically, I'm at the mercy of Mrs. Potts (sophomore Sydney Ronis) pushing me around."

In order to produce such a big show, the production team for *Beauty and the Beast* hired some outside help for the sets and technology, in addition to the rented costumes.

"We hired a new scenic developer who has pre-fabricated many of the giant set pieces for the show, giving the group of student crew members a small bit of help," said Falcioni.

Additionally, professionals will be working the sound and lighting boards, which control all of the visual and audio effects, including microphones.

Outside of the cast members, students are participating in this production as members of the crew and pit orchestra.

"I feel that out of pressure grows strength, creativity, and fantastic results, and there has not been a shortage of pressure during this show," said Falcioni. "Personally, I learned that with every dream comes hard work, even Disney dreams. But it's worth it: I am so proud that Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* is my last gigantic school musical because it has taught me that following your dreams is really worth it."

One of the largest mainstage productions, *Beauty and the Beast* com-



bines a long-loved tale with extravagant costumes, vibrant sets, and engaging performers. Featuring napkins doing high kicks and salt and peppershakers time stepping, *Beauty and the Beast* is running at 7:30 p.m. on March 22-24 and 2 p.m. on March 25.

By Hannah Fagen and Minah Kim



"Napkins" perform a dance number during a rehearsal of *Beauty and the Beast*. The musical includes a cast of 43 students and a total cast and crew of nearly 100.

Restaurant Review Mojito brings Latin vibe and taste to Port

BY Alexa Pinto and Daniella Philipson

Staff Writers

Many lucky upperclassmen are able to pile into their cars and head all the way to Roslyn for a (no offense!) mediocre burrito. What these juniors and seniors are unaware of, however, is that a great burrito can now be found within the confines of Port Washington.

The new Mexican restaurant Mojito may be hidden between Dvora's Art Studio and Foxy Dog Grooming, but its scrumptious food definitely deserves to be at the forefront of a Port Washington diner's attention. Open every day for lunch and dinner and available for catering, Mojito offers a wide selection of traditional and reasonably priced Mexican dishes, ranging from soups to fajitas and quesadillas.

Although Mojito itself is fairly small, its menu, which includes salads, soups, fajitas, burritos, meat, chicken, seafood, and quesadillas, is extensive. The restaurant is even sometimes open until the early hours of the morning during the weekends, making it the perfect place for a late-night meal.

The venue is small but cozy, dimly lit, and decorated with a warm palette. There is plenty of room to sit, so don't be afraid to go with a bunch of friends.

"Besides the delicious food, the atmosphere in Mojito is great," said junior Sohini Upadhyay. "The ambiance is perfect for a quiet meal with friends."

Appetizers include the original Mojito quesadillas, yucca with cilantro sauce, beef empanadas, and nachos, all available for less than \$8.

Other platters available at the restaurant include a variety of tacos, dishes with rice, enchiladas, chimichangas, grilled chicken, chicken with cream (or a la Mexicana): all available for under \$13. Nachos Loco and taquitos are also available for as low as \$6.25.

Salads are offered with toppings of shrimp and avocado, as well as a taco salad, all available for reasonable prices. The unique taco options include the Mojito,



Daniella Philipson

Mojito, located on Main Street, offers customers a variety of burritos, salads, soups, and seafood to satisfy every taste.

made with ground beef, chicken, chorizo, tomato, sour cream and guacamole, as well as more traditional tacos. And for the more adventurous eaters, there are dishes such as the Mojito Kebabs, available with chicken or shrimp for under \$14.

A variety of burritos are also available, including the Supremo Burrito, made with cheese, black beans, rice, guacamole, lettuce, pico de gallo with a choice of meat, or fajita style, with cheese, beans, rice, onions, sour cream, guacamole, and chicken or chorizo. The Al Ajillo Burrito includes a creamy garlic sauce. For vegetarians, the vegetarian burrito is filled with a delicious assortment of vegetables, rice, beans, lettuce, and guacamole. In short, any burrito and more than can be found in Greenvale can be found here.

Their awesome burritos are reason enough to go to Mojito, but let's not get ahead of ourselves. Once seated, complimentary chips are served in place of a bread basket. The thin and crunchy chips are, for a change, not repulsively salty, but subtly savory, and can be paired

with spicy dipping sauces.

Now back to the burritos. Mojito's burritos are worth every penny and are absolute perfection.

"I ordered the fajita style burrito, and even though I had heard previously that Mojito was a great restaurant, it's definitely one of the best burritos I've had. Everything that was in it was fresh and tasted way better than the microwave burritos that I usually eat," said senior Dan Preston.

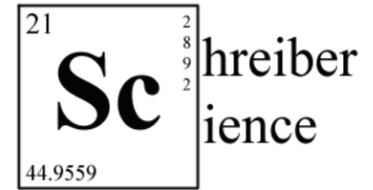
This burrito rivals the ever popular Chipotle and Moe's (yes, even Moe's) burritos, which, up until dining at Mojito, reigned the burrito kingdom. Next time you have a sudden craving for a delicious snack or Mexican meal, you no longer need to schlep out to Chipotle.

That's right, the most delicious, savory burrito has been sitting right in front of you this whole time. Next Friday afternoon, walk right past Carlo's (and try to avoid the tempting smell of fresh pizza) to check out Mojito.



Daniella Philipson

The modern interior of Mojito allows customers to feel at home while enjoying their delicious burritos, quesadillas, and more. The comfortable couch and dim lighting provide the perfect calm atmosphere for dinner with friends and family.



BY Hannah Fagen

News Editor

Peeing is important; we all do it every day. It helps keep toxins out of our body and provides an opportunity for a fun detour to the restroom. But, did you know that it is essential to keeping your cognitive system running smoothly?

Professor of Neurology from Brown University, Peter Snyder, was recently awarded both a 2012 MSNBC "Weird Science" award and a 2011 "Ig Nobel Prize," for his work proving this point. The first prize "pays tribute to the strangest scientific tales of the past year," while the second, awarded by actual Nobel Laureates, honors "research that makes people laugh and then think." His research showed something nobody had expected: withholding one's urine to the level at which it becomes painful causes cognitive impairment along the lines of the emotional state of someone who has not slept for 24 hours, or someone with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.05, just below the legal limit for driving.

"When people reach a point when they are in so much pain they just can't stand it anymore, it is like being drunk," said Snyder to msnbc.com. "The ability to hold information is really impaired."

Snyder made this discovery as a result of a low-budget experiment in which he asked test subjects to drink a pre-specified amount of water every 15 minutes until they could no longer resist the urge to urinate. He measured the subjects' pain levels along with cognition levels (by use of simple tasks to be completed on a computer). Snyder's work is now shedding light on the importance of urinating regularly. If a full bladder does indeed have these repercussions, it is essential that people not drive or perform other dangerous tasks with a full bladder. Stopping in the restroom on the way to class may also be a good idea before a test or a quiz.

However, in class some students may not always be able to take as many bathroom breaks as they may like. Some teachers, such as English teacher Ms. Donna Valenti, have instituted systems that balance educational necessity with biological processes by giving students a limited number of passes with which to leave the classroom. Ms. Valenti's students may leave the class up to three times per quarter. Those students who choose not to use the passes receive extra credit.

"These passes are helpful to me, as an instructor, particularly in the following way: the class conversation is not subsequently derailed by an interrupting request to go to the bathroom," said Ms. Valenti.

English teacher Ms. Danielle Liss employs a similar system.

"If you gotta go, you gotta go," said Ms. Liss. "However, it is important for students to remain in the classroom as much as possible."

In light of Snyder's recent discoveries, students and teachers alike may now consider the role that the urge to urinate may play on their mental capabilities and, hopefully, make more sound judgments in terms of when a bathroom trip is necessary.

When good hair goes bad: the story of a perm

A student's take on hair and its many shapes and styles

BY **Minah Kim**
Assistant News Editor

I got a haircut during February break, and what a relief it was to rid myself of my unmanageable hair. I usually don't feel attachment to my hair—for all it's worth, hair is only years-old dead protein that always grows back—but my recent haircut had me wincing. I had neither the prince-attracting gold locks of Rapunzel nor the power source mane of Samson, yet I felt a strange attachment to my hair for the first time—maybe because I had to cut off the \$150 perm from only six months earlier.

I had gotten a perm last summer in Korea because I was tired of my long, limp black hair. To quote Tracy Turnblad from Hairspray: "Hair can't just hang there like a dead thing on your cheeks!"

A neophyte when it came to hair treatments, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. Growing up, my mom had cut my hair until middle school and even when I started going to the salon I got normal haircuts, nothing fancy. I didn't really understand the big deal about hair, especially the potential America's Next Top Models who cried over their hair when Tyra decided to chop it all off.

We all know that people want what they cannot have. I wanted beautiful, glossy, flowing waves, just as many people with curly hair seem to be envious of my

"Asian" hair. I had contemplated getting a perm for a long time and by the time I did it, so many of my family members and friends had done it too that the damaging effects did not even make it on to the cons side of my pros and cons list. Tempted by the adventure, I went ahead with the perm, rationalizing that I had to experience the excitement of having a perm at least once in my life.

Fast forward six months and I realized I was chasing the unattainable. I was living that shampoo commercial fantasy, and I wanted a permanent recreation of those waves that celebrities have for one night.

The combination of my negligence in taking care of my hair, its thin and fragile



nature, and the potent chemicals that I had kept in my hair for two hours in July turned my slick, straight hair into a tangled mess.

Unwilling to fall into the cycle of renewing the perm several times per year, I went into the hair salon in

to fall out, and the ends to split up to my roots. Now I wonder if my hair will ever be restored to its original condition.

Once again, it's just hair, but maintaining a perm or straightening treatments requires repeated visits to the salon and hours upon hours of inhaling noxious gases. A trend of the past in the United States, my perm surprised people ("You got a perm? That's so retro!"), but chemical hair treatments like relaxing and straightening are still popular but just as damaging.

Only last year, the Food and Drug Administration found the popular salon-grade hair straightening product Brazilian Blowout to have significant amounts of formaldehyde, a carcinogen. Salons are still allowed to market the product as long as they provide a notice on the packaging warning users of associated risks and safety precautions. Are we going to start getting our hair done in gas masks now?

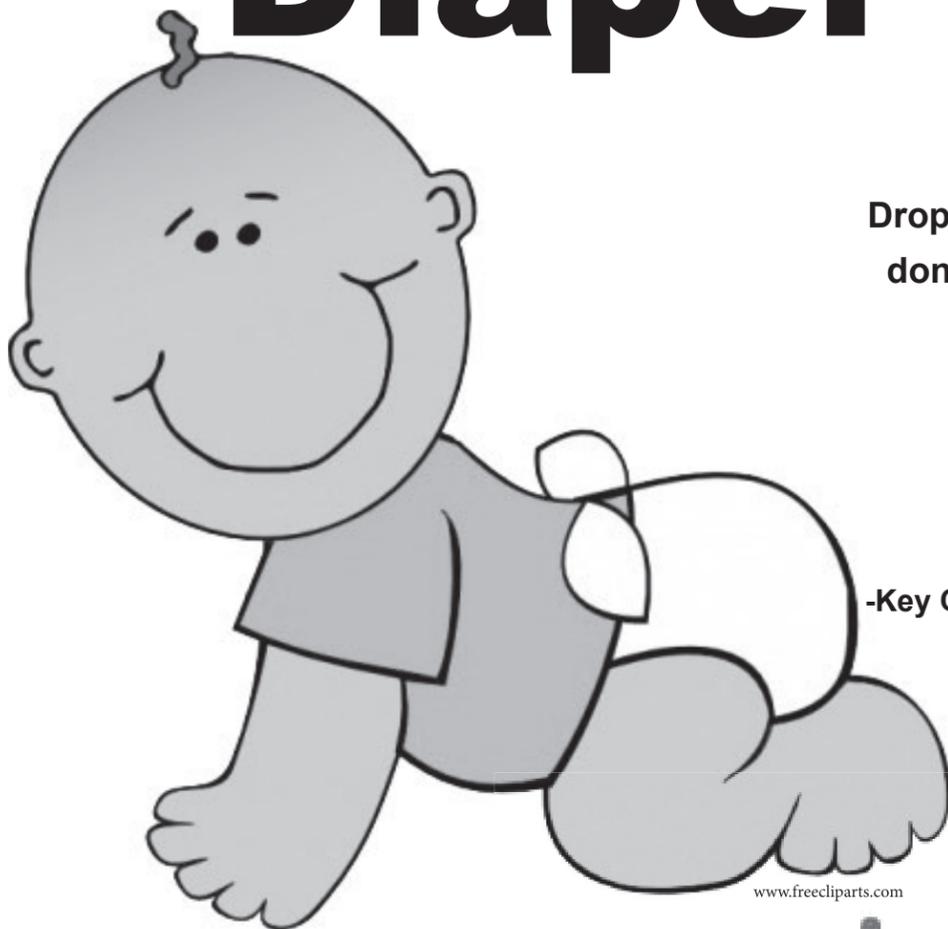
Even though I got more positive feedback when I cut my hair short than when I got quasi-wavy hair, naturally, I still think curly hair is more fun.

Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately for me, I don't have the time or energy to return to the salon multiple times per year and buy sulfate-free shampoos and treat my hair with essence and oils. I would say I'm content with my natural hair, although my hair is really the least of my worries right now. Honestly, it's just hair.

February and said "cut it all off." The hairstylist combed as far as she could and then cut off the parts too tangled to be brushed.

At first, cutting off all that hair was empowering (I felt like Mulan cutting off all her hair to fight the Huns), but then I realized how much of a waste it was. Not only did the money go to waste but also the perm caused so much of my hair

Diaper Drive!



Help support babies in need!

Drop off new, unopened packages of diapers to be donated to low-income families with babies with advanced medical needs.

Bring them to:

- The orange box in the lobby**
- Key Club meetings on Thursdays at 7:30 in the Auditorium**
- Your health class**

march  of dimes®

Desk organization influences classroom environment

The arrangement of a classroom can shape more than just desks within it

By **Matt Heiden**
Copy Editor

For a quick description of a class, no trait reveals more than how the desks are arranged. Choosing a seat is a task that will determine whom you talk to the entire semester, whom you copy your homework from at the last minute, and whether the teacher glares at you or never seems to notice the cell phone glued to your hand.

Here's a guide to the types of seating you will encounter throughout your time in the education system:

Rows, with unassigned seats



This is the most typical situation in high school. It's the norm for social studies, math, and science classes, and often used in English and foreign language classes, too.

Students think: The first day of class I scored a seat near the window or in the back, and ever since then I've spent every class talking with my friends. I think the teacher doesn't like me, but he's pretty boring, so who needs him anyway?

Teachers think: I like order, but it's not worth it to organize my students. This is what they taught me in teaching school, and it works.

Rows, with assigned seats



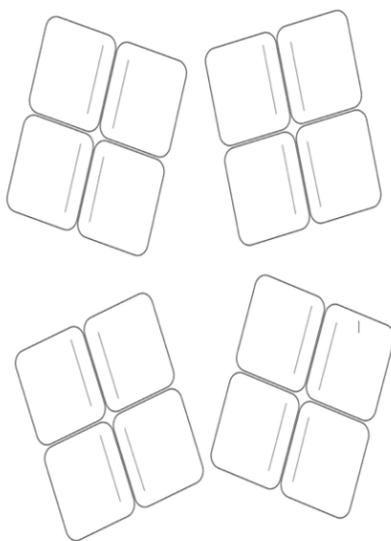
The bane of students on the first day of a new semester, assigned seats are, alas, all too common. It is generally more common with older teachers who teach with more traditional methods.

Students think: This teacher is either shrewd or just very old-school. I probably will not sit near my friends. This teacher

is not my favorite.

Teachers think: One semester I had three really obnoxious kids who sat in the corner until I broke them up one month into class. Never again. The students always groan on day one, but alphabetical seating has never failed me yet. Oh, I've got to go organize some files.

Clusters of desks

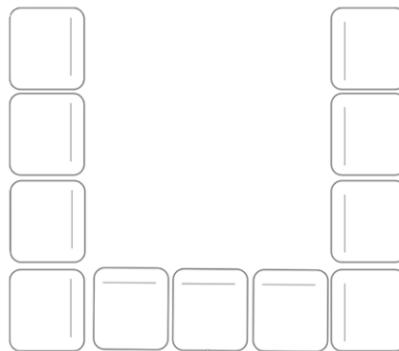


Group seating is more popular in elementary and middle school but desks are sometimes rearranged into groups for projects every once in while.

Students think: If I have friends, I'm sitting with them. If the teacher assigns seats, I'm going to copy all my answers from the smartest person in the group. If that's me, this semester will suck.

Teachers think: I love children! They are little busy bees when they're chattering with their friends. Sure, I need to calm them down every so often, but it's worth it. Hey, who's playing music?

The "U"



The "U," or its cousin the circle, is common for English classes and any subject that relies on discussions for the entire class.

Students think: Umm, I suppose this is alright. Now everyone can see that I'm texting. Wait, except the teacher! I have a new favorite class.

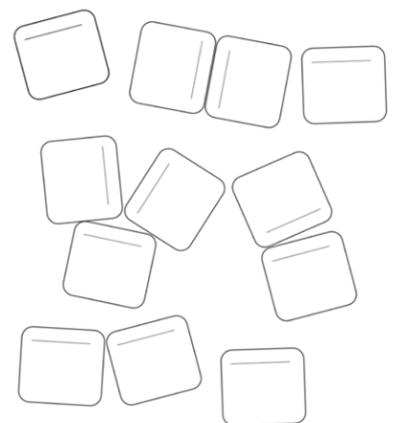
Teachers think: These little cretins had better behave, and I can see every one of them. They wouldn't dare text, and there's nothing to distract them but my cheerful lesson.

Like a U, but with a group of four or five students in the center to discuss as the rest of the class takes notes (or naps).

Students think: Come on! Either I have to watch my peers bluff their way through a discussion on something I don't know, or I have to pretend to understand this class in front of everyone.

Teachers think: I would like to get through new material today, but I'm a bit tired. They will probably figure out most of this on their own.

Random Seating

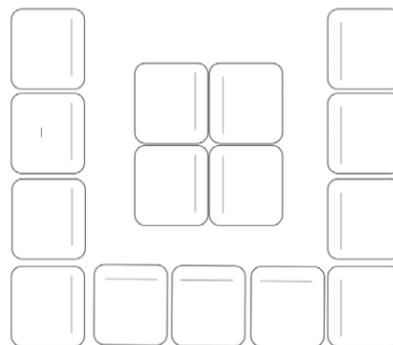


Usually the result of a substitute teacher, random seating usually makes for the more interesting classes to remember.

Students think: I love absent-minded teachers. This entire semester I will do two pieces of work, and one of those will be copied word-for-word from Wikipedia.

Teachers think: These confangled kids! If they'd listen to me, they would be done with the curriculum. And furthermore... wait, my tie is crooked. There, it's fixed. Anyway, what was I saying?

Fishbowl



Comic Spotlight: Ethan Bookstein



arts & Entertainment

The Lorax provides light comedy with classic characters



www.allmoviephoto.com

The Lorax (Danny DeVito) and his friends play cards as they discuss how to protect their home from the greedy Once-ler (Ed Helms). The movie keeps the audience laughing and is suitable for the entire family. *The Lorax* also has a message of how important it is to save the environment.

by Lauren Whitman

Staff Writer

The Lorax is a heartfelt story for moviegoers of all ages. It is a cautionary tale describing what could happen if people stop caring about the environment, based on Dr. Seuss's story written in 1971.

The story follows the adventures of Ted (voiced by Zac Efron) in his search for a real, living tree. He lives in Sneedville where only electrically powered trees exist. When he finds out that his friend Audrey (Taylor Swift) wants nothing but to see a real tree, they begin their quest to investigate what happened to the trees.

Ted's grandmother (Betty White) suggests they visit the Once-ler (Ed Helms) to solve this mystery. The Once-ler shares an old story where he reveals that he caused the end of real trees. The

story fascinates Ted and motivates him to fix this problem and help the growth of real trees, again.

The movie paints a bleak picture of what the world could someday look like if society continues to damage the environment. For example, the character of Mr. O'Hare (Rob Riggle) represents an extreme case of human greed. He is motivated only by money and has no regard for natural resources, as shown by his creation of "bottled air," a parody of the bottled water industry.

The movie has a very heavy-handed message and is a commentary on the negative effects of human abuse of the environment.

In the beginning of the movie, the Once-ler takes us back in time to earlier days when he encountered the animals of the forest. The movie depicts a peaceful ecosystem in vibrant colors with happy

animals who dance, sing, and live in harmony with each other. Colorful living trees are everywhere, until the Once-ler shows up and wreaks havoc on the trees.

This comedy has the audience laughing in almost every scene. Danny DeVito plays the role of the Lorax, guardian of the trees, and brings his typical humor to the character.

The song selections were an excellent addition, especially "Thneedville" and "Everybody Needs a Thneed." Viewers were also satisfied with the songs "Let It Grow" and a remake of "Mission Impossible Theme."

The movie is perfect for an afternoon family outing and highly recommended for viewers of all ages. The interesting story mixed with the fun characters and laugh-out-loud scenes keeps it enjoyable yet appropriate.

Unlike many other bland 3D movies,

The Lorax incorporates these elements to create vibrant scenes throughout the movie.

The film features many talented actors, who bring something different to each voice. Ed Helms makes us laugh just as much as he does on *The Office*, and Zac Efron steps outside his comfort zone by playing an animated 12-year old boy instead of the high school superstar of his other movies, such as *17 Again*.

The biggest laughs went to the animals in their friendly ecosystem. Their human traits, such as talking and singing, engage the viewer and bring comedy to the movie.

Not only was the story written by the amazing author Dr. Seuss, but the movie also delivered a fun and interesting plot and theme that can appeal to children and adults alike to "speak for the trees."

Project X shocks viewers with obscene humor

BY Katie Fishbin and Penina Remler

Assistant A&E Editor and Staff Writer

Even if you think that you have heard all possible clichés about high school house parties, *Project X* will still go above and beyond your expectations.

The film commences with protagonist Thomas (Thomas Mann) thinking about having a “game-changing” party for his birthday to help his friends become known within their school.

He believes it will be the ultimate “rager,” but in reality it ends up as typical party nightmare.

Initially, Thomas encounters the same obstacles that the average high schooler would face when contemplating the biggest night of his life.

He is trying to gain social status from this party, but how will he be able to manage the cleanliness of his house and also keep the crowd to a minimum?

With the help of alcohol, illegal drugs, and a copious number of stereotypical high school boys and girls, the party quickly becomes a night no one will ever forget.

Thomas, your typical nerd, is left home alone on his birthday weekend while his parents have set off to celebrate their anniversary. With the help of his two sidekicks, Costa (Oliver Cooper) and JB (Jonathan Daniel Brown), the boys put all their efforts towards stuffing their high school dreams into one night.

Blinded by the opportunity to finally be considered “cool,” Thomas risks everything he has, and, of course, it all goes terribly wrong.

Initially, the film fools the viewer into thinking that the party will probably be a little crazy, but nothing too far-fetched. Thomas’s dog Milo, however, quickly



The three friends, Thomas (Thomas Mann), Costa (Oliver Cooper), and JB (Jonathan Daniel Brown) watch as the party rages to new heights. The movie had raunchy content and racy dialogue.

gets drunk, and from here on the party is unstoppable.

An enraged neighbor attempts to put an end to the outrageous ruckus, but no warning is strong enough to take this party down—not even one from the police.

After the cops receive a noise complaint, they come to investigate. Somehow, Thomas manages to contain the people in the backyard and have them remain quiet for a period of time.

When the police arrive at the front door, Costa deals with them in a humorous way, ultimately discouraging the two officers from entering or seriously investigating the situation. What could have been the end of this party is only the beginning.

This movie reels the viewer in with the non-stop action and typical teenage humor. As extravagant and ridiculous as the party becomes, the upbeat, current music and documentary-style filming makes it feel as though the viewer is really there.

There is undoubtedly a shock factor to this movie, but it only adds to the entertainment.

The unbelievable aspects of the movie might fascinate some, but others may be shocked by the appalling elements, for example when hard drugs come into play. This film will leave any viewer shaking his or her head, whether it be in horror at these teenagers’ actions or in awe of the writers’ audacity.

QUACKING UP WITH KWAK



BY Bethia Kwak

A&E Editor

Those of you who know me also know my sick obsession with the *Jersey Shore*. On a weekly basis, I watch at least 3 or 4 hours of the show and when the #jershathon was on a few weekends ago, I found myself saying the lines along with the cast. (“RONNIE, ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH HER?! TELL ME NOW!”)

My initial plan was to write about the finale as I said goodbye to the cast... forever.

However, something else caught my attention this month. Five boys with adorable British-Irish accents, mediocre dance moves, and a song that can make any girl’s (and senior Paul Kagan’s) heart melt.

One Direction. I know I just made some readers scream in delight.

Each member supposedly has a “distinct” personality ranging from the “charming one” to the “sweet one.”

As the era of “Beiber Fever” is ending, the “One Direction Obsession” has arrived.

A quick search on the Internet of what these fans were called came up with the results “1D Family,” “Directioners,” and “Losers.”

The boy band recently went on the Today show, where reporters informed viewers that girls had camped out in the city since Friday for Monday’s performance.

A good portion of these girls were well over 25 and these cougars-in-training were interviewed saying “One Direction is my life!”

Don’t these women have jobs? Families? This band emerged last year. What were you guys doing before then?

Girls were reported chasing the One Direction bus for five blocks; some getting as close to clawing the back door.

Well, that’s sure a good look for the man you want to marry.

“Remember when you saw my maniacal face trying to break into your bus as it was driving away? I knew it was true love!”

One Direction declared they were going to start the resurgence of boy bands. Thank you for setting the bar for us. You truly know what makes you beautiful.

Before I end this column, I do want to say a few words of adieu to the *Jersey Shore*. Thank you, JWOWW for teaching me how to stand up for myself. Thank you, Pauly D for teaching me how to spot a grenade. And a big thank you to Snooki for being my role model for the past three years. You truly are my inspiration, and I wish you the best of luck with your new baby meatball. You will be a great mom. (You guys all think I’m being sarcastic right now, but I’m not.)

21 Jump Street becomes the comedy to beat

BY Hayden Quigley

Contributing Writer

21 Jump Street was originally a police drama that aired on Fox in the late ‘80s. It told the story of police officers who went undercover in high schools and colleges.

Now, *21 Jump Street* is a hit movie that shifts from the drama of the original show into pure hilarity.

In the movie, well-known actors play the parts of main characters Schmidt and Jenko. Schmidt (Jonah Hill) is very intelligent but lacks physical ability.

Jenko (Channing Tatum) is very physically capable but lacks his partner’s intelligence.

These two team up in the police academy to help each other out.

Both graduate and become bicycle cops, an occupation which they had not expected.

One day, while surveying the park where they are stationed, they see motorcycle gang members smoking drugs.

They catch one of the five men and make their first bust.

When brought into the captain’s office to discuss this, the policemen learn that the case has to be dismissed due to the fact that the policemen did not read the defendant his Miranda rights.

The captain then explains to them a special part of the police program in which youthful-looking police officers are to go undercover as high school students.



Schmidt (Jonah Hill) and Jenko (Channing Tatum) make a major drug bust. The actors’ chemistry translates to a great relationship between their characters.

The purpose of the program is to crack a high school case in which a new illegal drug is being produced and distributed. Given fake identities, they are forced to live as brothers in the same house.

This relationship starts off very well and then gradually deteriorates.

The viewer learns that Schmidt and Jenko went to the same high school as teenagers and, as if by fate, meet again in the police academy.

When they were in high school, Schmidt was very unpopular while Jenko was very popular.

Now, many years later, little has changed. Schmidt’s assignment is to get

in with the nerdy kids at school to see what is going on, and Jenko’s assignment is to get in with the popular kids and see if they know anything.

Jenko and Schmidt have a truly brotherly relationship. Tatum and Hill have great chemistry.

21 Jump Street uses a wide variety of humor, ranging from classic physical pranks to quick, clever comebacks to memorable one-liners. However, due to the amount of foul language, this movie is rated R.

21 Jump Street is a great option for anyone looking for a night of carefree laughs.

Community returns with an unusually normal episode

BY Dan Bidikov

Staff Writer

Community, NBC's quirky niche comedy, recently returned after a break in the middle of its third season. This may upset some viewers because it has bumped the popular series *Parks and Recreation* out of its timeslot until mid-April. The community college based romp, however, has historically been a high quality series, and this is a good sign that the network is at least giving it a little room to grow.

Each episode of *Community* is a high risk, high reward venture for head writer Dan Harmon as he tries his best to create a premise that will allow his signature brand of humor to thrive as actors deliver smart quips and subtle cues that flesh out his well-written scripts.

Harmon and his team write the series almost mathematically, with a bizarre process of circle drawing and sentence labeling that has spurred the creation of several brilliantly structured episodes over the course of the show.

The most recent episode was disappointing and presented a story that was not up to the show's usual standard of humor, not to mention a script that was not engaging or inviting for new viewers.

A weak script damaged the rest of the show's strengths, as the cast was visibly unable to thrive as it normally does within the lukewarm fictional atmosphere.

The basic chain of events in the newest episode of *Community* covered the gang's lovable dope, Shirley (Yvette Nicole Brown), and her remarriage to

her ex-husband (Malcolm Jamal Warner). Warner carried the cast in comedic terms: he outperformed the main characters. Even the consistently hilarious Troy (Donald Glover) and Abed (Danny Pudi) managed to squander a solid opportunity for some laughs as they underwent a return to normalcy from their usual weird selves.

Pierce (Chevy Chase) has maintained his recent reputation as a reliably funny character, while Jeff (Joel McHale) and Britta (Gillian Jacobs) fell flat and failed to deliver as they usually do.

Community constantly looks for different ways to be inventive. While in the past it has made great use of absurd storylines and quirky writing, the latest episode demonstrated a serious lack of risk-taking.

There was more of a focus on character development and a step towards the middle ground between heartwarming and witty, possibly as an attempt to be more accessible to newcomers. This was a commendable effort, which sadly failed because of the depth of the show's style of humor, as it only appeals to its small target audience.

It isn't always easy to catch all of the subtleties in *Community's* writing, and



Britta (Gillian Jacobs) assists Troy (Donald Glover) and Abed (Danny Pudi) as they attempt to set their weirdness aside and become "normal" for their friend's wedding. The show itself has grappled with a similar internal conflict, with its weirdness putting it on the verge of cancellation.

it is debatable whether a TV show should require so much effort out of its viewers to truly enjoy it. While other series produce laughs, *Community* prompts smirks, chuckles, and retweets of choice lines.

Community has a very specific fanbase. It is written for a smaller demographic than other popular network TV comedies. The show's writers cannot be indecisive at this uncertain phase of the series' lifespan.

If a reasonable balance between securing dedicated viewers and luring

in new fans isn't found, they must either continue to appeal to the less common type of socially aware young adults (what are they called now? Geeks? Hipsters?), or buckle down a bit and fall in line with NBC's other comedies, which are funny, but not groundbreaking.

While *Community* has been strong until the most recent episode, the show's much-hyped comeback was not up to par with the expectations set by previous episodes.

Mass Effect 3 wraps up sci-fi epic with a lackluster conclusion

BY Kerim Kivrak

A&E Assistant Editor

Finally, players can experience the culmination of their play throughout the *Mass Effect* series. With the release of the somewhat mediocre *Mass Effect 3*, developer BioWare has concluded its sci-fi trilogy and the story of its protagonist, the legendary Commander Shepard.

As with *Mass Effect 2*, returning players have the option to import their save data from the previous installment when they arrive at the familiar character creation screen. Theoretically, this allows you to observe the impact of your actions in the previous games and shape the universe throughout the series. In practice, this most likely means you'll have a few emails from characters you don't remember cluttering your virtual inbox or, if you're

lucky, a brief cameo.

Considering the emphasis that is placed on the massive effects of your decisions, the third game still leaves much to be desired. Dead squad-mates from previous games are simply replaced by new characters that fit neatly into their roles, ensuring that their predecessors' deaths have no impact on the game's story. At worst, you might miss out on some reminiscent banter.

The player reunites with Commander Shepard on Earth, where he or she has been working a desk job despite discovering an imminent invasion by the Reapers (an alien race of machines intent on destroying organic life) at the end of the previous game. This is a taste of the sort of nonsense that is riddled throughout the rest of the game's story.

In true Bioware fashion, all situations are reduced to a moral dichotomy and

each decision has Paragon and Renegade choices that reward you with Paragon or Renegade reputation points.

In the previous games, it was actually detrimental to evaluate each scenario individually, as you had to have a certain number of Paragon or Renegade points to unlock crucial dialogue options in tense situations. Fortunately, this system has been revamped in *Mass Effect 3*, with both Paragon and Renegade points feeding into a Reputation bar that unlocks special dialogue options and side quests.

The game's combat has certainly come a long way since the awkward, clumsy mess of the original *Mass Effect*. One of the more prominent changes since *Mass Effect 2* is the increased emphasis on melee combat, with the addition of a "heavy melee" ability and takedowns that can be performed from behind cover. But the game's cover system is hindered by its poorly designed controls, which designate the same button to do many unrelated actions.

One of BioWare's main focuses in the development of *Mass Effect 3* was appealing to a wider audience, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the game's difficulty settings. These range from Narrative, a setting designed for people more interested in the game's story than its combat to Insanity.

Unfortunately, the higher difficulty levels do not add any meaningful challenge. The enemies' AI is largely unchanged, and raising the difficulty level will only increase enemies' health and increase their weapon damage. On Insanity, gunfights devolve into games of whac-a-mole in which most of your time is spent in cover waiting for your enemies to expose themselves.

Regardless of your difficulty setting,

the game's repetition all but guarantees that combat will eventually become little more than a tedious chore. Thankfully, these problems are less prevalent in the game's new multiplayer mode.

In the lead-up to the game's release, BioWare promised that *Mass Effect 3* would be a "heart-wrenching" experience. Now, it seems BioWare can only evoke emotion through death.

The game's countless dramatic deaths are either hit or miss; some are intense emotional farewells to friends from the previous games, while some are laughably melodramatic.

While the game's graphics are by no means state of the art, rarely are they distractingly lacking. That is more than can be said for the game's poor animations, which are simultaneously confusing and hilarious. If nothing else, they provide some comic relief in the game's rather morbid setting.

The *Mass Effect* franchise has always featured wonderful and immersive soundtracks, and *Mass Effect 3* is no different. While the game's writing is shoddy and inconsistent, its music is always there to pick up the slack and establish the game's atmosphere.

While it is far from being a bad game, *Mass Effect 3* is wholly mediocre. The combat is standard third-person shooter fare, the plot is nonsensical and riddled with tired sci-fi clichés and, worst of all, your decisions mean next to nothing in the end.

BioWare certainly deserves some credit, as it is certainly "heart-wrenching" to see one of the most promising franchises of this generation end on such a weak note.



Shepard squares off against his former allies in the final installment of the *Mass Effect* trilogy. *Mass Effect 3* is a disappointing conclusion to a solid series.

Music Box

Variety in Ting Tings' new album makes it a fun listen for all



BY Jenny Barshay
Contributing Writer

The Ting Tings are an English duo, featuring members Katie White and Jules de Martino. The band's first album, *We Started Nothing*, was filled with catchy pop that put The Ting Tings on the map. Their much-anticipated second album, *Sounds from Nowheresville*, was released on March 13.

It took The Ting Tings four years to come out with *Sounds from Nowheresville*, leaving many to wonder what took so long. To fans, the wait was well worth it. By branching off from their

dance and pop tunes, the Ting Tings have produced a more varied album.

To write *Sounds from Nowheresville*, band members White and Martino visited former jazz club Friedrichshain in Berlin, Germany. According to White, they wanted to completely "isolate themselves," and Martino said that in Berlin they had "complete, crazy freedom." They drew inspiration from a variety of sources, including Fleetwood Mac and TLC.

Martino has said that he "wanted to make a record that had that much variety that if you played it you could almost shut your eyes and think: 'Is this the same band on each song?'" *Sounds from Nowheresville* indubitably lived up to Martino's dream. Each song on the album is unique and distinct. This makes for a fun first listen because you never know what to expect. From the softer melodies in songs like "Help," to the rapping, speaking, and yelling in "Guggenheim," in which not even one word is sung, The Ting Tings manage to touch upon many facets of music.

While some songs are reminiscent of the dance tunes from *We Started Nothing*, many of the songs represent a new sound for The Ting Tings altogether.

"Day to Day" has been compared to the style of Natasha Bedingfield, while



The Ting Tings, Jules de Martino and Katie White, perform live. Their new album is a departure from their old style and an exploration of many different genres.

other tracks appear to have more of a catchy, alternative beat to them, like "Give It Back." It references why it took so long for the Ting Tings to finally release *Sounds from Nowheresville*, declaring in the lyrics, "This could've been perfection/ But we had a bit of sense/ But we are the destroyers/ So we started it again."

Other stand-outs on the album include "Soul Killing," complete with squeaking

rocking chair noises, and "Silence," a slow and dark melody with a strong drum beat and indie sounding vocals.

Although some songs are repetitive, and are most likely not going to be any hits as big as "That's Not My Name," all in all, the Ting Tings have most definitely succeeded in creating a diverse, interesting, and, best of all, fun album that will appeal to fans of many genres.

Classic Album: *Days of Future Passed*



BY Kerim Kivrak
Assistant A&E Editor

Although it enjoyed significant commercial and critical success, the name "Moody Blues" does not carry much weight for anyone but progressive rock aficionados. Its obscurity is not undeserved—for most of its career, The Moody Blues drifted between genres, never finding a distinctive sound and never producing anything spectacular. But in 1967, after a dull debut, The Moody Blues achieved greatness with *Days of Future Passed*.

A fusion of rock and classical music, *Days of Future Passed* is a concept album that carries the listener through a day, each of its seven tracks capturing the atmosphere of its time of day. The album begins with 30 seconds of silence that gives way to a light orchestral composition representative of the time just before dawn.

The listener is quickly introduced to the sort of poetic lyricism that is present throughout the album, as The Moody Blues' keyboardist Mike Pinder recites drummer Graeme Edge's poem, "Morning Glory."

The first track is followed by "Dawn is a Feeling," a more commanding track that introduces a narrator. The pace continues to pick up with "Another Morning," a more lighthearted song that makes good use of Ray Thomas on the flute and showcases more of the band's phenomenal lyricism.

The first side of the album reaches its climax with "Peak Hour," a fast-paced song featuring a hectic reprise of "Dawn is a Feeling" in its intro. On the second side, the album slows down and adopts a more serene tone in "Tuesday Afternoon," more commonly known as "that song from that car commercial."

The album concludes with "Nights in White Satin," by far the most powerful track on the album. Part of the poem recited in the first track is repeated, and the album comes full circle, completing its account of the day from start to finish.

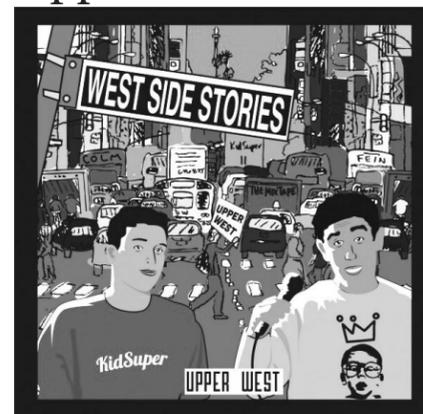
Days of Future Passed was released just months after The Beatles broke new ground with Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, widely regarded as one of the first concept albums in popular music, and shortly after the inception of the psychedelic rock that would gain prominence into the early seventies.

The Moody Blues set themselves apart through the structure of *Days of Future Passed*. Rather than delve into almost avant-garde levels of weirdness of psychedelia, The Moody Blues created something that has stood that test of time.

Days of Future Passed is something of a benchmark for concept albums. It is an incredibly cohesive collection of songs, each of which could easily stand on its own.

Never again would The Moody Blues reach this level of artistry, but they achieved in this album what most bands would hope to accomplish in an entire career.

Upper West's debut album wows new fans



BY Dan Miranda
Assistant Sports Editor

What comes to mind when thinking of the Upper West Side is often glitz, glamour, and a play on Broadway. Soon, however, it might be known for something else: a rap group.

Upper West is a group of two college freshmen, Doug Gleicher and Jesse Fink, and their first mix tape, entitled *West Side Stories*, was recently released to the public.

While the group remains unknown to most, they are taking lengthy strides to eventually enter the mainstream music world. One of their managers, Harrison Remler, a Schreiber graduate in 2010, noted that the group has shown progress within every song they've put out. Underground music fans have noticed too, especially on Facebook where Upper West now boasts more than 8,000 likes.

The album itself heavily features emotional connections to the city of New York. In the first song, called "West Side Story," Gleicher raps about his childhood:

"Grew up on 72nd / Moved to 87 / We rep that city where we saw the smoke on 9/11." Meanwhile, on the same song, Fink sings the chorus to the sounds of "You can hate, listen, love or ignore me/ But buckle up for my West Side story/ Where do we go from here?"

A few particularly good songs, such as "Home" and "Seasons," force a second listen for their original lyrics from Gleicher and beats produced by Fink.

"Home" features sounds from three other up-and-coming artists, Reef of Fortune Family, Gabriel Stark, and Sarah Solovay. Gleicher raps one verse paying homage to New York City and what it means to him: "See I'm surrounded by the city/ Wherever I go, I breathe, I know I'm going to take it with me."

"The mixtape was downloaded 12,000 times in its debut week," said Remler, who attends Vassar College in upstate New York and manages the group using his laptop and cellphone. "Listeners underestimate the creative process of a complete project, but I think *West Side Stories* attributes the hard work and dedication both Doug and Jesse put into the tape."

The mixtape is only 29 minutes in length, but has generally gotten positive reviews. One new school hip-hop/rap blog, The East Side Perspective, rated the tape "41 out of 50." GoodMusicAllDay, an online music service, said that while the tape is "kind of short," it "features a wide range of quality tracks."

The nine songs provide enough reason to believe Upper West will be involved in the music game for a while. With their catchy hooks and great potential, the group looks to find the glitz and glamour of the Upper West Side in their own songs.

Girls varsity badminton team readies for upcoming season

With a solid group of returning seniors, the squad looks to continue last year's success

BY Chad Edelblum

Staff Writer

After winning Division II and losing a close match in the 2011 county finals, the girls varsity badminton team has moved up to play in Division I.

The Vikings will now be playing against the likes of Jericho, Calhoun, and Great Neck South, three of the top teams on Long Island.

"We had a great season last spring, but we have to keep in mind that we are in Division I this year, and we are going to have to keep working really hard to keep our standing," said senior Amanda Fishbin. "With promising new tryouts and a team more motivated than ever, I am looking forward to embracing Division I and proving that we have enough talent to play with the best."

After beating the number one ranked Jericho squad in the conference semifinals and losing by one match in the finals to the number two seeded Calhoun last season, the badminton team is eager to take on the challenge.

With the loss of only two seniors, Alex Tung and Payal Doshi, the Vikings return all three of their singles players: seniors Sophia Jaffe and Olga Kosheva and sophomore Liz Kallenberg.

The real loss for the Vikings was the graduation of their number one doubles team of Tung and Doshi. The doubles team of seniors Juliana Beall and Isha Gupta will need to step up their play to

fight for that spot.

The one thing this doubles combination has is a crucial victory in their match against Jericho, which pushed Port Washington on to the finals last year.

After a second place finish in the county, Coach Dr. David O'Connor is very confident in his maturing group of players.

"I love that we have been moved up to Division I. It allows us to play all the tough teams throughout the regular season instead of only seeing them in the play-offs," said Coach O'Connor. "I want to make the playoffs. I am confident that we have a very good squad."

The team also has shown an impressive will to win, that is unparalleled by most teams.

"We are all determined to win that title that we were so close to winning last year. We are absolutely ready to start strong and end strong," said Gupta.

The badminton team expects strong performances from the juniors and sophomores as well.

Kallenberg, one of the Vikings top singles players, hopes to continue the success she had last season.

Because teams usually graduate their top singles players, the badminton team is looking forward to improved doubles

play from seniors Nina Devas, Fishbin, junior Laura De Bruin, and sophomore Avanti Shroff for the edge they need.

"Not many teams believe we are 'winning material.' However, Dr. O'Connor believes we have the potential to do well and hopefully win our first ever title of county finals, especially after such a close game in county finals last year," said Gupta.

"This year's girls' badminton team is full of excitement and spirit. With all the spirit of the team, the returning players and new players are determined to work hard and do our best to be successful this year," said Kallenberg.

The first match of the season will take place March 30 at MacArthur High School.



Brett Fishbin

Senior Isha Gupta rallies at team tryouts. She and her doubles partner, senior Juliana Beall, hopes to serve as the team's number one doubles team and replicate the success of their predecessors Alex Tung and Payal Doshi.

March 15th, 2012: the busiest day you will ever see in sports

BY Brett Fishbin

Senior Sports Editor

What do you get when you combine the first day of the NCAA tournament, the NBA trade deadline, the third day of NFL Free Agency, and the beginning of important spring training games?

The busiest sports day of the year!

Let's start with the NBA.

After eight months of debating back and forth, Dwight Howard finally decided that he will remain with the Orlando Magic for another season, just hours after informing team management that he would not waive his right to be a free agent.

While the news came as a shock to everyone, Howard's reputation was severely damaged, and he will no longer be looked at as the goofy man-child he once was.

Instead, he will have to take action to repair his tainted image. In the past, Howard had been noted for his outgoing personality, childish humor, and fun loving ways.

Now, he will be grouped with LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony as players who made a circus out of their pending free agency.

Although Howard remained with the same team after all, many big names in the NBA were moved as the deadline approached.

In a major blockbuster, oft-injured center Andrew Bogut was shipped to Golden State in return for Monte Ellis.

Other minor deals involved players such as Gerald Wallace, Leandro Barbosa, Ramon Sessions, JaVale McGee, Marcus Camby, Sam Young, Nick Young, Derek Fisher, and Nene.

This major day in NBA transactions was, however, heavily overshadowed by the sixteen game start of March Madness.

As millions of people across the nation looked at their brackets to make those final changes, 32 collegiate teams got ready to play their round-of-sixty-four matchup.

At 12:15, Murray State and Colorado State tipped off to begin the 64 team (no, I do not count the play-in games) March Madness Tourney.

For a day that usually revolves around buzzer beaters, upsets, comebacks, tears, and heroics, this year was fairly uneventful.

Nevertheless, two upsets took place, including VCU's dethroning of fifth seeded Wichita State, and Colorado's win over UNLV.

In perhaps the most exciting game of the day, UNLV came back from a 20 point deficit and cut the lead to just two points.

In the dwindling minutes, Colorado was able to bounce back and close the game out.

Earlier in the day, another nail-biter occurred during number one seeded Syracuse's matchup with the just-happy-to-be-here UNC-Asheville.

In a game that was played excruciatingly close throughout, two stunningly bad calls likely cost Asheville the win.

With 1:20 left in the second half, Asheville was called for a costly lane viola-

tion, allowing forward Scoop Jardine to re-take a missed free throw.

Instead of receiving possession, Asheville watched Jardine subsequently hit two consecutive free throws, extending the lead to six.

While the call did not look to be correct to begin with, it is almost unheard of for the referee to make such a technical call in such a big moment.

Thirty-five seconds later (with the lead cut to 3), the ball hit off of Syracuse guard Brandon Triche; however, the official called it out on UNC-Asheville, allowing Syracuse to convert on two more free throws, putting the game out of realistic reach.

Feeling jealous of all the attention basketball was receiving, NFL executives handed out two of the biggest contracts in the sport's history.

Both occurring on the third day of free agency, the two deals totaled \$242 million.

Calvin Johnson officially received a seven year, \$142 million extension with Detroit, and the Buffalo Bills signed "Super Mario" Williams to a \$100 million deal. Johnson's new deal secures him as the highest paid wide receiver in football.

Also known as Megatron, Johnson had a terrific season for the Lions, recording 1681 yards to go along with his impressive 16 touchdowns. Williams, a defensive end, was also dominant at his position during his five healthy games last season.

While both players are certainly deserving of these colossal contracts, it was still shocking to see such huge deals.



www.sbnation.com

Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard is mobbed by reporters after speculation of his return leaked to the public. Later, it was made official that he would return to the team for next season. This news began a long string of major stories that would solidify March 15, 2012 as the busiest day in sports this year.



Athletes



of the



Month



Bryce Keller

BY **Jack Simon**

Staff Writer

Junior Bryce Keller is an up-and-coming star for the baseball team this season.

Keller credits his motivation as a pitcher to his favorite player Justin Verlander, a starting pitcher for the Detroit Tigers. Verlander's success over the years and his power-pitcher mentality has inspired Bryce to follow his example.

Keller has been playing baseball his whole life. Since as far back as he can remember, he has been playing ball in the Port Washington PYA league and on travel teams.

Last year, as a sophomore, Keller moved up to varsity squad and by mid-season had a place on top of the rotation.

Keller ascribes his success to his hard work and dedication to the sport.

In Keller's second year on varsity he continues his work ethic and prepares for another difficult season ahead in a conference in which the Vikings will compete with some powerhouses like McCarthur, East Meadow, and Plainview.

Keller also plays multiple positions for the Vikings. When he's not pitching, the right hander plays the field at shortstop.

When he does pitch, Keller makes sure to do things the same way every time so as to not throw off his rhythm.

Keller has had some spectacular games in his career but his best one came over this past summer.

"My best game I ever pitched was over the summer against the 20th ranked team in the nation, the North Carolina Dirtbags. I threw a complete game shutout and struck out 10 batters," said Keller.

Last year the Vikings did not have the best record at 4-11, but

Keller has high hopes for his team this season.

"I feel that the team will do really well this year because we have a lot of good returning players, so hopefully we will make the playoffs," said Keller.

Keller will continue to play baseball outside of school to keep in shape and improve his abilities.

Last season Keller had great statistics in that league. He threw 37 innings, 48 strikeouts, and had an earned run average of 1.50.

Last season's accomplishments included the Most Valuable Player award and placement onto the All-Conference team.

After high school, Keller would like to continue his baseball career at a Division I school.



Courtesy of Bryce Keller

Junior pitcher Bryce Keller, and his strong arm, are getting ready for the upcoming baseball season.

Hayley Kerr

BY **Dan Miranda**

Assistant Sports Editor

Senior Hayley Kerr has played varsity lacrosse since she was in eighth grade. In one more year, she will be playing for the University of Southern California. Now, she is focused on helping the Vikings win on the local level.

In seventh grade, Kerr started as a mid-die for the eighth grade team. When she was in eighth grade on the varsity team, she barely got any playing time. Kerr admitted the transition was an important one in her development as a player.

"In ninth grade, I never came off the field, not once, and kind of led the defense as a freshman," said Kerr. "Now, I'm a captain and a senior and actually have the title to tell people what to do."

Head Coach Ms. Raquel Piraino threw Kerr in at lower defense, a position she had never played before and that many did not want to play. But the soon-to-be Division I athlete succeeded there.

"It's an important position, but at the same time, you don't get a lot of credit because you're not scoring goals," said Kerr.

This lack of recognition has not stopped Kerr from gathering a decorated list of accomplishments since entering high school. In her four years on the team, she has won the Coach's Award, the Unsung Hero Award, and been named an All-Conference player twice.

Kerr is still in disbelief that her dream school plans to start a women's lacrosse program the year she will enter college.

Kerr has played volleyball, basketball, and lacrosse throughout high school, which affected how she went about looking at schools.

"I was pretty late with the whole recruitment process since I was a three sport athlete," said Kerr.

Kerr has benefited greatly from playing multiple sports and compared the similarities between the basketball skills she's learned and the lacrosse ones she will

take to the next level.

"Playing defense in lacrosse and basketball go hand in hand. Sliding for help in basketball when someone is driving to the basket is the same thing in lacrosse, and also just general athleticism and being quick on your feet and changing directions," said Kerr. "The two sports definitely work together."

Kerr claimed that her coaches were a big part of her success.

"When I was asked at the National Letter of Intent signing who to thank, the first people I thought of were my coaches," said Kerr. "They brought me up my eighth grade year and made me the player I was, pushed me to play on a club team, and they helped out with the recruitment process since they were athletes themselves. I couldn't thank them enough."

With the season already underway, Kerr looks to lead the Vikings to the same heights as past years.



Elana Galassi

Senior Hayley Kerr reaches up to receive a pass during the Headstrong Tournament. She has committed to USC next year.

After finishing 10-7 in 2011, girls softball moves up to Division II

BY **Aaron Brezel**

Staff Writer

At this point last season, the girls varsity softball team was a young squad with a lot of talent.

The members were trying to prove to the rest of their conference, as well as to themselves, that they had the ability to become a dominant force. In the end, they achieved some success throughout their 2011 schedule.

The Vikings fought their way to a 10-7 record, winning each of their final six games, and finishing second in their conference.

Because of the nature of their conference, only the top team advanced to the playoffs.

Now, another year older and another year more experienced, the girls softball team is poised to make a run at the playoffs.

However the girls softball team has

been moved up to the AA conference along with the winner from its conference last year, Baldwin.

This means that this season, the Vikings will face even more difficult challenges.

For the Vikings, the ultimate goal is to qualify for the playoffs, which means fighting for one of the top four seeds. This will not be easy; in this tough conference, all teams have potential. Tough opponents like Farmingdale, who won the AA conference last season, Baldwin, and a bitter rival in Freeport all stand in its way.

So far, the Vikings are showing sparks of greatness.

In the first non-league game on March 17, the Vikings obliterated Great Neck North High School, with sophomore Alex Caprielle pitching a perfect game, striking out 14 batters in total.

The girls varsity softball team is going into this season with only 13 players

on the team, led by junior captain Jackie Avila.

She is beginning her third year on the varsity squad and is slated to start at the crucial catching position.

There are five seniors who add potency and veteran leadership to the lineup. These players include first baseman and second year varsity player Katya Barrett, and outfielder and third year varsity player Jenna Lipman.

This core of upperclassman talent will be necessary to lead the Vikings to a successful season.

The upperclassmen are not the only players who can make a real impact on the team this season.

Sophomores Caprielle, Peri Chain, Dierdra Labartino, and Carrie Rybecky were all selected to participate on the varsity squad.

In a testament to the skill of the young players in the program, a lot of responsibility will be placed on these four sophomores.

In particular, Alex Caprielle will hold the team as the number one pitcher for the Vikings.

"This is the most talent in the program we've had in a long time. A lot of girls tried out," said Coach Eric Sutz.

Despite their tough schedule ahead of them, the girls are able to keep themselves motivated thanks in part to the enthusiastic Coach Sutz.

"With the talent we have, all we need is to work hard in practice and play up to our potential in games," said Coach Sutz.

According to Coach Sutz, the experience that the key players have gained since last season has given them an understanding that hard work leads to success.

The Vikings will do their best to abide by these tenets as well as stick to their motto of "Whatever it takes."

With all their potential, there is no telling how far they can go.

Boys tennis team hopes to replicate past success

With many returning players, squad is confident in playoff repeat

By **Jake Eisenberg**
Assistant Opinions Editor

The boys varsity tennis team enters the season without two of its top players from last year, class of 2011 alumni Jason Hubsher, who played singles, and Michael Seiden, who played doubles. However, the team seems ready to move forward and begin a new and successful season.

This year, 12 players return to the varsity team, including eighth grader Alex Grossman, sophomores Chirag Doshi, Alex Hadley, Max Mastbaum, and Ben Rosen, and junior Dan Lee. Additionally, seniors Jared Alper, Sander Brenner, Bobby Katz, Sen Ninan, Krishin Shivdasani, and Jon Weber return to the team.

"I have four new roster spots open this year, as returning players aren't required to try out for the team," said Head Coach Mr. Peter Travis. "They only try out to determine where and how they'll be playing, and whether they play singles, doubles, or contribute as an alternate."

The team will consist of 16 players: three singles players, four doubles teams, and five spots for alternates, who would play in the event of an injured starter. In order for the tennis team to win a team match, the team must win at least four of the seven individual matches.

Last year, the team was knocked out of championship contention during the playoffs by the traditionally strong Cold

Spring Harbor.

In order to combat the powerhouse this year, Coach Travis plans to make adjustments during practice.

Hopefully, these changes will lead the boys team to its first county championship since the 2008-2009 season.

"During practice, we're going to play our doubles team against our other doubles teams, and our singles players against our other singles players," said Coach Travis. "Hopefully, intra-squad competition will lead us to success. More time on court. That's what it's all about, keeping the feet moving."

With so many seniors returning, this will be a big year for the boys varsity tennis team. It will be the last season with consistency in the high level of experience of the players before tryouts begin next season. It seems that the team would consider anything short of a county championship or a

deep playoff run a disappointment. The expectations for this season are high, but the team believes that it can step up in the face of all of the pressure.

"We expect to make the playoffs for the third year in a row," said Coach Travis.

"This is an important year, but no more important than any other. Port Washington

never ceases to surprise me. There's always great players coming out of here. And, we're in the top division as usual, along with the Cold Spring Harbor, Jericho, and Syosset. Those are traditionally the better teams, and I think we belong in that group."

BOYS VARSITY TENNIS SCHEDULE

4/3	4:15 pm	vs. Great Neck South
4/16	4:30 pm	vs. Jericho HS
4/18	4:30 pm	@ North Shore HS
4/19	4:30 pm	vs. Great Neck North
4/21	10:00 am	@ Syosset HS

Harry Paul and Elana Galassi

APRIL FOOL'S DAY

SKATEBOARD SALE

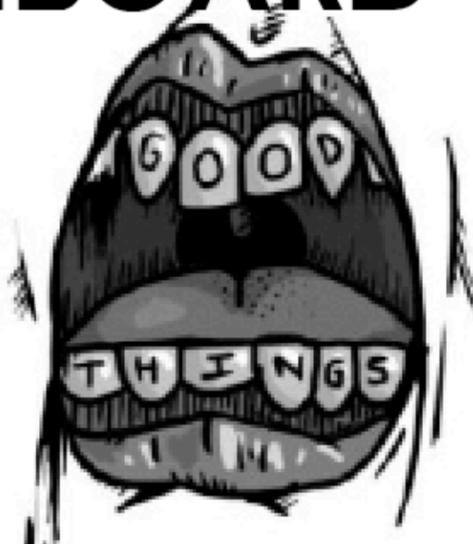
\$10 OFF SELECT DECKS

\$5 OFF DIAMOND HATS

SALE ENDS APRIL 1ST

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

DON'T FOOL AROUND. . . COME IN TODAY!



NO FOOLIN' STARTS TODAY

GOOD THINGS SKATEBOARD SHOP ~ 282 MAIN STREET ~ (516)304-5459 ~ WWW.GOODTHINGSSKATESHOP.COM

VIKING SPORTS

Ballers come together to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis *Two senior girls, with help from student body, raise over \$1,000 for charity*

BY **Dan Miranda**
Assistant Sports Editor

On March 5, seniors Kaitlyn Brown and Stephanie Reali ran a basketball tournament in the Schreiber gymnasium to raise money for and donate to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF).

Brown and Reali started the event as sophomores and have raised more and more money each year. In 2010, the duo's first year, they donated \$600; in 2011, that number increases to \$1,000; and in 2012, they found themselves giving \$1,080 to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

"The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is the world's leader in the search for a cure for cystic fibrosis," according to the foundation's website, www.cff.org. "We fund more CF research than any other organization, and nearly every CF drug available today was made possible because of Foundation support."

Brown and Reali's tournament is precisely the type of support to which the Foundation is referring.

"Originally, I was introduced to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation through Key Club, and we created this event to raise money for the foundation," said Brown. "We do this event for research, and all the money goes back to the foundation."

A total of more than 100 basketball players from Schreiber, both boys and girls, came together to play in a single-elimination tournament. More than 21 teams showed up, and every class put at least one team on the floor.

Director of Athletics Stephanie Joannon has noticed the efforts that both Brown and Reali have put into the event and appreciated their creativity and fundraising abilities by lending them court time for their tournament.

"When students such as Kaitlyn and Steph come by to ask about available gym space, it is wonderful when we are



Elana Galassi

Junior Adam Keisman holds the ball at the top of the key. His team, comprised of juniors Nick Duarte, John Crawley, Christian Castillo and Joey Alagna, defeated juniors Richard Greenberg, Jesse Kaplan, David Rudman, Vincent Miscioscia, and Jake Lublin in the first round.

able to accommodate," said Ms. Joannon. "Not just as the athletic director but also as a school district administrator, I get a chance to meet students who don't necessarily play sports by getting to meet them and see their passion for something like Cystic Fibrosis or any other fundraiser."

The group was able to raise so much money, according to Brown, because basketball is something in which many people at the school are interested.

"Basketball tends to be a good fundraiser. A lot of people like basketball, and

I know a lot about it because I played, so it was a win-win situation," said Brown.

Help from clubs were a large part of the tournament's success. Business Law teacher Dr. Chris Haring supervised the event as the head of the Future Business Leaders of America Club (FBLA). The club put out a team to help the tournament raise money. The Key Club also chipped in by hosting a bake sale.

"With the use of fliers, morning announcements, and the help of both the key club and FBLA, the tournament spread quickly," said Brown.

Brown did not get the chance to play varsity basketball in high school and wanted a way to keep it in her life. She found the tournament to be a good way to not only raise money but also keep basketball in her activities.

"I played varsity soccer and lacrosse all throughout high school, and I love both. Basketball was a sport I decided to give up because it was too time consuming playing three sports, so this was sort of a way to keep basketball in my high school history," said Brown, who will play Division I lacrosse at Marist next spring.

The format for the tournament was decided once all the teams had paid on the day of the games. When an odd number of teams registered, Brown and Reali designated a few of the senior teams to have first round byes. Games were six minutes long, and the teams only played using half the court. Varsity basketball Head Coach Sean Dooley and starting Vikings point guard Josh Feshbach served as the referees for the tournament.

"It was great being able to help out with the Cystic Fibrosis tournament," said Feshbach. "Everybody was really excited to play basketball to support a good cause

and I was happy to be apart of it. Hopefully the tournament will continue to be a success in future years."

After hours in the gymnasium and five games played, the team consisting entirely of sophomores came out victorious; Gunnar Alagna, Al Ashmawy, Matt Jackson, Charles Kobus, and Oren Mizrahi beat two teams full of seniors.

"It's great that we're raising money for cystic fibrosis. I hope we can find a cure," said Mizrahi.

Even those who did not come away winners found the tournament to be rewarding for the cause and a fun way to spend their time.

"For just a few dollars we got to play basketball and have fun, knowing all the money raised was going to helping people with Cystic Fibrosis," said senior Matthew Cacioppo.

Ms. Joannon has shown appreciation for the fundraising efforts of students and staff by granting gym space whenever events pop up. Other events using gym space have included volleyball and badminton fundraisers, and drug awareness programs.

"I love when the gym areas are able to be used for events or programs outside of sports and physical education classes. The more we can do, the better we can have great ideas come to life in a bigger space," said Ms. Joannon.

After the night of basketball was completed, Brown and Reali called the fundraiser a success.

"Schreiber is full of students who are actively involved in school events as well as the community," said Brown. "That is the reason the fundraiser was so successful."



Elana Galassi

Junior Brian Chung drives to the basket against a freshmen squad. The tournament was able to attract teams from every grade in Schreiber by using morning announcements, fliers, and clubs to help recruit players.