

THE SCHREIBER TIMES

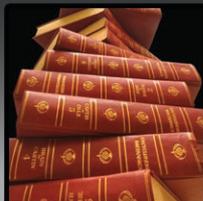
Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXII No. 8 April 2012

A New Chapter in Soundview Business



American Reunion

-A&E-



Academic Decathlon

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Testing Before Break

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Sophomore Jackson Shain took this photograph last summer while traveling through France. It features a mountain refuge hidden among the mountains in the Rhône-Alpes region of France near Chamonix.

NEWS BRIEFS

Zumba instructor visits

To supplement the Zumba portion of the Fitness classes' curriculum, physical education teacher Ms. Robin Cooper invited ZumBrazil instructor Ms. Michelley McCaal to host a workshop. Ms. Cooper invited her students, as well as other students and staff members to participate in the April 6 workshop.

"It was a different and new experience that showed me how high-energy Zumba is," said freshman Lya Rothmann. "It was really cool to see and learn a type of dance other than ballet or hip-hop."

Zumba is a Latin dance-inspired fitness program created by dancer and choreographer Alberto Perez in Colombia during the 1990s.

Zumba involves dance and aerobic elements including hip-hop, soca, samba, salsa, merengue, mambo, martial arts, and some Bollywood and belly dance moves.

"It was fun, except it was hard to see from the back. A lot of people who were further than halfway down from the instructor couldn't see the steps and were awkwardly trying to follow," said junior Sofiya Semenova.

Ms. Cooper, a certified Zumba instructor, organized the workshop. She teaches a Zumba unit each year in both her Fitness and her Advanced Fitness classes.

"I was looking to add something new

to the fitness strand," said Ms. Cooper. "After seeing it in fitness clubs, I started taking classes at ZumBrazil, in Great Neck. I was so elated by the multicultural music, so I became a certified instructor and added it to the curriculum."

At the conclusion of the workshop, the visiting instructor Ms. McCaal distributed business cards with vouchers for one free class to each of the workshop participants, and some students have already taken advantage of them.

"It was a fun experience to do Zumba in a large group setting like that and everyone seemed to have a great time," said junior Hallie Whitman.

~Elana Galassi

Tri-M hosts NYSSMA festival

Recently, student musicians volunteered to help beginner musicians from around Long Island participate in the annual New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) festival.

This year, Schreiber hosted a festival for the lower levels on March 28 and 29; this festival included beginner musicians, mostly made up of elementary and middle school students. Students performed for adjudicators, in order to receive criticism and to possibly qualify for local, state, and national music ensembles.

"NYSSMA is an excellent program that provides students with a goal to strive

to, and an opportunity to get objective feedback from knowledgeable judges," said Mr. Richard Zweig, whose daughter participated in the festival. "It was great that Schreiber was willing to host this kind of musical event." (Full disclosure: Mr. Zweig's older daughter is Features Editor Hannah Zweig. She did not participate in NYSSMA on March 28 and 29.)

Members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, headed by Mr. Anthony Pinelli, volunteered at the event. Students manned sign-in desks, assisted the festival judges, ran forms to the library, and helped students locate performance rooms.

Additionally, students from the mixed choir and the treble chorus fundraised for their respective groups with bake sale.

Students in the Tri-M Honor Society worked in shifts of three hours at a time and ate a complimentary pizza dinner.

"At first, it was more hectic than we anticipated, but it was successful all around," said senior Jennifer Kim, co-president of Tri-M.

Because many Tri-M students participated in NYSSMA when they were younger, they were better equipped to help students and run the event.

"I loved seeing and helping the little kids at NYSSMA. It brought back memories of when I did NYSSMA for the first time," said junior Ellie Zolotarev.

~Amelia Pacht

The Schreiber Times

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Changes coming to SAT & ACT tests

Next year, exams will increase in security and decrease in frequency

BY Hannah Fagen and Hallie Whitman

News Editor and Staff Writer

Changes are coming to high-stakes college entrance examinations next year—both in terms of the frequency of testing and the processes associated with the actual testing itself.

This past fall, college entrance examinations such as the SAT and ACT captured nationwide attention when prosecutors uncovered a cheating ring involving several students at high schools across Long Island. After a number of investigations, officials discovered that high school students had paid both high school and college students to impersonate them and take the exams in their places. Former Emory student Sam Eshaghoff was charged with taking the test for several Great Neck North students, and many more were prosecuted, although, because of their ages, their names were not released. The cheating ring brought questions about the current security measures in place for these examinations to the public sphere.

Recently, the College Board and ACT Inc. announced plans to implement a new security system designed to prevent such cheating from occurring in the future by verifying each student's identity before they take a test. Taking effect for the 2012-2013 school year, the new changes will add more precautions to ensure total integrity before, during, and after SAT exams are administered.

"It is extremely important that tests as important as the ACT and SAT ensure the integrity of every test so that there is a level playing field for all students equally," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon.

Students will now be required to upload current photos of themselves when they register for tests. This photo will then be printed as part of each student's admissions ticket, and will be subsequently matched with the identification that the student provides during check-in at the test location. Students' photographs will also appear next to their names on each proctor's roster sheet for test day.

"This may be a burden for those students who do not have access to a computer or the skills to know how to upload the photo," said Director of Guidance Mr. Hank Hardy. "Also, I am not certain at this time how College Board is going to determine that the photo is of the actual student or of another person who will be taking the test for them."

Also, every student will have to provide his or her date of birth, gender, and high school name when registering for the test. Finally, students will complete a more thorough written certification of integrity on the test day, and standby registration will be eliminated.

"The staff at the high school will be more adept at identifying their own students and discouraging the use of test taking ringers," said Mr. Hardy.

Another change to college entrance exams for the 2012-2013 school year

is that due to budgetary constraints, Schreiber will be offering fewer test dates than in past years. While this year the school hosted a total of seven SAT dates and two ACT dates, next year, students will only have the opportunity to test at Schreiber three times for the SAT and once for the ACT. This year's budget required that some departments try to make concessions where they could, and, after consideration, the guidance department decided to cut testing dates, partly because most of the students who tested at Schreiber weren't Schreiber students.

"At best only 25 to 40 percent of the test takers were from Schreiber," said Mr. Hardy. "The rest were from other schools. Considering that the staff were being paid stipends by the district, we could save up to \$10,000 by limiting the number of test administrations that we participated in."

As it stands currently, proctors at SAT

and ACT examinations are paid by the district, as well as by the testing agencies. The more students who register, from the Port district or otherwise, the more money the school district must pay for proctors.

"To the College Board and ACT, it does not matter where the student takes it as long as the fee is paid," said Mr. Hardy. "Also, the registrations come on a first serve basis, depending on which test center the students choose."

"I am upset that Schreiber won't be offering the same number of tests because the testing atmosphere is different at Schreiber than at any other school I've tested at," said junior Emily Lipstein.

"Making sure that cheating is more difficult is important, too. If I've worked really hard to get my score and another person just copies off of me or if they cheat through another method, it's not fair. I am fully behind tighter security measures."

New movie theater set to open

BY Celine Sze

Assistant News Editor

After Clearview Cinemas in the Soundview Marketplace closed down almost two years ago, a new movie theater owned by Soundview Cinemas is planning on replacing it as early as the end of May of this year.

In September 2010, Clearview Cinemas foreclosed because the theater owed \$21 million in debt. After the theater management tried negotiating with the landlord to lower the rent, it still decided to close because the final offer was not low enough. Another reason the theater did not stay was issues with parking in the shopping center.

As a result of the theater's closing, several businesses inside the Soundview Marketplace experienced a decrease in business. Carvel had switched locations within the shopping center in April 2010 to neighbor the movie theater and potentially increase its sales by attracting people moviegoers. Although Carvel's business initially increased from this shift in location, its sales dropped by 40 percent when the theater closed.

Bellissimo Pizzeria opened in the Soundview Marketplace two months prior to the closing of the movie theater. Similarly to Carvel, the pizzeria saw its business decrease as a result.

With the opening of a new theater, sales at some of the stores within the marketplace may increase and businesses searching for a location may consider leasing in the Soundview Marketplace.

"I am glad that a new movie theater is planning on opening up again because it can increase business, but nothing has happened yet, so I am still waiting," said Mike Liu, manager of Carvel.

The new movie theater will offer viewings of digital films, including popular showings. Soundview Cinemas is also planning to install leather seats to replace the old ones and is also seeking to make further changes in an attempt to improve the venue.

The village of Port Washington North and Soundview Cinemas have worked concurrently for the past six months to reopen the theater.

"I'm really happy that there will be a theater in Soundview again because it is more convenient for me and other people who live around there. It was really depressing to pass by the closed theater every day," said senior Rakina Imam.

The location of the theater may appeal to community members living around Soundview, since it is closer than the Main Street theater.

"I think the new addition is beneficial for those who live in the Soundview area. However, I would still go to the Main Street theater since there are more things to do around it after seeing a movie," said senior Ali McCann.

Currently, the movie theater is not ready to be opened, but it is scheduled to open as early as Memorial Day weekend.

"I am ecstatic about a new movie theater opening," said freshman Steven Lopez. "Maybe now on Tuesdays there won't be such long lines and so many sold out movies."

Students and staff "Rev It Up" for Relay for Life



Harry Paul



Hannah Fagen

On April 23, the Relay for Life coaches hosted their annual "Rev It Up For Relay" to raise student and staff awareness about the annual June event. This year's event had a "Pirates of the Cureibbean" theme. Top: freshman coach Jina Lay displays some of the event's proceeds, which will go towards the American Cancer Society. Bottom: English teacher Mr. Corey Block prepares for a sword fight with his wife, family and consumer sciences teacher Ms. Robyn Block.

Asbestos in floors requires precautions

BY Minah Kim
Assistant News Editor

Shortly before spring break, notices posted on all school entrances informed students and faculty of asbestos removal procedures to take place in school. Due to damage to the weight room floors, the administration had to reconstruct the floor and abate the asbestos in the floor.

Those who frequent the weight room are aware of the garbage bins placed around the room to catch water leaking from the roofing and skylights. These leaks caused rotting of the wood floor under the rubber mats which hid the problem until recently.

An evaluation of the damaged floor found asbestos in the glue holding together the subfloor underneath the wooden panels. As a result, the district closed the room until the asbestos could

be abated and flooring repaired.

"As someone who uses the gym facilities, I appreciate that health and safety are the primary concerns," said guidance counselor Mr. Joseph Lorge. "I am happy to hear that they are improving the facilities for all those who use them."

Asbestos is a fireproofing mineral used in construction, cars, and ships. Though asbestos was widespread until the 1980s, the United States and Europe have banned most uses due to its carcinogenicity. It takes 30 to 50 years after exposure to asbestos fibers 1,000 times finer than a human hair to develop asbestosis, mesothelioma, or a related lung cancer.

After the pre-demolition test determined asbestos was present, workers sealed the entire work area for abatement of asbestos during spring break. Work involving asbestos never occurred during school hours and a posting informed students and staff of details of the

abatement. Throughout and after the project, workers took air samples to test, and removal of the seal did not occur until tests confirmed the safety of the air.

With that task completed, the district decided not to use wood flooring to prevent the same issue from reoccurring. It plans to repair and seal the concrete and put the rubber mats over the concrete surface. All the surfaces, mats, and machines need to be cleaned before reopening the room.

"Student and staff safety is paramount. All asbestos abatement activity is conducted under strict guidelines and carried out meticulously," said Director of Facilities Mr. Jim Ristano.

The leaking water did not damage equipment. Before construction began, the physical education department with help of custodial staff moved equipment used by fitness classes, including free weights, benches, and the Cybex multi-station piece, to the wrestling room.

"On the badminton team, we had to bring over nets and poles and take home all our clothes and equipment from the locker rooms before break. It wasn't a big deal," said junior Charmaine Ye.

The athletics teams worked out of Weber Middle School over the spring break when the workers sealed the construction area. Athletes and coaches took their equipment with them over the break.

"The physical education staff and athletic coaches and teams were terrific in making the adjustments in the curriculum and practices," said Ms. Stephanie Joannon, Director of Athletics.

Once repairing of the floors concludes, there will not be new equipment, only a new arrangement. Administrators expect the weight room to be completed by mid-May.



Hannah Fagen

Workers from Belfor, a property restoration company, clean the mats in the weight room. Because of water damage, wooden floors containing asbestos were removed.

World War II factory worker brings Rosie the Riveter to life

BY Jennifer Kim
Contributing Writer

A real-life Rosie the Riveter visited students to share her experiences during World War II. On April 3, during first and second period, Ms. Mary Brenner spoke about her contribution to the war effort.

Social studies teacher Ms. Sarah Brenner organized the event after she spoke with Ms. M. Brenner (mother of her husband, band director Mr. Mark Brenner), whom she encouraged to share her life story in order to educate others. Together, the two planned the event, which took place in the student commons and was open to Ms. M. Brenner's global history students, as well as others who chose to come.

Because such a large portion of the male population was drafted in World War II, many women took on traditional male jobs. During her talk, Ms. M. Brenner shared the various positions that she held to help contribute to her family's income. At the age of 14, she started to work in a clothing factory in Mineola to support her parents, three brothers, and three sisters.

"It was for the family, not for me," said Ms. M. Brenner.

She next became a bookkeeper, and for each week, she received \$10 in wages. Instead of keeping these earnings, she gave them to her mother, who would allow her to keep one dollar for herself

after each weekly salary. After working as a bookkeeper, she worked for a bus company, which paid her \$16 per week.

After her brothers were deployed, she worked at the Sperry Gyroscope Plant in Lake Success. After training on how to use factory equipment, she worked from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. for \$1.75 per hour. She described the safety equipment she had to wear, such as jumpers, special hats, and face shields.

At the Sperry Plant, she, along with her female co-workers, was hired only for the duration of the war. When the war concluded in 1945, she found an occupation as a housekeeper and then a secretary for Sperry.

"She worked her entire life, served her country for an honorable cause, and I'm glad to see that she's enjoying the fruits of her labor now. She is an inspiration," said social studies teacher Mr. Petro Macrigiane.

Ms. M. Brenner continues to work at the Sperry Corporation, where she has stayed for 35 years. When she is not working, she often travels to Europe and the Middle East.

"It was a great journey," said Ms. M. Brenner said. "If you have a dream, follow it."

This lecture was an opportunity for students to hear about the life of someone who was directly involved in something that they studied in class.

"Having Ms. Brenner come in to speak

with us about her experiences working in the factories throughout World War II was not only interesting, but I truly feel that I now understand what it was like for women on the homefront throughout the war," said sophomore Emily Weinstein.



Alex Sater

Social studies teacher Ms. Sarah Brenner poses with Ms. Mary Brenner who worked in factories during World War II. She spoke to students about her experiences.

Treehuggers promote eco-friendly living

BY Kelly To
Staff Writer

Early this spring, students participated in a worldwide movement to save the environment and raise awareness about environmental dangers. In honor of Earth Hour and Earth Day, the Treehuggers Club sanctioned two energy-saving events during school on March 30 and April 26, respectively.

For Earth Hour, custodians turned off the main hallway lights for the entire day and the lobby lights during lunch periods. This global event, organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), takes place every year on March 31 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. During this hour, millions of people all over the globe turned off their lights, phones, and other electronic devices.

During the 4-1/4-2 lunch period, Treehuggers played a video in the lobby to inform students about the goal of the event. This WWF video explained how Earth Hour began and transformed into a worldwide event. In addition, Treehuggers also gave out "Support Earth Hour" fliers to remind students when to turn off their lights at home.

"I think Earth Hour is important because we all get so busy with all the things going on in our lives and it's easy to forget that we need to conserve energy and protect the planet that is our home," said sophomore Michaela Gawley, a member of Treehuggers. "Earth Hour is a visual reminder of the importance of saving energy."

In addition to school staff members darkening Schreiber's halls, the overseers of several public monuments, such as the Empire State Building, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Eiffel Tower, and the Great Wall of China turned off the lights for an hour this year, as well as several celebrities, such as Miranda Kerr.

"Earth Hour raises awareness. Earth is our home, and we should save energy to protect our planet," said Treehuggers Club advisor Ms. Julie Barbieri.

Shortly after, on April 26, Treehuggers celebrated Earth Day with events to raise awareness of environmental dangers and ways students can help.

The Tap Water Tasting Challenge took place in the lobby during 4-1/4-2. Students tasted the water to see whether they could differentiate between different brands of bottled water from some tap water in identical cups.

"This is the point we've been directly trying to make since the installation of our Hydration Station last year on the futility and detrimental effects of plastic water bottles," said Treehuggers Club co-president senior Alison Peraza.

Treehuggers continued their theme of raising awareness about hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, at the showing of *Gasland*. This movie informs the audience about the potential land and water contamination that would be caused by fracking. State assemblywoman Michelle Schimel made a guest appearance after the movie to answer some questions regarding environmental issues in New York State.

"I think that it is really important for everyone to try to reduce our impact on the earth, even if it is just by consciously making an effort to do things like recycle," said junior Lani Hack.

English department sponsors April events

Author Ruta Sepetys visits and students host Poetry Café



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Author Ruta Sepetys speaks to students during her visit to Schreiber on April 2. Her new book, *Between Shades of Gray*, is a historical novel about life during Stalin's reign of terror.

BY Lena Kogan

Staff Writer

The English department organized events during this month to expose students to different literary forms. On April 2, author Ruta Sepetys spoke to students and on April 20, students and teachers participated in a poetry café.

The author lecture focused on the experiences and inspirations of Ms. Sepetys. She spoke about where she got the ideas for her book *Between Shades of Gray*.

This novel, set in 1941, is about a 15 year-old artist named Lina Vilkas. After the Soviet secret police arrest her, her mother, and her younger brother, and deport them from Lithuania to Siberia, Lina sets out to encode messages into her art in order to try to reunite the family with her father.

"My father fled from Lithuania when he was a boy. Some of his extended family members were deported to Siberia. I didn't know about the deportations and was shocked when I learned of them," said Ms. Sepetys. "I wrote the book to give voice to the many people who experienced

the terror in Siberia but will never have a chance to tell their story."

Ms. Sepetys described her experience of writing the book, including the time she locked herself in a prison train car for 12 hours and immersed herself in a Latvian prison where she was beaten and injured to help her gain perspective about what her characters could have experienced. Although she did not recommend students to go to these extremes to write a novel, she emphasized the importance of sharing stories.

"I think we're all storytellers in one form or another," said Ms. Sepetys. "Writers, dancers, athletes, musicians—we're all telling a story through our preferred form of creative expression. So embrace your inner storyteller!"

In honor of National Poetry Month, the English Honor Society hosted the annual Poetry Café. Students and staff members listened to and recited poetry.

The Poetry Café takes its inspiration from the idea of the annual "Poem in your Pocket Day" which has participants across the country. On this day, people can select a poem they particularly enjoy and carry it around in their pocket that day, sharing it with co-workers, family, and friends.

"The goal of the poetry café is to celebrate and share poetry," said English teacher Ms. Michal Cohan. "I hope that students walk away hearing or sharing at least one poem they enjoyed and will want to participate again next year."

Ms. Kate Herz, currently a librarian at Weber, started the Poetry Café 13 years ago.

"I always loved poetry, but felt that it

needed to be heard and not just read and analyzed in the classroom," said Ms. Herz. "I also connected with two students who were very enthusiastic about launching and hosting the first café."

Ms. Cohan and media specialist Ms. Mary Seligman became co-chairs of this event last year and continue the tradition.

"My favorite part is watching kids that might have been really shy get up and speak," said Ms. Seligman. "It really covers the whole building, so many people are willing to do poetry."

The doors for the Poetry Café opened at 7:30 a.m. As participants entered, a student group provided music and refreshments from Bagel Boss.

"So many people are united in creativity," said junior Benjamin Scheckner.

Emcees seniors Jessica Boyd and Jesse Weil, and junior Delia Van Praag coordinated the event through the English Honor Society.

Students and several faculty members read poems throughout first period.

"It's great to see the creativity of so many students, because I don't get to see that a lot as a math teacher," said math teacher Mr. Lederer. "I like how students can make it very funny, or very serious."

To share poetry with other students and faculty members, poems were placed in a poster with a pocket. Anyone who visited the library could choose a poem for the day from this pocket.

"It's really about understanding the art of poetry, understanding it's a real art," Ms. Seligman said. "It's an invitation to the whole building."

Outdoor Ed. students cook outside during class

BY Sophia Kim

Contributing Writer

With ingredients, toppings, and homemade stoves in hand, Outdoor Education students participated in an unprecedented activity: cooking pancakes as part of the camping unit.

The class took place during the last week of March on the stairs leading up to the field behind the school. The activity involved fire so the students needed to work on a concrete surface.

Teachers provided all the ingredients needed to make the pancakes, which included pancake batter, bananas, blueberries, and chocolate chips. Some students even brought their own ingredients, such as graham crackers, chocolate, and marshmallows to make S'mores. Students cooked pancakes using Vagabond Stoves and Buddy Burners, both made by the Outdoor Education teachers.

Physical education teacher Ms. Lisa Belmonte brought the idea from the school at which she previously taught, and she guided the other teachers through the process of making the stoves and cooking pancakes with each class.

The physical education teachers made several Vagabond Stoves from one gallon tin cans prior to the class. They cut holes in the can for ventilation and created a small door in the tin can to control the size of the fire. They made the Buddy Burner from a shallow tuna fish can with

corrugated cardboard and paraffin wax, which maintains the fire for the stove.

"I thought it was really fun and helpful," said sophomore Hannah Rosen. "Now I know how to cook food when I go camping."

Students made pancake batter during class without eggs to prevent any chance of foodborne illness. Then students sprayed the surface with Pam and cooked pancakes on the can. Teachers provided spatulas and oven mitts for student use.

"I enjoyed the class. The pancakes were actually really good," said sophomore Erin Gurler.

This was the first time Schreiber students have participated in a cooking activity in a physical education class.

"I enjoyed eating, but I felt like the class didn't teach us about survival and thought it wasn't really gym-like," said senior Hana Seligman.

"I liked that it added diversity to an already unique class," said junior Miles Kurtz. "However, the activity may need to be separated from a physical education curriculum."

Outdoor Education is geared towards cooperation with each other and with the natural environment, and involves all kinds of outdoor survival lessons.

Along with cooking outdoors, the camping unit includes lessons on pitching tents and orienteering.

"These classes teach students skill they can use for a lifetime, and that's what physical education is all about," said athletic director Ms. Stephanie Joannan.



Minah Kim

Junior Emma Brezel cooks chocolate chip pancakes outside on a Vagabond Stove. Physical education teachers assembled these stoves themselves.



Harry Paul

From left, junior Miles Kurtz, and seniors Brian Aronow and Jesse Weil, members of the band Decadence, take the stage at Battle of the Bands. The proceeds from the competition will go to support the family of a senior student who is currently fighting cancer.

Battle of the Bands attracts crowds for a cause

by Rachel Cho and Ana Espinoza

Staff Writers

Though school is not the most popular place to be on a Friday night, for one event, students and teachers alike crowded in the lobby, waiting to be allowed into the auditorium. Only after the sound checks did the crowd enter one of Schreiber's favorite events.

The Blue Suits, Decadence, Outrageous Fun, Soma, and NTOR were scheduled to perform at Battle of the Bands, which took place on March 30. However, because of an unforeseen scheduling conflict, NTOR was unable to appear.

"We decided to do Battle of the Bands because we have been doing it for three years now, and it's just tradition that we do it," said junior Miles Kurtz, who plays keyboard and rhythm guitar for Decadence. "The band actually formed

"Decadence's last song was a compilation of classic rock songs, which I liked," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. "It made me feel like a kid again."

for the battle."

As explained by the hosts, juniors Holly Hubsher and Deborah Oyarzun, the goal for this year's Battle of the Bands was to raise money to support a Schreiber senior who is currently receiving treatment for cancer.

Throughout the show, both hosts were wearing headsets and recording their commentaries for WDOT. Oyarzun was tweeting live and answering questions from the audience, while Hubsher shared various jokes, similar to those from the morning announcements.

At one point, the hosts asked the attendees to guess how many years Battle of the Bands has existed at Schreiber. After

many guesses, the audience discovered that this year marked the 45th annual Battle of the Bands.

"I thought the show was fantastic with a lot of variety," said senior Jessica Boyd. "It's hard to choose a favorite band."

Seven bands originally auditioned to perform at Battle (as the event is affectionately nicknamed), and five of those bands were selected.

The Blue Suits is a five member band of sophomores who performed at Battle of the Bands for the first time this year, and played one original song, and, like the rest of the bands, a number of covers. The sophomore band includes Oren Barasch (bass), Nate Krantz (drums and vocals), Derek Moss (lead guitar), and Jordan Shedrofsky (rhythm guitar). The band has released one single, "How Could She Slip Away," which is currently available on iTunes.

Decadence is a junior and senior band with six members. The senior members of the band are Brian Aronow (saxophone), Bobby Katz (guitar), and Jesse Weil (lead vocals). Juniors Kurtz, Reed Kalash (drums), and Nick Sapountzis (bass guitar) complete the band. They performed "Someone Like You" and "Rolling in the Deep" by Adele, "Sunday Morning" by Maroon 5, and "Everybody Talks" by Neon Trees.

Outrageous Fun is a sophomore band with four members: Derek Moss (guitar), Chris Goh (bass guitar), Dave Tung (drums), and Matt Di Giovanni (lead vocals). Some of the songs they sang were "Tighten Up" by The Black Keys and "All These Things That I've Done" by The Killers.

Soma is a junior band, which includes Alex Zimmerman, Ariana DiPreta, Spencer Katz, Andrew Cullen, and Chaminade student Kevin O'Leary.

There were four judges for the competition, all of whom were Schreiber alumni, including Ava Anderson '11 and Chris Ramirez '11. After the performances were over, Outrageous Fun was declared the runner-up while the returning champion, Decadence, was the winning band.

"Decadence's last song was a



Harry Paul

Sophomore Nate Krantz plays the drums with The Blue Suits, who have released a single on iTunes.

compilation of classic rock songs, which I liked," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. "It made me feel like a kid again."

To prepare for the competition, Decadence had a number of last-minute practices during the week leading up to

Battle. The practice clearly paid off, as they won the support of the crowd, as well as first-place.

"The show was terrific, said Mr. Pernick. "The bands were diverse and a lot of fun."

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Point

Counterpoint

Does reading the book change your view of the movie?

By Natasha Talukdar

Staff Writer

Reading. Books. Spare time. These words alone can give any high school student chills. For many students, heavy academic workloads leave no room for reading in spare time. But one thing often motivates students to put work aside and pick up a book for fun: movies based on books.

Such films encourage people to pick up the books for a more in-depth understanding of the plot and characters. It's always more fun to see the movie after reading the book; you can anticipate favorite parts and know what will happen next, keeping your view of the book in mind.

Conversely, seeing the movie before reading the book can instill the film's images into your mind and can influence the way you view characters and settings.

"Personally, I like books better than movies. They allow the reader to create their own image of what is happening, whereas in a movie, a viewer is only limited to how the director or screenwriter interpreted the book," said freshman Sameer Nanda.

"When I read *The Da Vinci Code*, I truly was captivated by the book; however, when I saw the movie for the first time, I found it to be much flatter and far more mundane than the novel," said Nanda.

With the ever-so-famous *Hunger Games*, I made the mistake of seeing the movie before reading the book. It was premier night and the excitement of the film being released got in the way of reading the book first.

After seeing the film, I wanted to see if I was missing any details from the books. Unfortunately, while reading the book, I got bored. I knew what was going to happen before reading it and this resulted in less enthusiasm for the book.

"I rushed to read *The Hunger Games* before seeing the movie to make the movie going experience more enjoyable," said senior Kalia Lay. "I'm happy that I did because I could definitely see how those who didn't read the book would not enjoy the movie."

Books and movies are two very different things. When seeing a film, your imagination diminishes as the movie screen depicts the story for you. When reading, you imagine how everything looks, almost like making your own movie.

For the *Harry Potter* series, I read the first two books before seeing the movie. This was a good choice on my part, as when watching the movie, I understood

exactly what was happening, and in some scenes, why things were happening.

Unfortunately I stopped reading the series due to simple laziness and have regretted it since. While watching the later movies in the series, I found myself asking my brother, who read the whole series, questions during the movie.

"Reading a book is much more rewarding and personal than watching a movie. There is an inherited closeness you get reading a book rather than seeing characters on screen," says senior Christopher Falconi.

"Also, books are rarely as censored as their film counterparts, allowing the intent of the author to shine more directly through the reader."

Whether you are a *Harry Potter* or *Twilight* fan, you know that through reading the books, you are able to attain a broader perspective on the film.

Despite everyone's busy schedule, making time to read and enjoy a book before seeing the movie is the best way to go.

You will enjoy the movie much more knowing that what you loved about the book will be put on screen for you to further enjoy.

By Alice Chou and Brendan Weintraub

Opinions Editors

Many people prefer the experience of watching a movie to that of reading a book because of the technological advancements that make movies more visually intriguing.

Though some disapprove of viewing a movie before reading its corresponding book or refusing to

read the book at all, the truth is you can get just as much enjoyment from seeing a movie as you can from reading a book.

Movies provide the visual foundations of characters and setting. If you do choose to read the book after seeing the movie, you can combine these images with the ones from your imagination, ultimately giving you a more complete picture of the book's elements in your mind.

In many cases, reading the book before the viewing the movie results in a less enjoyable viewing experience because you are constantly comparing and contrasting the book and the film.

There are always those people who read the book beforehand that do not appreciate the movie as much because they had a different interpretation of the book as a whole.

Characters may seem different, settings may not be as grand, and the plot itself may seem thin. All of this can lead to an unenjoyable viewing

experience.

"After reading *Twilight*, I was disappointed to see Kristen Stewart as Bella Swan," said senior Sarah Autz. "I imagined her character very differently and because of this, I could not enjoy the movie as much as I would have liked to."

The reality is that directors and actors cannot possibly capture every detail of the book in the film or interpret it the same way as each reader would. In many cases, directors are not really interested in closely matching the plot of the film with that of the book.

The goal is to get more people to watch the movie by focusing on the most exciting and critical parts of the plot. Most of the time, it is necessary to cut out subtle details of the novel so that the movie is of reasonable length.

For example, the first and second movies of the beloved *Harry Potter* series have plot lines very similar to their corresponding books. But because of this, the movies were nearly three hours long.

The plot of the third book of the series is more multidimensional and intricate than the previous novels, making it almost impossible to include every aspect of the story in a film of reasonable length. Thus, the directors had to pick and choose the key points of the plot to integrate into the movie.

It is exciting to go into the theater not knowing what's going to happen. You have no expectations of what's to come, and you'll be less disappointed if there are discrepancies between the novel and the movie. You are not anticipating what is going to happen; it is all a surprise, just like watching any other movie.

The recent hype about the release of *The Hunger Games* movie led many students to rush to read the book before viewing the movie. There were, however, plenty of students who never bothered to read the book before or after seeing the movie.

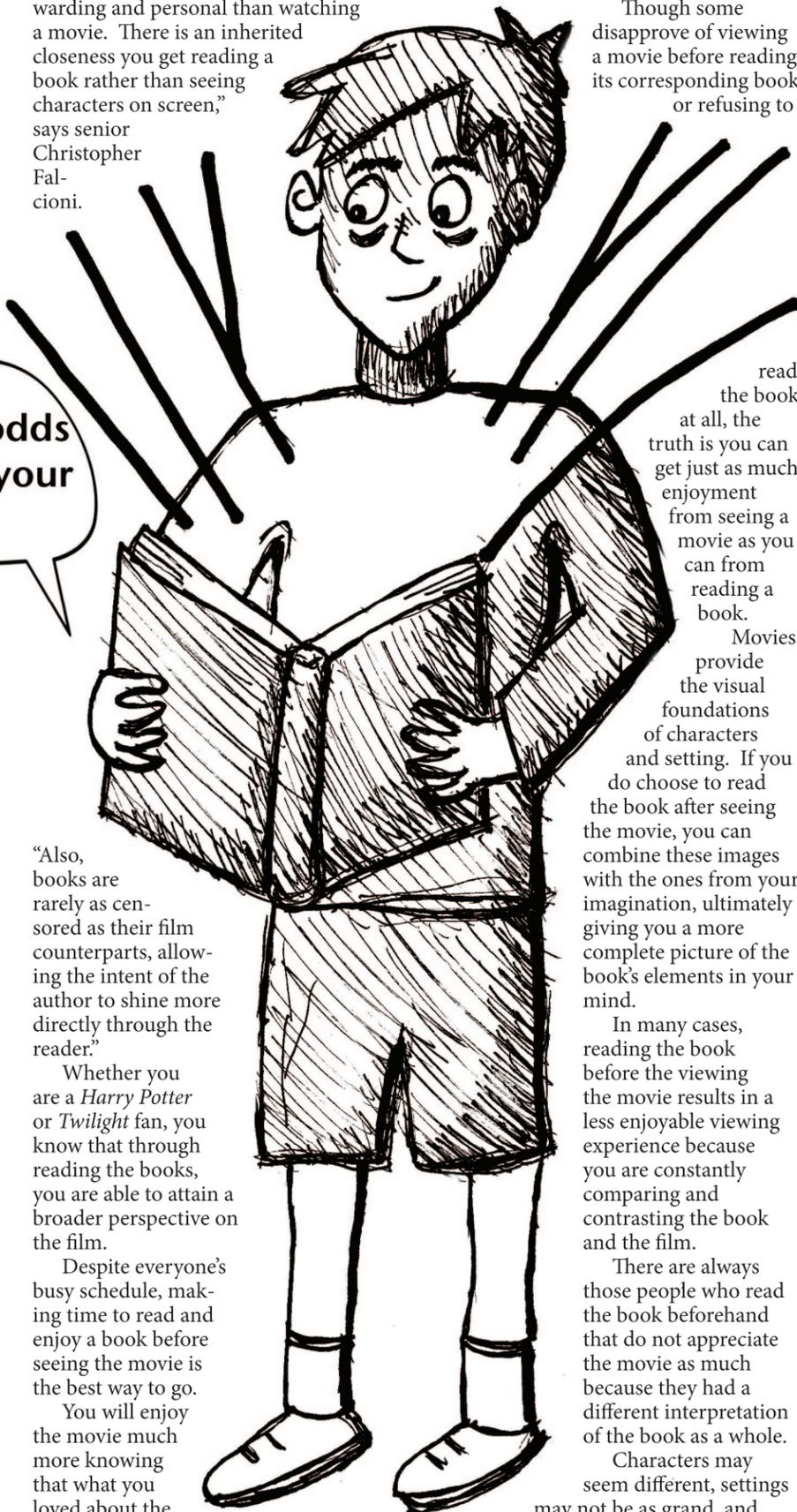
"I usually don't read books before seeing the movies. When I saw *The Hunger Games*, I thought that it was a more exhilarating experience because I had no expectations going into it," said senior Alexis Fessatidis. "I could completely enjoy the movie for what it was rather than constantly compare it to the book."

Ultimately, it does not matter whether you decide to read the book before seeing the movie or vice versa.

It is up to you to decide whether you would like to rely on your own imagination to provide the images of the characters and setting or on a Hollywood director's interpretation of these elements.

Not reading the book relieves you of the burden of comparing the film to the book during the viewing experience. And there is a good chance you will appreciate the movie without reading the book.

"May the odds be ever in your favor."



Brian Seo

Students pressured to over-perform for college

BY **Rebecca Herz**
Staff Writer

Many students believe that academic competition is on the rise. There are several reasons why they feel this way, having to do equally with the intensity of students in certain academic areas and the pressure for exemplary achievement in many areas at once.

When applying to college, students are expected to have many extracurricular activities on their resumes, including involvement in sports, clubs, or out of school activities. However, it is difficult to do many things at once while doing them all well individually.

Some students choose to focus on one activity at a time, to achieve highly in this specific area of interest. This approach can make them a better competitor in this one area, although they may

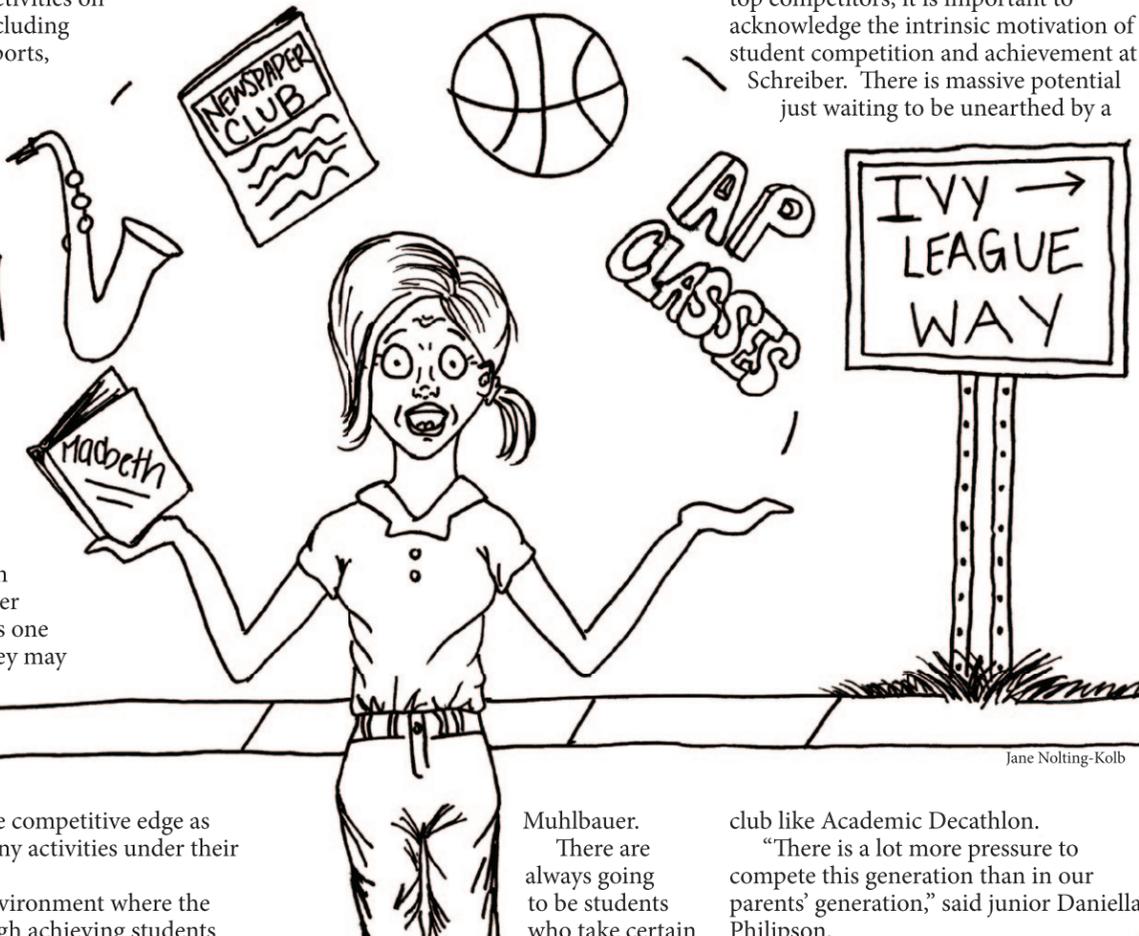
competition throughout Schreiber, such as the Academic Decathlon club. In this forum, students learn and compete against other schools in ten academic areas. This club can serve as a metaphor for the overall competition.

“Academic competition is great because when students have the opportunity to get involved in the competitive spirit, they challenge themselves to do better,” said Academic Decathlon advisor Mr. George

between two distance runners, neck and neck for the top slot, or between possible valedictorians, competition is central to the culture of any school.

Competition breeds achievement. The higher the bar is raised, the higher students will reach for it. However, there needs to be a balance between cutthroat competition and learning for the love of learning, as demonstrated by Academic Decathlon.

Despite the pressure that parents and teachers put on students to be top competitors, it is important to acknowledge the intrinsic motivation of student competition and achievement at Schreiber. There is massive potential just waiting to be unearthed by a



not have the same competitive edge as students with many activities under their belts.

In a school environment where the bar is set high, high achieving students are always looking to raise it a little higher. Sometimes competition can become so intense that students lose focus of an activity that they may truly identify with and enjoy.

However, there are outlets for positive

Muhlbauer.

There are always going to be students who take certain classes and join

certain clubs to be able to improve their standing as a college applicant. However, this competition also motivates students to achieve more.

Whether it be the competition

club like Academic Decathlon.

“There is a lot more pressure to compete this generation than in our parents’ generation,” said junior Daniella Philipson.

This trend indicates that both achievement and stress will increase with heightening competition for generations to come, and we must not lose ourselves in the race.

Substitute teachers are no substitute for learning

BY **Hallie Whitman**
Staff Writer

It’s reasonable to assume that most of the student body has experienced feelings of excitement at the sight of a class cancellation sign. Similarly, most students can probably recall feeling disappointed when they expect a free period but instead, walk into class to find a substitute teacher.

A majority of the time, these substitutes are ineffective and are not beneficial to the students in the class. With the upcoming school budget election and the growing need to cut more programs and staff, substitute teachers are an unnecessary expense, and the already limited district funds should not be spent to hire substitutes.

Many of Schreiber’s courses are highly specialized, both in subject matter and in level of difficulty. Schreiber offers a wide variety of advanced level classes, ranging from AP Government to Honors Biology, as well as classes on such specific topics such as World War II and Photography.

With particular topics like these,

many substitutes are not actually trained to teach the class new material at the appropriate level. Thus, substitutes are hired merely to babysit the students as they work on handouts left by the teacher or watch a video.

This is a waste of time for both the students and the teacher. Unless a substitute is properly trained in the curriculum of the course, it is not possible for students to effectively learn the new material.

Some substitutes are hired to fill in for a teacher during an extended absence. While this is intended to help the class keep up with the material, it usually just makes things more complicated.

When a substitute does not teach using the same methods as the regular teacher, the class can fall behind.

“I think that there are not enough substitutes who can adequately teach a class the same way a full-time teacher does,” said junior Kayla Conway. “If a teacher is out for a long time, and the class is trying to learn new material, it doesn’t work well with a substitute because he or she will teach in a different way than the class is used to, and it will

just confuse the students. Then the class can fall drastically behind.”

Also, students sometimes do not grant substitute teachers the same respect they give to their regular teachers. This leads to inappropriate behavior and disorder among the students.

While this conduct is unacceptable, it still makes it hard to accomplish work or learn new material.

“Oftentimes, students take advantage of their substitute teachers and use the opportunity to act up,” said junior Carly Grieco. “Because of this, substitutes have difficulty controlling the class, and little to no work gets done.”

Substitute teachers are not effective solutions to making up for lost class time when teachers are absent. Students need those teachers who are proficient in course curricula to teach the class.

Students in AP courses cannot afford to miss out on days without content from a proficient teacher.

Little is accomplished in class when the actual teacher is not present. The period would be better spent if students had the opportunity to study on their own.

Losing sight of the learning component of field trips

BY **Elana Galassi**
Photo Editor

In elementary school, we would race around our classmates to be the first ones to hand in our permission slip and our twenty dollars. Field trips were our saviors; they were days when learning was optional and fun, like bag lunches without glass bottles, was a certainty.

Throughout high school, we are offered numerous opportunities to go on field trips, seemingly to enrich our experience in a class.

The long-term impact field trips have on other classes is much more profound, usually slowing us down in our work for the classes we miss on the day of the trip.

“Most of the time I opt out of taking field trips if possible,” said junior Nicole Ziv. “I hate missing school because I know I am missing the new curriculum.”

As one of many students with many intense classes packed into my schedule, I find it difficult to take an entire day out of school to go on a field trip that would only benefit me for one class.

I agree that field trips are fun and a great reprieve from a day in class, but it is difficult to make up work that you’ve missed, especially in fast-paced honors and AP classes in which the work load is not exactly forgiving.

“I don’t support hours of useless lollygagging and tomfoolery when there’s science to learn,” said junior Ben Lerner.

Some field trips, like the Honors Biology trip to the Cold Spring Harbor DNA Laboratory, are required by the class.

To minimize its impact on other classes, however, the field trip is scheduled at night, and the biology students must choose a date (out of a predetermined group of nights) that is convenient for them. Perhaps a field trip outside of school hours would be more beneficial to the student body.

As one of many students with many intense classes packed into my schedule, I find it difficult to take an entire day out of school to go on a field trip that would only benefit me for one class.

That being said, members of the student body often regret not being able to go on the optional field trips.

“The idea of a field trip is always great,” said senior Dorian Hyman. “But they’re always on days where I can’t go because of the classes that I’ll miss; the trips are always so interesting.”

This is often the case. Field trips to plays, museums, and art exhibits are culturally enriching, but cannot make up for the missed class time and potential hazards of missing out on crucial work.

Teachers are given advanced notice that the student will be missing class, but they can’t slow down or stop the class on the grounds of one student being absent.

Students deserve a test break before spring breaks

BY Makenzie Drukker

Staff Writer

Every high school student knows the feeling: with break only a few days away, you are already thinking about where you will spend your vacation or what you will do with your friends.

The only thing standing in your way is the abundance of tests your teachers have scheduled.

Teachers spend several weeks teaching certain units and worry that students will forget information if they have one week away from their academics. To compensate, they push to finish units before breaks.

Students suffer the consequences of these efforts; it is not uncommon to hear the horror story of the student who has to take four or five exams in the days before a vacation. Some students end up with even more overwhelming testing schedules.

"I once had three tests and two papers due on the same day," said junior Kayla Conway.

When tests pile up, students feel the pain. They are forced to divide study time between various subjects and often end up spreading themselves too thin.

"It's hard to focus on studying for one

test when you're worrying about doing well on the others," said senior Elyse Belarge.

As a last resort, some students

He urged the school's departments to collaborate and designate certain days which they would reserve for testing in

to test their students. If they feel that they absolutely must test before a break, teachers should be cognizant of the school-wide testing crunch and plan accordingly.

"I don't think there should be an onslaught of tests at any time," said English Department chair Ms. Joan Lisecki.

While many teachers loathe the thought of giving in to students' protests about moving tests, they should remember that most of the time students are not being lazy; they are trying to minimize their stress.

"The night before my three tests was a disaster," said Conway. "I barely got any sleep."

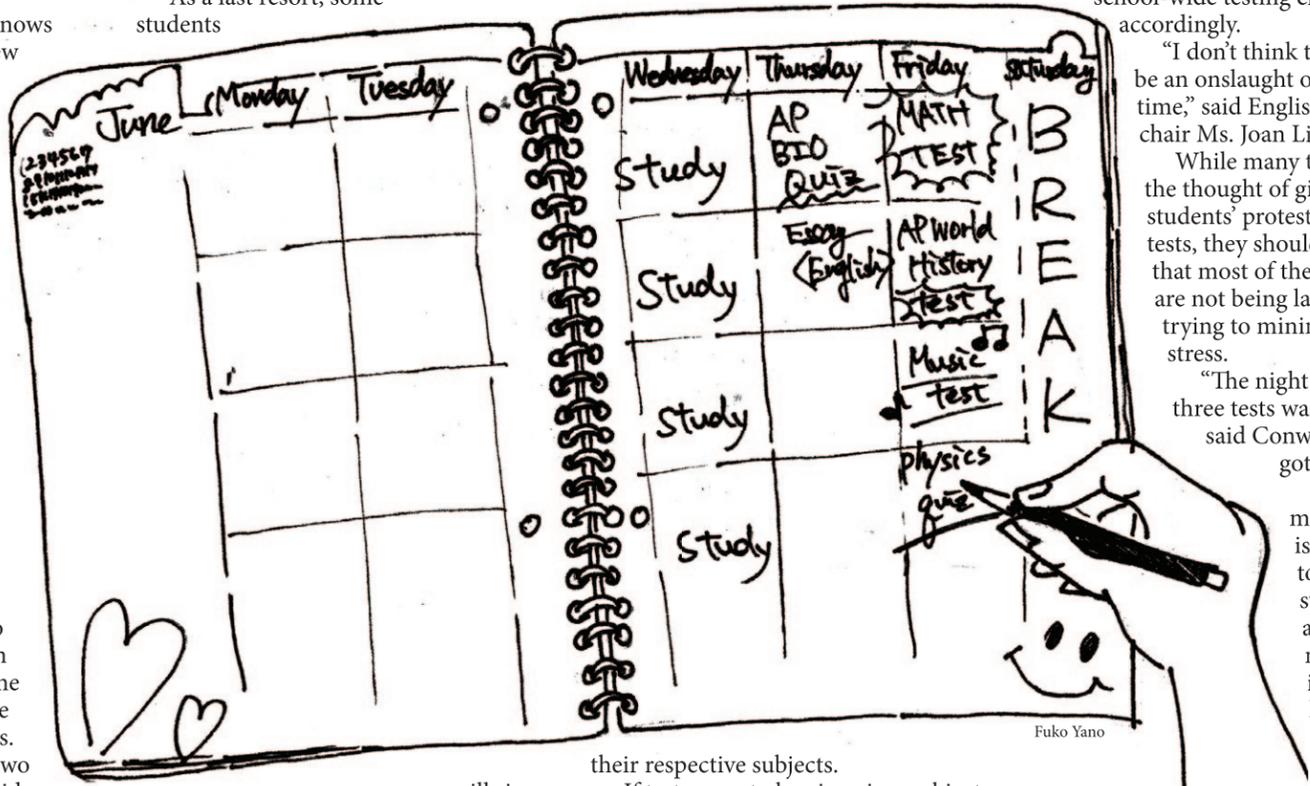
The fact of the matter is that it is simply unfair to overwhelm students with an exorbitant number of tests in the days leading up to vacations.

This is not necessarily the

fault of Schreiber teachers, who could not possibly coordinate their tests with every other teacher in the school; however, teachers should do their best to schedule exams farther in advance of breaks.

Teachers could also try to be open to students' requests to move exams.

It is inevitable that students will end up with more tests before vacations, but more responsible test planning and scheduling would likely improve grades and relieve anxiety before teachers and students alike head off for a week of relaxation.



will sign out to avoid taking a test for which they did not have time to study.

Last year, interim principal Dr. Frank Banta instituted a policy to try to relieve the pre-break pressure on Schreiber students.

their respective subjects.

If tests were to be given in a subject, they had to be given during the one or two days assigned to each department.

In theory, Dr. Banta's policy was practical and reduced stress on both students and teachers.

However, in practice, it backfired. Teachers struggled both to find a day that they met with each of their classes during the testing window and to finish teaching the unit before the test. Some teachers simply ignored the guidelines.

Dr. Banta's suggestion, while pragmatic and well-meaning, was unnecessary. Teachers should not need to be given instructions on when

Hydration station popularity soars

BY Aaron Bialer

Staff Writer

After finishing lunch, you walk toward the lobby, hoping to fill up your water bottle for the rest of the day at the hydration station. Upon entering the lobby, you encounter a line of ten students waiting to fill up their bottles. You must decide to either be late for class or to be thirsty for the rest of the day.

Many students use the hydration station on a regular basis, and some complain that it is too crowded.

"I think the hydration station is a great and useful idea. My only complaint is that there should be more than one due to its popularity," said sophomore

"The hydration station and the chiller that keeps the water cool costs \$2,630.98. Filters cost about \$100. The first filter lasted three quarters of the year," said Treehuggers Club advisor Ms. Julie Barbieri.

Deirdra Labartino.

The administration should buy another hydration station to accommodate all of the students who wish to use it.

Students do not have time to wait to refill their bottles between classes or during lunch. The lunch period is only half an hour, and students buying lunch

already have to wait on a long line.

There are only five minutes between classes, which is not nearly enough time to fill up a whole water bottle.

It is important to keep hydrated, so students should be encouraged to carry water with them at all times, especially when it is warm out, as not every room has air conditioning.

A second hydration station would greatly benefit both the environment and the student body. The station encourages students to use reusable bottles or to refill their plastic bottles instead of buying multiple disposable ones.

"The hydration station encourages students to recycle more and more often. We only have a finite amount of natural resources in our world and the station provides one way that we can reduce the rate at which we use them," said senior Elyse Belarge.

The price of the hydration station is fairly high, though it is money well-spent because of its high usage.

"The hydration station and the chiller that keeps the water cool costs \$2,630.98. Filters cost about \$100. The first filter lasted three quarters of the year," said Treehuggers Club advisor Ms. Julie Barbieri.

A regular, wall mounted water fountain costs around \$500 to \$700 with installation. Despite their cheaper cost, the frequency at which they are used does not offset it. New water fountains would be an additional waste, while the hydration station is a great investment.

Despite its high price, a second hydration station would be completely worth the expense by helping the environment and by quenching the thirst of the huge crowds of students looking to refill their water bottles during any part of the day.

Picking up the pieces after rejection

BY Erin Choe

Staff Writer

Rejection is never easy, especially when applying to colleges. However, while a denial might seem like the end of the world, there are many ways in which an applicant can gain from rejection.

Many students these days grow up without learning how to deal with the disappointment of rejection.

But because life is always filled with opportunities for denial, getting rejected is a learning experience that everyone must encounter.

Many seniors dealing with a college rejection come to this realization and grow from their experiences.

"Being rejected made me realize that I wasn't always going to get what I wanted. In the college application process, no amount of sulking will change their decision," said senior Nina Devas.

Naturally, a denial is still never easy to experience, and often applicants will feel disappointed. However, the best way to deal with a rejection is to move on and look at other future opportunities still available.

In some situations, rejections can even be for the best. After all, a student's grades and SAT scores is not solely what defines a college applicant. Each college looks at the personality, ethics, and the

interests of each student.

Although every rejection process is difficult at times, applicants need to realize that a student's individual character is not suitable for every college environment.

"Although it might be disappointing to get rejected from a school, a college probably has a good reason for its decision," said senior Ashley Oelbaum. "When I look back at the colleges that I got rejected from, I realize that they are ones where I would have fit in least."

It is best not to dwell on what has already been established. Rather, disappointed applicants should look to the optimistic side and realize that it is only one or two schools. There are other schools out there that might be a better fit for a particular student if given the chance.

"My advice to applicants that recently got rejected from a college is to not feel too bad about it," said senior Jennifer Kim.

Despite feelings of disappointment, it is not the end of the world. There are plenty of other schools that would want you as a student, so keep your hopes up.

Getting rejected is never easy, but everyone goes through it. And learning to deal constructively with denial will make you a stronger individual, which is a lesson you won't learn in a college class anyway.

Editorials

Media response to recent violence leads to the need for more responsibility

It is certainly nothing new for the media to pounce on provocative, tragic stories, but rarely have they handled them with such poor taste and so little responsibility than recently.

News outlets are ablaze with coverage of the tragic shooting of Trayvon Martin—a case that has polarized the country.

Legitimate concerns regarding the legal process, the practicality of Florida's controversial "Stand Your Ground" law, and the lack of proper, prompt investigation into the incident quickly devolved into a nationwide hysteria.

Our justice system relies on the principle that the accused are "innocent until proven guilty," a luxury George Zimmerman, Martin's alleged shooter, has not enjoyed.

The neighborhood watch volunteer, now charged with second degree murder, has been the subject of death threats and the target of lynch mobs.

Zimmerman has been convicted by the media without ever being afforded the opportunity to defend himself in court.

Regardless of the outcome of his trial and in spite of any vindicating evidence, Zimmerman will be seen as the villain and Trayvon an innocent victim.

In Norway, the trial of Anders Behring Breivik, the culprit of the July 2011 Oslo bombing and subsequent shooting rampage at a youth camp, has commenced, with its theatrics dominating media coverage and capturing public attention.

It was no surprise that Breivik's case

turned into a media circus; in his first days in court, Breivik rejected the authority of the court, claimed to be an operative of the fictitious Knights Templar organization, and proudly proclaimed that he would kill again. He confessed to performing the acts, but denied having done anything wrong.

Breivik describing his heinous crimes without emotion or remorse might have been too much for an O.J. Simpson-esque TV trial, but the series of ridiculous statements makes for consistently interesting articles and TV segments.

But one must question whether or not it is wise or even necessary to give a schizophrenic mass murderer a platform to voice his xenophobic ideas. Breivik is a psychopath, not a politician or a philosopher, and he should be treated as such.

Although the Knights Templar is an imaginary organization and Breivik was officially a "lone wolf," he is certainly not alone in his line of thought and the worst possible outcome of his trial would be the creation of a martyr.

What is best for TV ratings, newspaper sales and website hits may not always be the best decision.

The Schreiber Times believes that the media must act more responsibly in its handling of sensitive stories and information.

Vote for the budget

The budget vote for the upcoming school year is near and *The Schreiber*

Times urges students and their parents to turn out and vote in favor of the budget.

Passing the budget allows the school district to offer courses and extracurricular activities that improve and enrich the educational experience of Port Washington students.

Nobody understands the schools' need for adequate funding more than their students, who have experienced first-hand the benefits of the schools' variety of programs and services.

The vote will take place on Tuesday, May 15. *The Schreiber Times* encourages all students over the age of 18 to register and fulfill their duties for the community and future students.

Reconsideration of prom meetings

As the fourth and final quarter of the year progresses, upperclassmen begin to prepare for junior prom and the Gambol which are just around the corner.

With these exciting events comes the inevitable warnings against alcohol consumption or drug use before or after prom.

Every year, the administration gives the juniors and seniors a presentation to discourage illicit behaviors before or after prom.

Should the students choose to disregard the warning against unsafe pre- and post-prom activities, the presentation also is a means to show students a safe way to get home.

For the administration, this is a way to assert their concerns with the well being of the student body. The students, however, find these presentations to be nothing short of repetitive.

For many years now, students have been lectured on the dangers of drugs and alcohol, as well as driving while intoxicated or under the influence.

As a whole, these presentations have done little in terms of eliminating the parties that follow junior prom and the Gambol, in town, the Hamptons, and other locations.

The Schreiber Times believes that

these meetings are an ineffective method of getting the administration's message across. However, there are other options that should be tried.

After the contracts are signed and the meetings are held, students and their parents need to have these conversations at home as well.

By talking to their parents, students open doors of communication within their families and establish what actions are and are not okay.

If parents and administrators worked together in a less structured setting, students would gain the knowledge that the administrators have to offer, but on a more personal and comfortable level.

The Schreiber Times hopes that with Dr. Pernick at the helm, future anti-drinking and drug meetings will be more appealing and yield a larger impact.

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on May 3. 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.

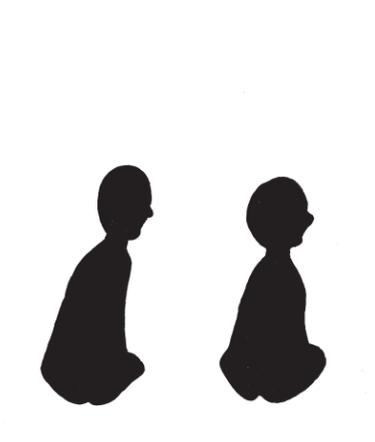
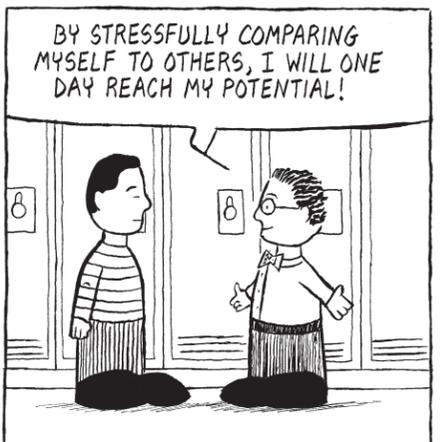
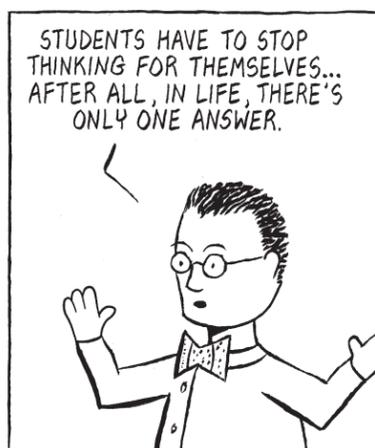
We will print letters to the editors if judged to be of sufficient quality and importance on a space-available basis. We will not print letters that are obscene, libelous, or contain unfounded charges. The Times reserves the right to shorten letters if doing so does not alter their meaning, and to choose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

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BREAKING DOWN THE BUDGET

Taking a look at the 2012-2013 budget as the vote approaches

This September, while students gathered at Staples to purchase folders, binders, paper, and pencils for their new classes, some parents and community members gathered at the first Board of Education meetings to begin discussing the budget for the 2012-2013 school year. Now, the Board of Education and district administrators have compiled the final proposed budget, which will go to vote on May 15.

"The starting point for the discussions was the 2011-2012 budget and the expected increases that would impact the budget overall," said Board of Education member Mr. Alan Baer. "The framework for the budget is partly driven by the required sections and codes under education law, and partly by how we can best communicate about the budget overall."

The discussions, which usually begin later in the fall, started earlier this year to allow the Board of Education and the community to account for a new set of New York State laws outlining a 2% tax cap.

"In the past, the Board of Education designed an educational plan and then we determined how the cost for that plan would be paid," said Assistant Superintendent for Business Mary Callahan. "Now that there is a specific 'cap' to the taxpayer portion and our other sources are clearly defined and limited as well, we must fit the program into the limited dollars, rather than simply increasing the amount the community is being asked to pay."

"The primary changes will be that some clubs will be consolidated, and some clubs will meet less often," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon. "All of the Varsity and JV1 teams will remain, but the JV2 boys basketball team may not be offered."

As a result of the tax cap, the origi-

nal budget plans, which included essentially the same items as this year's budget does, fell several million dollars over the amount the district could spend, creating the necessity for some sort of cuts.

"We had a strategic plan to continue to be progressive in curriculum but use intelligent approaches to doing more with less," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon.

As part of the aforementioned budget discussions within the district, each department submitted a list of its budgetary needs to the school's principal, who submitted his or her budgetary needs to Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Mary Callahan. Ms. Callahan worked with the budget committee, which finally submitted the proposal to Dr. Gordon.

In order to close the gap in the budget, at a meeting on Jan. 24, Ms. Callahan presented a preliminary list of cuts, which included \$624,000 of cuts in non-staff

tary, middle and high school, plus staffing cuts from our security, clerical, and para units," said Mr. Baer. "During the initial discussion nothing was being restored as we were still working on reaching a balance point."

Between January and April, after the school district outlined possible areas in which to make budget cuts, the State of New York told the Board of Education that the state would allow for an increase in revenue and a decrease in mandate expenses, which would decrease the overall deficit.

This provided the Board of Education with the ability to reduce some of the cuts and even add back into the budget because of an additional million dollars allowed into the budget.

The final approved budget includes the elimination of only eight teacher positions, two of which will be high school teachers, as opposed to the previously

clubs will meet less often," said Dr. Gordon. "All of the varsity and JV1 teams will remain, but the JV2 boys basketball may not be offered."

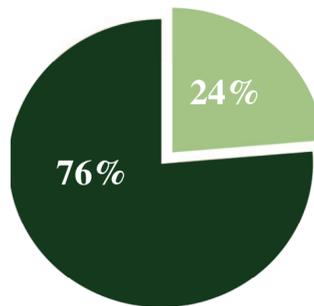
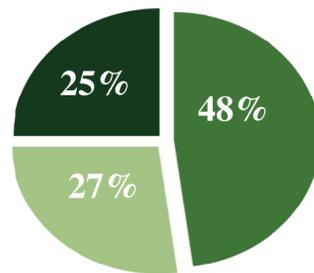
Governor Andrew Cuomo enacted the tax cap last June, in an effort to account for the particularly high, and rising, property taxes in Nassau County and the entirety of New York State.

"For decades, taxpayers across New York State have been burdened by back-breaking property taxes that have crippled businesses and families," said Mr. Cuomo to the *Daily News*. "This tax cap is a critical step toward New York's economic recovery and will set our state on a path to prosperity."

With this new law, property tax increases must be capped at 2% or the cost of living index, whichever is less. If a community wants to override a cap, it would need a 60% majority vote in favor of the proposed budget. While just five years

Breakdown of Schreiber's potential voters

-  I am 18 and have registered to vote for the budget.
-  I am 18 and I am planning to register to vote for the budget.
-  I am 18 and I am not planning to vote.
-  I am younger than 18 and I don't really think that I'll make an effort to vote for the budget when I am.
-  I am younger than 18 and I would like to vote for the budget when I'm old enough.



supplies and other equipment, as well as BOCES programming, \$960,000 from the elimination of two security aid positions, a community liaison, 164 club units, and ten teachers' assistants and clerical professionals.

Furthermore, this proposal included \$1,156,000 in cuts from the elimination of 17 teaching positions across the district. All of these cuts, when added together, eliminated nearly three million dollars from the budget.

"The staffing cuts initially included the elimination of PEP plus some additional teaching positions at the elemen-

suggested 17. However, many of these positions will be eliminated as a result of retirements, meaning that few, if any, teachers will actually be laid off in order to balance the budget.

"There will be a few positions reduced through retirements, but if the budget passes they can be absorbed so students don't lose any curriculum," said Dr. Gordon.

Furthermore, the club units reduction will only be 69, as opposed to the 164 proposed in January.

"The primary changes will be that some clubs will be consolidated, and some

ago this may not have presented a challenge, almost no district on Long Island is taking the political risk of overriding the tax cap due to the economic hardships plaguing community members.

"While we were unable to increase the budget by more than two percent, the healthcare costs went up by more than two percent and the mandates were going up by much more than two percent, which was what left us with a deficit," said Board of Education member Mr. Larry Green-

stein. "If we wanted to go over the tax cap we would need a 60% majority vote, which no district on Long Island is in the political position to do this fiscal year, and we were not going to attempt to buck that trend."

What the tax cap actually does is limit the amount of money by which the school district can raise the budget. To account

The final approved budget includes the elimination of only eight teacher positions, two of which will be high school teachers, as opposed to the previously suggested 17.

for increases in the cost of energy and materials, as well as teacher pensions and raises, the budget normally rises each year by a small amount, in order to maintain current programming and staffing.

While in the past, the Board of Education was able to develop their own budget based on what they, administrators, and the community saw fit, this year's budget was much more limited. School princi-

pals also compiled lists of possible cuts and presented them to members of the district administration and the Board of Education.

"Instead of sitting down and saying 'okay, this is what we want to spend,' it was almost like being put on a budget, where the State of New York gave us a budget and we had to work within it," said Board of Education member Mr. Robert Ryan.

With monetary limitations in mind, the Board of Education asked various departments throughout the districts to make presentations outlining what could be cut from said departments.

"It's a long process that started at the beginning of the school year. My role was to meet up with the central administration and assistant principals and department chair people to discuss possible areas that would be impacted by the budget," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick.

"Knowing that we would have to make cuts to bring the revenue and expense side into balance, we started reviewing specific departments or areas of the district looking for possible savings that would impact the overall program as little as possible," said Mr. Baer.

At monthly Board of Education meetings and budget hearings, community members who felt so inclined voice their opinions about which programs they felt were necessary, and which they felt that students could go without. State mandates and teachers' contracts, on the other

hand, had already been established before budget discussions began and were non-negotiable.

Those community members who could not attend the budget meetings in person turned to media sources to learn about, and also give their input on, the current budget discussions.

"Patch and the *Port News* provide a window into community sentiment on a variety of issues. While the BOE checks both on a daily or weekly basis, to help 'hear' the community, we also do this via the community comments portions of the BOE meetings," said Mr. Baer.

The Board of Education makes an effort to incorporate these community responses and ideals into the final plan for the budget.

"We are all elected by the people of Port Washington, so we listen to what the people say," said Mr. Ryan. "We can't ignore everybody and do what we want to do because, theoretically, we are put there to help the community, not to do anything we specifically want to do on our own agendas. So, we listen. Certainly people step up and say don't spend any money, and some people step up and say spend money. We take everything into account, it goes into the process, and we do the best for the community that we can."

All registered voters within the legal limits of the Port Washington School District will be able to vote to decide whether or not the budget should pass. Residents

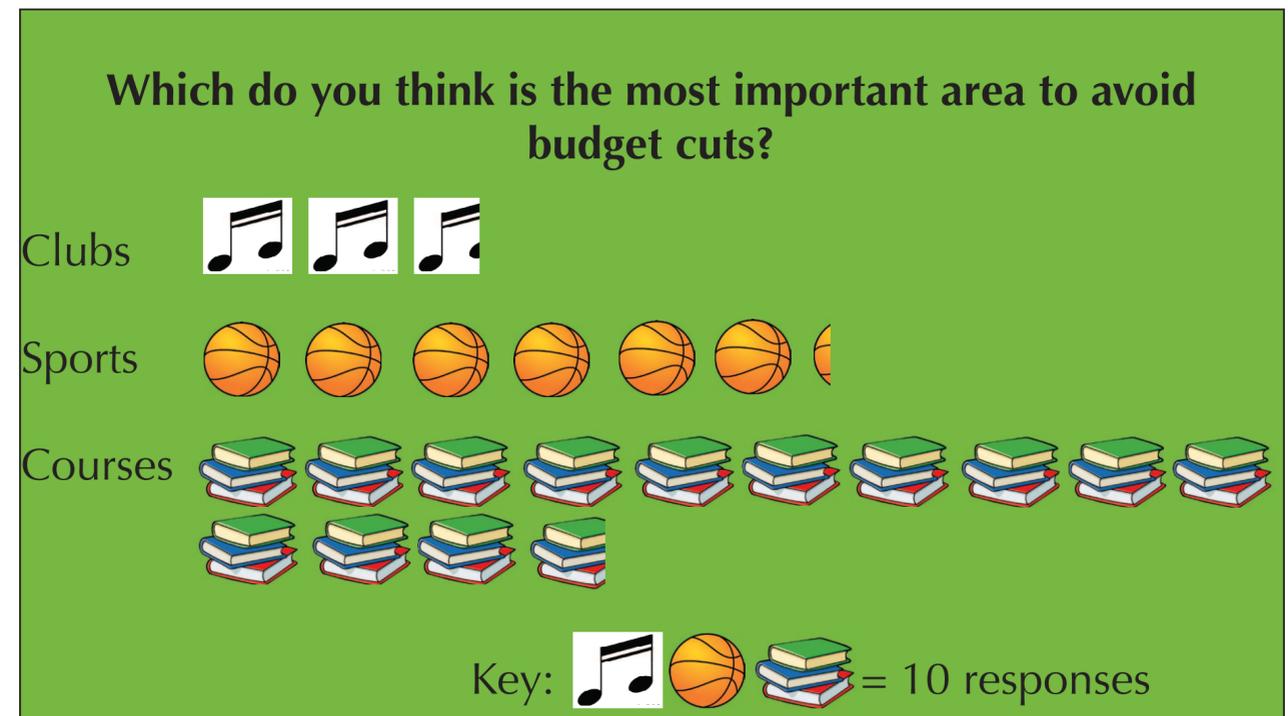
aged 18 and older, including school students, may register to vote, if they have not already, at the Administration building on Campus Drive. Polling locations include Weber Middle School, South Salem Elementary School, J. P. Sousa Elementary School, or John J. Daly Elementary School.

"This country is a democracy, and every vote counts, no matter which way you vote," said Mr. Ryan. "Everybody should express their view. Personally, I welcome everybody to vote, because we're all stronger together. If one group is doing everything, that's not good. I would encourage everybody to stand up and vote."

If the budget passes, then the proposed budget will go into effect for the 2012-2013 school year with the planned cuts. If voters fail to pass the budget, the Board of Education can decide either to put the same budget or a reduced budget up for another vote, or to simply adapt this year's budget for next year, with no changes.

"This would be a game changer for all of us and would require dramatic reductions in all of the programs and staff," said Dr. Gordon.

By Hannah Fagen and Hannah Zweig



A guide to awkward hallway maneuvers

Matt Heiden give tips on how to avoid clumsy moments

BY Matt Heiden

Copy Editor

Missed greeting gestures:

I still cringe whenever someone does this, but it happens so frequently that nobody takes notice. As a general rule, the more effort you put into the gesture, the higher the stakes for onlookers, so always practice your chest bumps with a friend before you try it in public.

Pro-tip: An interrupted high five, waist height or above, can be quickly turned into a wave.

Aborted eye contact:

Eye contact is a tacit agreement to say "hi." Do not pretend not to see someone once eye contact has been established.

Excessive eye contact:

Unless you are star-crossed lovers reuniting, do not stare into a passerby's eyes to get his or her attention. Trust me on this one.

Timing your waves:

If you see someone approaching from a distance, do not wave until you are no less than 15 feet away. If you wave too early, you leave an excessive window of time in which you both are aware of each other but are unable to say or do anything that could be considered interesting.

Pro-tip: Be especially careful not to make an ill-timed move in an empty hallway, where silence magnifies awkwardness.

Greetings unanswered:

Everyone knows that one buddy who will not respond to anything short of physically grabbing him. It's tough to know whether your calls actually reach him or not, so be sure to call loudly. If your greetings fall on deaf ears, it is appropriate to limit your subsequent yelling to one or two times. After that, you should resort to a shoulder pat or move on with your busy day.

Pro-tip: Call someone by a last name or nickname to catch his or her attention.



Hannah Fagen

Juniors Cory Gottfried (left) and Vincent Miscioscia (right) chest bump in the lobby, perfecting their hallway maneuver.

Name mayhem:

It's more irksome than awkward to walk in front of a chattering group including someone with your own first name. As a Matt, I often turn around only to see a stranger's face light up as he calls "What's up?" just beyond me.

Pro-tip: If you have a unique name, quote this article when you make fun of your ordinary named friends.

Failing at avoiding unpleasant people:

If you are more interesting than a blade of grass, chances are high that you do not love everyone. So when you are walking down the hallway, you may try to avoid catching the eye of a former teacher, friend, or classmate. This strategy can be risky, though. It is insulting when you greet an acquaintance, if he or she realizes mid-greeting that you were content to avoid this meeting.

Pro-tip: Walk in the middle of crowds and hide behind nearby pedestrians if you see someone whose company you do not

particularly enjoy.

Crashing into strangers:

Every so often, I see a slender student turn a corner and smack straight into a corpulent man. Invariably, one of them is in a hurry, and the smaller one ends up sprawled on the floor. These quick encounters are always very awkward, and occur to most people at some point as they turn corners or lose their balance. For a reenactment, watch a typical romantic comedy.

Pro-tip: Other than general coordination, there is unfortunately no way to prevent these encounters.

Hallway traffic:

Please, please, please walk on the right side of the hallway. It is so frustrating to go in the correct lane while the oblivious student in front of you is trying to walk in the opposite direction.

Pro-tip: If there are two doors and a large crowd, make sure that both are open.

Phone services place caps on data plans

BY Jack Weinkselbaum

Contributing Writer

Most likely, those of you reading this right now are carrying a cell phone in your pocket, or, more specifically, a smartphone. More and more people today are ditching their old "dumb phones" for the new smartphones, named for their access to wi-fi. However when making the switch, customers are required to pay monthly for the data accompanied with the phone. Most likely unlimited data is your best deal, allowing you unrestricted access to e-mail, apps, and the standard Internet through a browser. Many people, however, do not know what all these data plan terms actually mean. AT&T was one of the many companies to provide unlimited data. However, in 2010, the company decided to get rid of their unlimited data plan and replace it

with "tiered plans." These plans allowed for only a limited amount of data per month (e.g. 300 megabytes for \$20, three gigabytes for \$30, five gigabytes for \$50). Megabytes and gigabytes are measures of data you have used. Thankfully, those who had an unlimited data plan before the "tiered plans" were allowed to keep their unlimited plan. AT&T put these plans into place so they could limit the amount of data a smartphone user would use per month. Prior to the switch in policy, many AT&T customers were using the Internet constantly, clogging the network and causing it to slow down. With the tiered plan, people are not allowed to use as much data, thus clearing up the network and those who go over their limit are required to pay extra fees.

In 2011, Verizon followed AT&T and started their own tiered plan, similarly allowing their unlimited data customers to keep their data plans. With these two

carriers beginning to use the tiered plan, Sprint and T-Mobile were left offering unlimited plans. Both carriers still have unlimited data plans; however, T-Mobile "throttles" its users after they go past 2GB of data. Throttling is a practice in which wireless carriers slow down unlimited data customers' data speed after a certain amount of data is used per month. Ironically, in many of the TV commercials, advertising T-Mobile, one often sees their famous pink data bar shooting ski high at lightning speed while their competitors are left in the dust. AT&T is another carrier that practices throttling which they impose on unlimited 3G customers after 3GB and unlimited 4G customers after 5GB of data are consumed. AT&T does this to try and push their unlimited data customers to tiered data plans and also to get them to move to their 4G network, which all four national carriers have.

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BY Hannah Fagen

News Editor

To chocoholics everywhere: listen up! I write bearing good news. According to a study entitled "Association Between More Frequent Chocolate Consumption and Lower Body Mass Index," published on March 26 by the American Medical Association, chocolate may actually help people maintain lower BMIs.

"That doesn't make sense because I should be really skinny then," said junior Alison Aguiar.

But Beatrice A. Golomb, MD, PhD; Sabrina Koperski, BS; and Halbert L. White, PhD, from the University of California, San Diego, performed a comprehensive study evaluating participants' daily caloric intake of many types of foods, including chocolate, in comparison with information about the participants' body weight, height, gender, and age, among other factors. The study included nearly one thousand participants who filled out Fred Hutchinson Food Frequency Questionnaires (FFQ), which detailed their food intake, and answered the question "How many times a week do you consume chocolate?" After statistical analyses, the researchers found a significant relationship indicating that the frequency of chocolate consumption was directly related to lower BMIs. This suggests that the more often an individual consumed chocolate, the more likely he or she was to weigh less when compared to his or her height. After controlling for other factors that could affect BMI, such as age, sex, and calorie consumption, frequent chocolate intake was still directly related to lower BMIs. Although some types of chocolate, such as dark chocolate, are well-known to have benefits for heart health, society generally condemns chocolate as a "guilty pleasure" and as something that people should eat sparingly. This is largely because chocolate is not usually consumed in its pure form, but instead when combined with large quantities of sugar and fat. This new research suggests that some aspects of chocolate itself may help control weight.

"If you eat a lot of chocolate, the benefits of any antioxidants must be outweighed by the high amount of calories," said junior Jillian Knoll.

The researchers involved hypothesized that some aspects of chocolate contributes to a reduction in fat deposition to the point where it offsets the fat and sugar contained in the product itself. However, those looking to lose a few pounds shouldn't run off to the candy store to pick up a lifetime supply of chocolate to eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner; it was the frequency of chocolate consumption, and not the volume, which was related to lower BMIs. The researchers hypothesized that modest frequent intake would relate to lower BMI (and it did), but that doesn't mean that gorging yourself with chocolate can make you drop a dress size in time for your next big social event—just like anything else, chocolate should be consumed in moderation.

"I have been eating chocolate all of my life, and I never knew that it could have an effect on my BMI," said junior Conor Boyle. "In the future I won't be so quick to judge chocolate as an unhealthy treat."

Bakeries delight patrons with a variety of sweet treats

By Daniella Philipson and Alexa Pinto
Staff Writers

For the fatties and rebels who pay no attention to no-carb, pre-bathing-suit-season traditions, rejoice! The numerous bakeries in town offer a smorgasbord of buttery baked goods and refreshing beverages to keep a hungry customer satisfied.

Just off Main Street on Irma Avenue, Port Washington's adorable bakery, Sweet Comfort, is the place to go if you are looking for homemade goods. Sweet Comfort serves childhood delights, such as homemade Rice Krispie treats and jumbo cupcakes for \$4.95, and vanilla bread pudding and fudge brownie cheesecake bars at \$1.95 apiece. The peanut butter and chocolate chip cookies, only \$1 each, chocolate covered marshmallows for \$3.95, and caramel or chocolate drizzled popcorn for \$2, are only a few of Sweet Comfort's array of unique desserts.

In addition to sugary goods, the bakery sells a range of hot and cold beverages, such as hazelnut, Vermont country, organic decaf, caramel vanilla, and chocolate raspberry truffle coffee, regular, peach, and raspberry iced tea, plus the classic root beer float. Just in case

the sweets are too much for your palate to handle, Sweet Comfort also offers Greek, tuna, and goat cheese salads for \$6.80 and an array of sandwiches perfect for a quick lunch.

Sweet Comfort's distinct, rustic décor provides the perfect ambiance for their food. The outdoor patio seats eight people in tables with umbrellas for shade. The interior, which seats 14 people around three separate tables and a comfy couch, is cozy yet spacious.

The magnificent Saint Honoré, located on Port Washington Boulevard, houses some of the most healthy baked goods that Port Washington has to offer.

Saint Honoré's goods qualify for a yummy breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert. Take its flaky, buttery, delicious brioche. While brioches are typically a breakfast food, they are sweet enough to qualify for dessert. Saint Honoré's perfect cranberry walnut, banana chocolate chip, and blueberry muffins for \$1.95 are also a sweet treat for breakfast, as well as its croissants, rolls, and apple or pineapple danishes.

Many students hold the misconception that Saint Honoré is wildly overpriced, but that it isn't the case. All of Port's bakeries are within similar price range, and Saint Honoré is very reasonable. Even if certain treats are a little more expensive,



refinery29.com

Main Street Bakery offers a variety of baked delights ranging from almond butter croissants to berry cheesecakes to its renowned candy bars.

the bakery's savory goods are well worth the extra price. The variety of cakes range from \$20 to \$23 a cake and include chocolate layer, lemon coconut, strawberry short cake, and raspberry topped cheesecake. In addition, the delicious variety of cookies, which are charged by the pound, include chocolate chip, rainbow cookies, lace cookies, and finger cookies smothered in chocolate and filled with jam.

Aside from its cakes and pies, Saint Honoré also offers soft baguettes and non-kosher challahs that are perfect for a Saturday morning French toast, as well as white bread and cinnamon raisin bread.

Located downtown only a block away from Port Washington library, Main Street Bakery offers not only unique baked goods and sweets but also a relaxed atmosphere with seating for 15 customers. Decorated with French posters, wreaths, and flowers on the tables, Main Street Bakery will not disappoint customers with its array of pastries, including vanilla raspberry cake, red velvet cake, and pear and apple tarts for only \$4. Cakes and mousses for events,

such as birthday parties, are available for a reasonable \$25 while individual desserts and smaller pastries, such as cheesecake and apple turnovers, range from \$2.25 to \$4.

Almond and butter croissants can be purchased for \$2.75, and baguettes, bagels, and muffins are also available for bread lovers. Hungry early birds can enjoy eggs, French toast, smoked salmon, danishes, croissants, and scones as well.

The unique Main Street Candy Bar, which is made of cashews, macadamia nuts, caramelized puffed rice, and ganache covered in a delicious layer of dark chocolate sprinkled with special Hawaiian sea salt, is available for \$4.50.

Iced and hot coffee and tea can be purchased alongside a treat for \$2.25. Open for lunch Tuesday through Saturday from 11:30 to 3, Sunday brunch from 11 to 3, and breakfast Tuesday through Saturday from 7 to 10:30, Main Street Bakery offers its customers unique bakery options with a comfortable atmosphere.



Daniella Philipson

Saint Honoré's welcoming storefront invites customers to enjoy the treats inside.

Instagram becomes the newest addition to Facebook

By Danielle Ostrove
Staff Writer

Instagram, one of the most popular apps on the web at the moment, has become a phenomenon among Facebook users, and Schreiber students are not ones to miss out on the trend.

Instagram is a photography app available for iOS, Android, and Windows Phone, in which any smartphone user can easily create an account, take a picture, and upload it in seconds to share with friends.

The pictures can be edited with Instagram's free effects, which change the color and filter of the photo to give it a more unique or retro look.

The app allows users to follow other Instagram users via Twitter, but instead of updating statuses, users only upload and share pictures. These can then be commented on and "liked" by their followers.

The app's popularity can definitely be



Facebook recently purchased Instagram to allow users to upload pictures with more creative effects.

attributed to its easy-to-use layout and the fact that it is free.

Instagram has only existed for about two years but now faces a change in management: social media powerhouse Facebook announced that it purchased the photo-sharing app for one billion

dollars earlier in April.

Facebook has recently filed an IPO, making it a public company, so it was shocking that they would acquire any company during such a critical time.

However, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg thought the decision to

acquire Instagram was crucial for several reasons. Most importantly, one of Facebook's main draws is that it can be used as a photo-sharing website where users can relive various events that they or their friends attended.

Instead of getting photos developed, now people simply upload photos from their digital cameras or phones right onto Facebook. Instagram's retro editing effects were a feature Facebook did not have.

"Providing the best photo sharing experience is one reason why so many people love Facebook and we knew it would be worth bringing these two companies together," said Zuckerberg to CNN.

Another reason Facebook seized the opportunity so quickly and bought Instagram was to avoid other competitors. One of Facebook's main features is its ability to easily share photos; it would not want to lose that part of its allure to another social network.

The quest for the perfect prom dress: pretty in purple

BY Alexandra McCann

Staff Writer

With the night of Gambol quickly approaching, many girls already have their plans figured out. The limo is booked, the shoes are purchased, and the hair and makeup styles are decided upon. What's missing from this list? The dress. For many of us who will be attending Gambol this June, choosing the right



courtesy of Alexandra McCann

Alexandra McCann's Two Birds dress.

dress has been challenging. But for me, it was one of the easiest decisions I have had to make.

Before I began shopping for a dress, I had already formulated a checklist of what I wanted: something simple yet elegant, something purple, something different, and something I could use again in the future. I didn't want a typical dress with a bedazzled bust and two tons of tulle.

My dress fit all of my criteria: a Two Birds Bridesmaid dress with a convertible top. The website boasted the straps could be twirled and twisted into more than 15 styles. After considering only a few other dresses, I decided on ordering the full-length gown with a rosette trim. I quickly became obsessed with the dress, and I was determined to get it no matter what.

Discouragement followed extremely quickly as bad news came piling in. The dress could not be ordered online because each dress must be custom ordered, and the New York location did not have any available alteration appointments until the end of May. The woman I spoke to over the phone said in a nonchalant manner, "We recently opened up a Toronto location. Would you like me to connect you with a representative in our other salon so you can book your appointment there?"

Toronto! There had to be another bridal salon within a 50 mile radius that sold the dress. I frantically scoured the web because the gown would spend a minimum of twelve weeks in the alteration department, which meant I needed to get it fast. Fear began to set in as I began a frenzied search for my perfect dress.

I was relieved when I found a store in Manhasset that could order and alter my exact dress in less than eight weeks. Choosing the dress I wanted was easy;

however, I never imagined that actually locating the dress would take this much effort. As I slipped the dress on for a fitting, the saleswoman quickly blurted, "Did you know you can wear this dress 15 different ways?" She had no idea that for the past few weeks the only thing that was on my mind besides college decision news was this dress.

Although my dress is still not back from alterations, I am relieved that I

do not have to stress over dress drama anymore. I am now eagerly awaiting the day that I get the call to pick up my dress and finally have it in my possession. Is it purple? Yes; it's a lovely shade of aubergine. Is it different and unique? Definitely. Is it simple yet elegant? Let's just say I killed two birds with one stone. I got the dress I wanted, but the journey to get it was not what I had expected.

[Fashion] Highlight your wardrobe with neon

BY Caroline Ogulnick

Contributing Writer

The fluorescent colors of the '80s are being dug up from the fashion graveyard and brought back to life for this spring and summer season. Now that the sun is finally here to stay, neon colors are popping up everywhere. Whether they are paired with delicate pastels, or other bright hues, fluorescents are making a comeback.

If you're looking for something that will make you stand out in a crowd, adding just a hint of neon is the way to go. The usual rosy pinks and sunny yellows of the season are no longer making the same bold fashion statements that they used to. Highlighter shades have now taken over, and they make outfits glow... literally.

Since this past winter, fluorescents have worked their way up the style ladder. Designers used neon hues not only to compliment, but to enhance their favorite

colors of the season. Fluorescent colors don't only have to be worn as solids; they can be worked into patterns and prints.

If you love the neon hues but are not sure where to start, try buckling a highlighter yellow belt on a simple pair of denim shorts. A skinny belt may not seem like it will make a difference in an outfit, but the shocking color will transform it. Even tying fluorescent laces in your sneakers or carrying your phone in a neon-colored phone case are great ways to take part in this trend.

If you are really digging the neon color palette, don't be afraid to dive right in, perhaps with a neon blouse. Keep wearing your denim shorts, but now add some more fluorescent accessories.

Fluorescents are an up-and-coming staple for this spring and summer, and can be found at almost any mall, department store, or boutique. Just don't go for the entirely fluorescent outfit; you wouldn't want to look like a human highlighter.

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—David Hare

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arts & Entertainment

American Reunion brings nothing new to the table

by Ben Lerner

Staff Writer

Raunchy comedies have come a long way since the early '90s. Over-the-top, slapstick humor used to be satisfactory for most audiences, who went to the movies simply to see silly sight gags and people making goofy faces in ridiculous situations. However, as theaters became saturated with a ton of formulaic comedies, the laughs began to wear off and people started to lose interest in the genre.

To draw back the audiences, producers green-lighted movies that were more vulgar and puerile than ever before. Movies like *Dumb & Dumber*, *There's Something About Mary*, and the original 1999 *American Pie* pushed the limits of what audiences expected in comedies, often exploiting sheer shock value in order to entertain.

Gross-out humor became widespread and was introduced into almost all blockbuster comedy scripts. Throughout the 2000s, the standard set in the years prior remained the norm, but in order to keep things fresh and engrossing, the characters became more relatable and likable, rather than bland caricatures or facsimiles of Adam Sandler. Judd Apatow pioneered this style in 2005 with *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, which was completely profane but at its core had some palpable heart.

American Reunion, the latest sequel to *American Pie*, came out 13 years after the first installment, and the humor has not aged at all. It is every bit as immature and crass as the original, but this one comes off as hackneyed and forced, sometimes painful to watch. These jokes have been sitting on the sill for 13 years, and the years have not been kind.

The premise of the first film, which revolved around teenagers, was believable, allowing the jokes to hit home; the film even had some sentimental moments. In *American Reunion*, this relatable aspect is gone, and the humor has not aged nearly as well as the actors.

Now in their thirties, the cast members get back together for one last romp of romance, libido, and recklessness: all the relics of their youth.

The characters struggle to re-engage in the kinds of antics that once gave them a sense of fleeting excitement, a distraction from the looming world of adulthood and responsibility that follows the careless abandon of adolescence.



The characters of the original *American Pie* movies reunite in hopes of reliving the excitement of their adventures in high school. The movie makes a similar effort, but the franchise's signature brand of humor has not stood the test of time.

Rather than nostalgic, however, this movie feels as if it's grasping at straws. It is a last-ditch effort for the cast to relive their glory days, and for the franchise to wring humor out of its stale old jokes.

The movie starts off with Jim (Jason Biggs) and Michelle (Alyson Hannigan), now married with a child, finding themselves too busy for alone time. They decide to return to their hometown in Michigan to attend their high school reunion in an effort to rekindle their romance.

Jim and the rest of the boys from '99 rendezvous away from their wives to try to have some male bonding. The gang reminisces on the events since they graduated high school and, you know, grew up.

Kevin (Thomas Ian Nicholas) is married, but is repeatedly wooed by his high school flame Vicky (Tara Reid). Oz (Chris Klein) is currently an NFL sportscaster trying to live down his days as a dance show contestant. Finch (Eddie

Kaye Thomas) has traveled around the world and experienced a lot more than anyone would expect. Stifler (Seann William Scott) is as short-sighted and foolish as ever. He wound up being an office drone after burning through his 20s in a flurry of beer and hedonism.

Drunken buffoonery drags out the first hour and the second focuses on the more meandering plotlines, namely Jim's avoidance of the sexually excitable girl he used to babysit as well his attempts to help his widowed dad (Eugene Levy) navigate the single life. Oh, and Stifler's mom (Jennifer Coolidge) is looking for love too. (What a coincidence!)

Levy's presence is one of the few redeeming aspects of this movie. Even with the stale jokes, his delivery shines through. He does not, however, carry the film, despite how amusing his eyebrows are.

If you've seen all the *American Pie* films, including the truly awful spinoffs that air on Comedy Central almost

every weekday afternoon, then you will probably get a rise out of this movie. It is a slice from the same dish that you've been served seven times before over the past 13 years, and if you've enjoyed the likes of *American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile*, then you'll be able to stomach the taste of this one.

Still, the humor of this movie fails because it was not able to change with the times. It is particularly disappointing because, with the team behind the *Harold and Kumar* movies holding the reins, this film could have had some charm, and life could have been injected into the has-been characters. Alyson Hannigan, for example, is capable of delivering a cheery yet nuanced performance on *How I Met Your Mother*, but she is underutilized here.

If you are not a fan of the series, and you just to see a silly movie and have a good time, this movie will deliver the inanity you desire.

The Three Stooges struggles to adapt to a younger audience

by Daniella Philipson

Staff Writer

The Farrelly brothers, the duo behind comedies such as *There's Something About Mary* and *Fever Pitch*, are back with a controversial remake of *The Three Stooges*.

While young children watch the TV spots and trailers for the film, filled with head bonking and exaggerated sound effects, their parents look on in horror as the realization sets in: their favorite childhood shorts have been remade.

Just look at what remakes have been produced: Tim Burton's horrific *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, the reproduction of the classic Gene Wilder film *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, is what the younger generations will remember.

While *The Three Stooges* is a departure from the plot lines of the classic Three Stooges twenty-minute shorts, it otherwise stays true to the originals.

The film sees the return of Moe Howard (Chris Diamantopoulos), Larry Fine (Sean Hayes), and Curly Howard (Will Sasso) in all of their slapstick comedy and eye poking glory, telling the story of their origins.

The boys, who are discarded on the doorstep of the Sisters of Mercy Orphanage, are on a mission to save the poorly endowed orphanage, which they call home, from closing down.

The initial orphanage scenes are some of the film's best, for they include a host of celebrities playing the Catholic nuns, such as Jennifer Hudson, Jane Lynch, and the delightfully sour Larry David. David's crotchety nun is a pleasure to watch on screen and counteracts the positive energy constantly perpetuated by the Stooges themselves.

The secondary plot line (rightfully so because it is not nearly as interesting as the three protagonists) includes a flat

character named Lydia (Sofia Vergara) who offers Larry, Curly, and Moe enough money to save the orphanage on the condition that they kill her perfectly innocent husband, allowing the character to continue her secret affair without consequences.

Although Vergara is known for her hilarity on *Modern Family* as Gloria, her villainous Lydia is stagnant and similar to her disgruntled Odile from *The Smurfs*.

To be fair, I suspect that the character faults are a result of the script and not of Vergara's acting abilities.

In addition, the film could have done without its *Jersey Shore* cameo.

The reality show cast is dull, horrific at acting, and does not have enough brain cells combined to even be associated with the name *The Three Stooges*, remake or otherwise.

In these sections, the film strays from its roots. While the desire to modernize the Stooges and make them relatable to a new generation is understandable, certain efforts, such as the *Jersey Shore* plot for example, are less than commendable.

Despite Internet outrage over the remake, Hayes, Diamantopoulos, and Sasso seamlessly capture the essence of the original stooges.

Diamantopoulos's bowl haircut,



www.movies.yahoo.com

Moe (Chris Diamantopoulos) has Larry and Curly (Sean Hayes and Will Sasso, respectively) in his grasp. This scene reflects the over the top comedy of the new *Stooges* film.

inflections, and "Whatsa mattah with you's" are spot on. Diamantopoulos's facial expressions right before conking Sasso and Hayes' heads together are the perfect combination of giddy anger and physical aggression.

Sasso is equally terrific as Curly, capturing his shrill voice and perplexed facial expressions, all while mimicking Curly's carnivorous canine sounds.

Hayes, a master of physical comedy from his days on the glorious *Will and Grace*, recreates Larry from his horrific hair down to his voice.

If you are going to the theater for nostalgic purposes, to relive your childhood full of conks, pratfalls, and

horrendous hair, then enter with an open mind and try not to be too critical. Nobody can live up to the brilliance of the actual Three Stooges.

What is important about this remake is that it has the potential to revamp interest in the original Larry, Curly, and Moe.

The image of fully grown men gleefully riding a three person bicycle or whacking each other over the heads with hammers is incredibly appealing, especially to a younger audience.

These same children who sit in the theater watching the remake today will be googling *Three Stooges* videos in the years to come, thus ensuring that the real Three Stooges will not die out.

3D effects add additional baggage to the *Titanic's* voyage

by Gabe Lyons

Staff Writer

Over the past year, some of the most popular films of all time have received an

expensive conversion into the 3D format, notably Disney classics like *The Lion King* and *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Star Wars: Episode I*.

More often than not, the outcome is disappointing and cannot compare to the

quality of films shot in 3D from start to finish (like *Avatar*). Now there is *Titanic*, hailed by many as one of the best films ever made.

Titanic was marketed as one of the most highly anticipated 3D conversions to date. The film was converted with a budget of \$18 million, which was more than what was spent to make the Oscar-clad *The Artist*. The outcome of this expensive endeavor? As anticipated, a very, very long disappointment.

Titanic is James Cameron's three-hour, mostly fictional depiction of the disaster that led to the loss of 1,500 lives in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

Incorporated in the disaster tale is the story of a controversial romance between steerage passenger Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio) and wealthy Rose (Kate Winslet).

The romance develops into the stereotypical, go-to teen Hollywood disaster romance—he has his eyes on her, he spontaneously does a wonderful thing in a moment of despair, he catches her heart, Mom disapproves, the fiancée disapproves, and all havoc ensues.

Visually, the film is a masterpiece. Shot almost entirely in front of a green screen backdrop, the film almost finds a way to convince you that they really shot the film on a cruise ship in the middle of the

Atlantic Ocean.

The landscape shots of the ocean, and even the disastrous finale which takes place in the ocean, is pure eye candy.

James Cameron somehow found a way to pull off a somewhat realistic portrayal of an exploding cruise ship without the obsessive use of computer animation, something that directors would kill to pull off today.

The addition of 3D is depressingly flat and is an extra \$3.75 on top of the obscenely expensive admission ticket. There was some evident use of 3D, such as the whipping of the ocean waves, or the detailed shots of the interior of the boat, but even that was not worth the extra few bucks on the ticket.

Titanic as a film hasn't changed at all. It is the same romantic disaster film with Celine Dion wailing during the end credits that opened in the holiday season of 1997 to box office hordes.

Winslet's slightly annoying performance as the wealthy Rose and DiCaprio's overly euphoric, ultimately demoralizing performance as the happy-go-lucky Jack haven't changed a bit.

The only thing that bringing back *Titanic* proves is that James Cameron can make a depressing film even more depressing.



breathedreamgo.com

This iconic scene is recognized worldwide as it encompasses the romantic relationship between Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Rose (Kate Winslet). Its rendition in 3D added nothing special and was clearly just a money making ploy.

Touch engages viewers on a higher level than most shows

BY Dan Bidikov

Staff Writer

Touch is FOX's latest drama offering. It stars Kiefer Sutherland of *24* fame as the estranged father of his selectively mute, transhuman son (David Mazouz) who gains insight into the future by reading heavily into mathematical patterns.

From the start, *Touch* provides a seriously convincing argument to its viewers that it is a documentary about number theory. The focus is shifted after a

musical interlude when Sutherland asserts his dominance over his fellow actors from the second the camera catches his subtly expressive face. He is human, modest, and relatable—a stark contrast from his son who is referred to as a “beacon of electromagnetic waves” by Professor Arthur Teller (Danny Glover), a leading expert in pseudoscientific nonsense at the Teller Institute.

Sutherland's character, Martin Bohm, is being examined for parental capability by social worker Clea Hopkins (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) when the plot begins to

thicken. A clever chain of events that seem coincidental occur, until Bohm and Hopkins catch on that the numerical sequences that young Jacob scrawls tirelessly into his notebook are actually a means of communicating his clairvoyance.

Several more characters are thrown into the mix, and what at first seems like a random series of simultaneous events is linked together by a tantalizingly mysterious plot. As the distant group of unrelated individuals grows unexpectedly connected to one another, the writers reveal, in support of the show's central theme, that no occurrence is random or singular. Whether or not this trend will continue throughout the rest of the series is unknown; nevertheless, *Touch* manages to consistently convey heavy themes with relative ease.

Touch is not overly abstract, although it does present itself as a complicated show that demands heavy attentiveness from its viewers. The premise is interesting and well executed, but at its heart, *Touch* is a flashy television drama. Many of the attempts at reaching depth and being insightful through narrative come off as

superficial.

The big-name star power in *Touch* is limited, but the crew of up-and-coming performers provides realistic displays of emotion that help the audience feel connected to the characters. Shak Ghacha plays Abdul, a budding young comedian living in Baghdad. Ghacha's ability to immediately switch from deathly serious to playful and lighthearted indicate that he has a promising future in acting.

David Mazouz, the child actor in charge of playing the protagonist's unspoken son, has been put into an extremely difficult role, and it shows. A lack of words makes developing himself as a character an issue of interpretive dance, and Mazouz squirms to signal dissatisfaction and struggles with remaining completely unresponsive to other stimuli.

The tone of the series is overwhelmingly solemn, with sporadic attempts at humor punctuating the flow of the fast moving, disappointingly nonviolent action. The constant barrage of hard-hitting additions to the basic storyline seems hard to follow on paper, but *Touch* is very watchable, even if it takes some mental effort.



www.tv.com

Martin Bohm (Kiefer Sutherland) watches his son, Jake (David Mazouz), in amazement as he analyzes the patterns within the string arrangement. *Touch* provides the perfect combination of science fiction and drama, requiring viewers to focus on every detail.

Game of Thrones continues to set high bar for TV

BY Kerim Kivrak

Assistant A&E Editor

Everybody's favorite incest-filled medieval fantasy drama has returned. Yes, HBO's *Game of Thrones* is back for its second season.

Based on George R. R. Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire* series of novels, the show's first season was met with critical acclaim and great popularity. The end of the first season was shocking for those unfamiliar with the source material, as three of the most popular and interesting characters on the show were killed abruptly. In their absence, new characters have been introduced and old characters have adopted larger roles.

Emmy-winner Peter Dinklage has gained top billing, and he has certainly earned it. Dinklage delivers a convincing and consistently entertaining performance as Tyrion Lannister, the cunning son of the late king and uncle to the young Joffrey Baratheon (Jack Gleeson), the current king atop the coveted Iron Throne.

New characters are introduced without much exposition, which may confuse viewers unfamiliar with the books. If you are not paying attention, it is likely that you could sit through an entire episode and have no idea what is going on. It is entirely possible that you may have to watch an episode more than once to fully understand everything that is going on in the show's multitude of simultaneous plotlines.

This is not a show to have on while doing your homework or while slowly losing consciousness on the couch; this is a show that demands your attention and commitment.

The show makes good use of HBO's tendency to push the envelope in terms of violence and sex. Nearly every episode features at least one brief, explicit sex scene, and blood, gore, and decapitated heads are commonplace. The brutality of the violence might have reached its peak with the “purging of the bastards,” when the show depicted the cruel slaughter of the late king's illegitimate children. For the most part, the show's vulgarity is in good taste and it rarely feels needless. Still, this is clearly not your average Sunday-night family programming.

Like most of HBO's original series, *Game of Thrones* can boast an incredible production quality. Aside from a few minor slip-ups, the show's cinematography is beautifully detailed and amazing for a TV show. Combined with the show's costume design and wonderful cast, this creates a stunning, believable world. The dense lore and fantasy dialogue that would have otherwise been awkward and boring are made interesting by show's wonderful ensemble.

Although it may not be for everybody, this fantasy epic continues to set a new standard for television. Its popularity may very well lead to a revival in popular interest in high fantasy, especially with the release of *The Hobbit* on the horizon.

Dancing with the Stars continues to satisfy viewers

BY Penina Remler

Staff Writer

Through the years there have been more and more reality shows based on talent on television. While some are focused on singing, some on modeling, and some on dancing, each competition usually incorporates a specific twist, hoping to out-shine its competitors.

Take dancing for instance; it is easy to recall numerous television shows all based on dance: *So You Think You Can Dance*, *America's Best Dance Crew*, and *Dancing With the Stars* all come to mind. With a variety of techniques all trying to sell the same talent, how does one choose a favorite?

Fourteen seasons ago, ABC released what was once an unfamiliar idea of a new show called *Dancing with the Stars*. The show features couples of one professional dancer with a famous celebrity, with each duo consisting of a man and a woman. The celebrity talent can range from singing, acting, sports, or previously being on a reality television show. Some of the previous contestants have been Gavin Degraw, Rob Kardashian, Jerry Springer, Mario Lopez, Emmitt Smith, and even Billy Ray Cyrus.

This show also features three main judges, Len Goodman, Carrie Ann Inaba, and Bruno Tonioli, along with occasional celebrity judges who all have background experience with either taking part in or teaching dance in their pasts. Though the contestants receive criticism or praise from the panel, their fate mainly lies in the viewers hands by voting each week. Ultimately, each episode eliminates a couple leading up to the final two. What made, and still makes, *Dancing With The Stars* such a successful

show is the combination of true dancing abilities and the presence of some of America's favorite celebrities.

In its most recent season, season 14, twelve celebrities were matched up with professionals to carry out the season. The celebrities range from being tennis champions to actors to television hosts. Each week, the couples are assigned a specific dance theme, increasing the competition between the couples. For example, the first week the stars were assigned either the Cha-Cha, or the Foxtrot, resulting in Martina Navratilova and Tony Dovolani being sent home.

What also makes the show so interesting is its surprising performances from every star. Sometimes one will find that the least expected star will shine brighter than the most expected.

Dancing with the Stars has proven that even though these stars are talented in their own fields, their talent in dancing is not as promising.

Overall, the show is a great experience for stars to get a sense of the hard work and practice needed in the dancing field. *Dancing With The Stars* is a thoroughly enjoyable hour every week.

I would definitely recommend tuning into ABC to watch both admirable talent and get an inside look into the personalities of some of our favorite celebs.

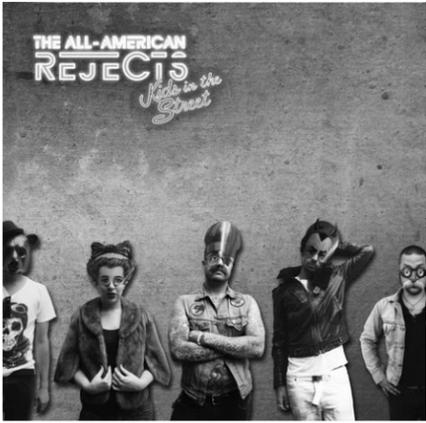


www.abcnnews.com

Jaleel White dances with Kym Johnson, despite recent rumors that the two were not getting along. The show this season provides a dynamic cast and fresh, new dances, despite its long run for 14 seasons.

Music Box

The All-American Rejects mature with *Kids in the Streets*



BY Bethia Kwak
A&E Editor

Four years after their previous album release, The All-American Rejects emerged back on the pop-rock scene with *Kids in the Streets*. The rock band, despite starting in an era in which most alternative bands have faded away, still releases albums that never seem redundant.

The band released the first single, "Beekeeper's Daughter," a few months before the album. Already, fans and critics alike could see the band had matured as the song did not rely on amateur tricks, such as making the lyrics and beat as catchy as possible.

"This record actually had a story. We realized we weren't putting together a collection of songs for the first time, but

we were actually putting together a record that told a story," said lead vocalist and bass guitarist Tyson Ritter in an interview for *Billboard*. "Our goal on this record was to push ourselves into making a sound that was original, beyond, I guess, the other records that we've created."

The sound of *Kids in the Streets* is more refined than that of previous albums. The first track, "Someday's Gone," encompasses this. While the band's older tracks seemed chaotic at times and more "chant-y," "Someday's Gone" is able to use the instruments in a more strategic way to accompany the singing rather than overpower it.

The lead singer does not have to shout over the music to be heard. Rather, listeners are able to finally appreciate Ritter's vocal ability.

However, even though this album focuses more on Ritter's voice than other albums, it still allows guitarist Nick Wheeler shine.

If you are hoping for an album filled with angst pop-rock tracks similar to "Dirty Little Secret" or "Move Along," this album may be a disappointment. However, that is what makes the album so unique and sets it apart from previous records.

While the first two albums The All-American Rejects released had tracks that generally incorporated the same styles, *Kids in the Streets* is much more dynamic. Ranging from '80s rock to funky pop, the

album will have a track to satisfy virtually anyone. The band wanted to break out of the traditional four-piece rock band mold on which it had previously relied, and it was ultimately successful.

Each track is unexpected but pleasant, as each sounds different from the previous one.

The title song, "Kids in the Streets," has immense commercial appeal and could be an instant crowd pleaser. The chorus is catchy and the song has the potential to be a summer anthem. While the song is not fast-paced, the lyrics capture the essence of childhood and adolescence.

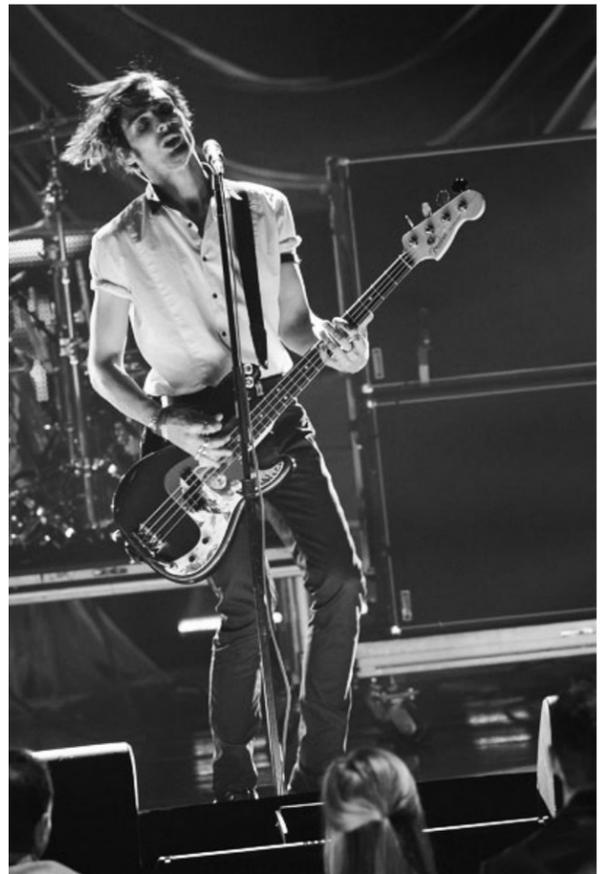
Unlike most musicians, the band tried to stray away from collaborations within their tracks. They asked a few lesser-known artists to sing a few verses in their song, because they liked the sound of their voices, rather than for commercial purposes. British pop singer Mika was featured on "Heartbeats Slowing Down."

The album also keeps the listener captivated for its entirety, contrary to the cliché that the only good songs in an album are the first few and the last few.

Kids in the Streets is a bold move, but

it pays off.

The album is by far the best one the band has released and should define them within the industry as they continue to grow into a stronger group.



The All-American Rejects are gearing up for their performance at Bamboozle this May. *Kids in the Streets* makes a name for the band, providing a variety of sounds and more refined tracks.

Classic Album: Jethro Tull: *Thick as a Brick*



BY Robert Gray
Staff Writer

If a person tells you to listen to Jethro Tull, some confusion may at first result. Most people would shrug their shoulders, unsure of what a "Jethro Tull" is. A smaller group, perhaps those currently slaving under the yoke of an AP Euro class, would probably reply, "I am sure he is a very smart gentleman, and I rather admire the seed drill, but I am not a farmer and his discussions would be lost on me."

A yet smaller group will recognize the name of an excellent English progressive rock band.

Formed in the late '60s, Tull is a highly successful group with a career spanning several decades.

Their style mixes traditional English folk music with blues and American rock and roll. They also draw a degree of inspiration from classical music. Who

knew a guitar and a flute could be such good friends?

Anyone who enjoys Tull has listened to their album *Thick as a Brick*. Those who enjoy good music should give *Thick as a Brick* a try.

Their fifth album has a rather funny history. Many critics and fans thought, despite the insistence of leader Ian Anderson, that their previous album *Aqualung* was intended as a concept album. The band then set out to give audiences "the mother of all concept albums." The goal was to parody all of the excesses of the progressive rock scene at the time.

The album has a single song, *Thick as a Brick*, which clocks in at about 46 minutes and is written in the form of an epic poem set to music.

Keeping in the vein of parody, the poem, written by an 8-year-old boy (actually Ian Anderson), satires the conformity and respect for hierarchy of British society of the time, and relates the struggles of a young child growing up in such a society.

Some of this parody is lost on listeners of our generation, as times have changed greatly in Britain, but suffice it to say, the Britain of Anderson's youth was a very different country than the Britain of today. A consistent theme in the poem/song is how Britain's social structure determines much of the future life of its poem's fictional author, Gerald Bostock.

Both musically and lyrically, the album is a masterpiece and well worth listening to. Any fan of Tull or progressive rock should certainly give it a try.

Roman Reloaded adds new, unique songs



BY Katie Fishbin
Assistant A&E Editor

Nicki Minaj has reached a new level in her ever-rising music career. Her latest album, *Roman Reloaded*, was released on April 3.

Like Minaj's older songs, it still contains the unique flair that first got her noticed, but some of the newer songs have more of a pop influence.

Probably the most popular of Minaj's new songs is "Starships." Despite its different, more upbeat style, it has become a hit because it is just so catchy.

After first hearing it, I was unaware it was Nicki Minaj because it sounded

so different than her previous, more aggressive, rap songs.

The content of the song is all over the place, from vocals to techno to "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star." It is like a multitude of songs within one.

However, this combination works. "Starships" has been a constant favorite on the radio and sounds especially good while driving with the windows down.

Another one of her new songs is "Beez in the Trap," a more classic Nicki Minaj song. She displays why she became the first female rapper to emerge as a pop star. The song features rapper 2 Chainz. This hardcore, somewhat gangster rap song is likable due to its flow and beat.

The album is certainly unique and inconsistent but it encompasses Nicki Minaj. She boasts about how she has different personas ranging from "Roman Zolanski" to Barbie.

Other songs in the album are, quite frankly, so strange that they are unappealing to listen to.

If you have been a fan of Nicki Minaj in the past, I would recommend taking a listen. However, if you have found her music and style strange in the past, you may find this album even weirder.

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Senior Tara Joyce took this photograph in Mole National Park in Ghana, on a trip organized by the program Rustic Pathways. She spent eighteen days completing community service such as building schools, feeding the homeless, and helping in an orphanage.

NEWS BRIEFS

Leonardo DiCaprio visits Port

Port Washington is welcoming megastar Leonardo DiCaprio to town. He will be visiting throughout September in order to film the new movie *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

The movie is based on the true story of the life of a 1980s Wall Street banker who steals money. This financial drama portrays the struggles of Jordan Belfort (DiCaprio), a hard-partying, drug-addicted stockbroker involved in a large security fraud case. Jonah Hill plays Belfort's close friend and business partner.

"It's so exciting that there is a movie being filmed in Port Washington, especially with such an amazing actor and interesting plot," said freshman Harlee Tung.

As reported by Port Washington Patch on August 30, a Twitter post on CelebSightings reads, "@LeoDiCaprio leaving motivational guru @SteveMaraboli's office in Long Island."

Steve Maraboli is a behavior specialist, speaker, author, and radio show host here in Port. "As a Behavior Specialist, I am often tasked by Hollywood actors to help them get a deep understanding into the mind of the character they are playing," said Mr. Steve Maraboli.

Maraboli's office declined to comment

on DiCaprio's visit in particular.

"I think things being filmed in Port is wonderful," said freshman Milan Sani. "Our town is beautiful and is worthy of being in scenes in a movie. Although it could disrupt some residents in the town, I think it is something fun and exciting to go to and see the movie and see places that are familiar to you."

This is not the only movie that has been filmed in Port Washington. In 2000, *Meet The Parents* filmed scenes at Louie's. In 2011, *Win Win* was filmed at Guggenheim estate homes in Sands Point. Also in 2011, *The English Teacher* filmed in the Jeanne Rinsky Theater at the Landmark building on Main Street, with Schreiber students appearing as extras.

~Madeleine Fagen

Senior Parking Rules

This year, new rules and regulations regarding senior parking are in place in order to fortify the pre-existing parking rules.

"The purpose of the new rules were not to regulate students, but because of progressive offenses reported," said Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres. "It was too tiring for administrators so the additional rules were added."

Only seniors with registered cars may park in the Monfort lot, and no students are allowed to park in the upper lot near the school. Violators of this rule will receive in-school suspension and their parents will be notified.

"I like that the parking spaces are reserved only for seniors and that the juniors are not allowed to park in the lot, but I think the penalties are rather harsh," said senior Mary Puglisi.

Another rule is that students are not permitted to park in the faculty lot until after 3:05 p.m., and those who park in the faculty-reserved spots in the Monfort lot during the school day will be subjected to a penalty. After the first violation, students will have their permits suspended for a period of 30 days. The second time, students will have their permit suspended for the remainder of the school year. After a student's third and subsequent offenses, his or her car will be towed at his or her expense, or he or she will receive an in-school suspension and his or her parents will be notified. The administration also reserves the right to search student vehicles parked anywhere on school grounds.

~Rachel Cho

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Athletes of the Month

Jon Obadia

BY **Chad Edelblum**

Staff Writer

After transferring back to Schreiber from Long Island powerhouse St. Anthony's, senior Jonathan Obadia has found himself at home in the boys varsity lacrosse team lineup. As a varsity starter with two years of position experience, Obadia has been an impressive addition to the team.

As a junior, he racked up 18 goals and had 12 assists. This year, he has already scored 9 goals and 4 assists.

"He's very vocal on attack and has helped to get the offense going this year," said senior Nate Omeltchenko.

Obadia is a vertical attacker who will also drop off and play midfield when the midfielders take a rest.

Although Obadia is not a recognized captain of the team, he certainly plays a leadership role within the offense.

Obadia worked very hard this offseason to prepare himself for his senior season.

He played for the Long Island Express Orange team, and attended recruiting camps at universities such as Dartmouth, Brown, and Tufts.

"Jon has a great work ethic. He brings a tremendous effort every day in practice that carries over to the rest of the team," said senior Jake Froccaro, captain of the team. "As a senior, he has really stepped up and expanded his role this season. It is a pleasure to play alongside him and his diligence and hard work continue to pay off."

As well as playing lacrosse, Obadia conditions three times per week during both the off-season and season with teammate

junior John Crawley. They train at the Xceleration Gym in Deer Park.

"The kid definitely works hard. He is always looking to do anything lacrosse; go watch a Manhasset game, go workout at Xcel, shoot around at the turf, dress like he does, etc., and has clearly progressed from last year to now," said Crawley. "With his drive and love for the game, he could be a great college player."

Obadia exhibited his skills in Port Washington's big win against Farmingdale in which he made a cut to score off a pass from Froccaro to put the Vikings ahead.

"We have great talent, high chemistry and an excellent coaching staff to top it off. Coach Neal, Coach Rooney, and Coach Della have helped us tremendously," said Obadia. "We hope to continue to win and make the playoffs."



Courtesy of Derek Caruso

Jonathan Obadia has played up to his reputation this season and has taken on a leadership role on the varsity lacrosse team.

Jackie Avila

BY **Aaron Brezel**

Staff Writer

Junior Jackie Avila began playing softball in seventh grade on a whim.

Two years later she made the varsity squad as a freshman, and now five years after that fateful decision, she is the captain of a team that has just moved up a division.

Naturally as a catcher, Avila is required to take charge on the field, but as a captain, she has taken on a new type of leadership role.

"Being named captain is not about the label or about power, it is the opportunity to lead and represent my team. When it comes to many things, like sports, I am very competitive but I understand that the game is not always about winning but about learning from the losses and using that to improve," said Avila.

In her three years with the varsity squad, she has received the Scholar Athlete Award all three years as well as a Division award in her sophomore season.

In addition to her accolades, she has even switched positions for the good of the team, moving from playing third and second base to playing catcher at the end of her eighth grade season.

However, Avila's favorite moments in softball have not just come from the diamond. Some of her most rewarding experiences come from the girls who play around her.

"They are the sweetest, all-around amazing people I know. I love that every season, the girls who have been on the team for previous seasons come closer together, while also getting to know any new girls and incor-

porating them into our family," said Avila.

In Avila's opinion, with the talent the team has, there is no reason why they can't be extremely competitive in their new division.

Her willingness to give her all has not been lost on her coaches and teammates.

Everyone who has come in contact with her has only the most positive feedback to give.

"Jackie really deserves to be captain. The way she plays the game is something that I think we can all learn from," said sophomore Deirdra Labartino.

"The way she enjoys softball is contagious to her teammates and to me as her coach," said varsity Head Coach Eric Sutz.

As far as all the compliments she has received, she could not appreciate it more.

"It really puts a smile on my face. If there's one thing I want when I leave Schreiber, it's to have people remember me in a positive way," said Avila.



Elana Galassi

Jackie Avila, a relatively new player to the sport, has taken the team by storm with her solid play this season.

Captains Corner: Karan Zoria and Arjan Saraon, Academic Decathlon

BY **Brett Fishbin**

Senior Sports Editor

Brett Fishbin: How's it going, fellas?

Arjan Saraon: Absolutely fantastic.

Karan Zoria: I'm great, Brett!

BF: So, Academic Decathlon, give our fine readers some background information on what you guys do.

AS: You wanna take this one Karan, or should I? Fine, I'll take it. Sheesh, Karan.

KZ: Well, Academic Decathlon (Acadec for short) is an annual high school competition consisting of ten academic subjects. There are three levels of competition: local, state, and national.

AS: OK, he's got it.

KZ: Please elaborate, Arjan.

AS: Basically, it's us going upstate and showing them how smart we are.

BF: Well, I can already see how teamwork plays a large role in the competition. How much of a "team aspect" goes into a competition?

AS: Well, a lot of the "teamwork" comes from before the competition, as the actual

tests are taken individually. But, as far as prep goes, one teammate creating a study sheet, one teammate helping another with a specific subject is part of the teamwork that goes into the competition. We all want to help each other do our best come the big day.

BF: So is the overall result a cumulative effort of how everyone does, or is it broken down individually?

KZ: Each individual has a score, but all individual scores are pooled towards a cumulative score, which is the one that is evaluated at competition.

AS: I guess the best analogy would be to golf. We're broken into three sections by GPA (with 3 people in each section) and the highest 2 scores in each subject are taken into the team score. So, we all score individually, but we need others to succeed in specific subjects to excel.

BF: What are some major events that the team has recently partaken in and how have those gone?

AS: So this year, as well as last, we went to the New York State Academic

Decathlon Championships.

BF: How much work is really put into this club and how dedicated are the members of the team?

KZ: Honestly, the work really piles up the weeks before competition when our team is cramming and preparing. I like to think we are extremely dedicated to bringing our school another state championship. Our school used to be known for this competition, but we haven't won in a long time.

BF: Karan, there have been rumors all over school that you are quite the music aficionado. What do you listen to to get in gear before you decathlon-it?

KZ: My favorite pre-game Acadec song has to be "The One that Got Away" by Katy Perry. It really gets me into the zone for competition.

AS: Bollywood.

KZ: He said KARAN...

AS: Well, you listen to Bollywood too.

BF: And to you, Arjan, I find it remarkable that you can balance your academic achievements while making it all the way to

the fantasy basketball finals in my league.

AS: Beating you in fantasy sports has never been that difficult. No offense, of course. Well, maybe a little.

BF: Low blow, low blow.

BF: If Judd Apatow was developing a comedy movie about your team, what would you name this movie, and who would you cast as yourselves? Also, who would play Mr. Muhlbauer, and how would you work a possible Steve Buscemi cameo in?

AS and KZ: The movie would be titled "Acadec Flow" and the movie would open at the crack of dawn with Mr. Muhlbauer, played of course by a resurrected Reagan, poring over an Acadec binder, preparing for the long season ahead. Enter Twindian #1-Karan Zoria, played by Dev Patel (the guy from *Slumdog Millionaire*). Then enter Twindian #2-Arjan Saraon, played by Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan.

BF: And this is the exact type of teamwork that is stressed. Thank you so much for the time. Any parting words or advice?

AS: I'd just like to make a shoutout to teammate and my boy JB (Jon Bellon).

KZ: So clutch.

Calling the Shots

Superstition in Sports: Does it make a difference?

BY **Drew Friedman**
Senior Sports Editor

All athletes have their own beliefs, superstitions, and pre-game rituals. When it comes to academics, someone may use a lucky pen or possibly wear special underpants.

In art, someone might only use a specific brush or a specific material. In sports, superstition plays a big role for many fans and players. Whether it's the typical knocking on wood ritual, or even wearing a lucky jersey, fans and athletes believe that random things can make a significant impact on the result of their favorite team's game.

"Whenever my team was on a winning streak, I wouldn't wash my hat," said former JV baseball player Kevin Roberts.

Aside from Roberts, many other Schreiber athletes and sports fans have

their own unique way of cheering for their team.

"I always push myself on the baseball field, and whenever I am not performing to what I feel I should be I change something. This season at the plate I have switched it up between wearing my batting gloves and hitting with my bare hands, in hope to improve my hitting," said baseball player senior Grant Ogulnick.

Senior Tim Costello on the other hand has a very precise pre-game ritual that he does every game.

"I like to listen to music and eat some Cape Cod chips with an orange Gatorade," said Costello. "It's just a comfort thing. I feel more comfortable when I do those pre-game things and the comfort gives me confidence to do my job."

Another case of superstition goes on before boys lacrosse games between teammates junior Aaron Mevorah and senior Michael Au.

"Before every game, me and Aaron get together and imitate the Jeremy Lin and Landry Fields handshake that they do before every Knicks game" said Au.

And superstitions exist at the professional level as well.

Some famous players to perform their own rituals include Lebron James, Dwayne Wade, Kevin Garnett, and of course Tim Tebow. These

rituals have gained exposure in Nike commercials which shows Dwayne Wade doing pull-ups on a basketball hoop, Kevin Garnett head-butting the base of a hoop, and Lebron James with his famous cloud of smoke that he throws up before every game.

Take Richard Hamilton, who once broke his nose playing for the Detroit Pistons and was forced to play with a facemask. Since Hamilton played well with the mask, he decided to keep it on and has worn it ever since.

All of these players have their own trademark superstitious habits, but none of them compare to that of Tim Tebow.

Tim Tebow, once of the Denver Broncos and now of the New York Jets, has gained the attention of most sports fans in recent months.

He first showed his talents as he took a mediocre Denver team to the playoffs, winning close games every time.

But what people remembered was not his talents but his ritual in which he went down on a knee and prayed every time he scored.

What is now called "Tebowing" has become a global sensation and imitations of Tebow's pose can be seen all over the Inter-



Tim Tebow and his personal ritual have become household references. It is likely Tebow will continue to "tebow" prior to games as a New York Jet.



Lebron James tosses powder in preparation for every game. Lebron is a leading candidate for MVP this season.

Boys Tennis

Team	Conf			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Port Washington	5	0	0	5	0	0
Cold Spring Harbor	5	0	0	6	0	0
Syosset	4	2	0	4	2	0
Great Neck North	2	3	0	2	3	0
North Shore	1	4	0	1	4	0
Great Neck South	1	4	0	1	4	0
Jericho	0	5	0	0	5	0

Led by seniors Sander Brenner, Krishin Shivdasani, Jared Alper, Jon Weber, and Bobby Katz, the boys tennis team is looking to take strides toward a conference, county, or even Long Island championship this season.

Upcoming Games

4/28 vs Jericho 10:00 am
4/30 at North Shore 4:30 pm
5/2 vs Great Neck North 4:30 pm

Baseball

Team	Conf			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
MacArthur	5	1	0	8	1	0
Plainview JFK	4	2	0	5	4	0
Hicksville	4	1	0	6	3	1
East Meadow	2	3	0	5	4	1
Port Washington	1	5	0	4	5	0
Valley Stream Central	1	5	0	2	5	1

The team has multiple seniors planning to play DIII baseball - Timmy Costello (Franklin & Marshall), Wayne Baker (Wheaton College), Jacob Lanzkowsky (Hamilton College), Paul Mills (York College of Pennsylvania) and A.J. Friedman (Tufts University).

Upcoming Games

4/28 at Mineola
(GUGGENHEIM ELEM) 4:30 pm
4/30 vs MacArthur 4:45 pm
5/1 at MacArthur
(GUGGENHEIM ELEM) 4:45 pm

Badminton

Team	Conf			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Port Washington	5	1	0	5	1	0
Jericho	4	1	0	4	1	0
Calhoun	3	0	0	3	0	0
Mephram	2	2	0	2	2	0
Great Neck South	2	2	0	2	2	0
MacArthur	0	5	0	0	5	0
Farmingdale	0	5	0	0	5	0

Sophomore Liz Kallenberg has shined at first singles while seniors Isha Gupta and Julianna Beall have won key matches at first doubles.

Upcoming Games

4/30 vs MacArthur 4:30 pm
5/2 at Mephram 4:30 pm
5/4 vs Great Neck South 4:30 pm

VIKING SPORTS

Boys lacrosse features new head coach, veteran roster *Team looks to bounce back after second round exit last season in playoffs*

BY **Dan Miranda**
Assistant Sports Editor

With one minute and 32 seconds left in overtime, then-sophomore John Crawley netted an unassisted goal against Calhoun to put the boys lacrosse team in the second round of the Conference I playoffs.

That was 2011, under a different coaching regime and what will ultimately be known as a different era of Port Washington lacrosse.

Now, just one year later, the team has been placed under the guidance of Head Coach Tom Rooney, who previously had 14 years of experience at Syosset as the defensive coordinator.

The team, as it has been for years, is led by two offensive players who will end up at powerhouse lacrosse programs in upcoming years.

Senior Jake Froccaro will play for Princeton next year and junior John Crawley will play for Johns Hopkins in two years.

Both of these colleges are ranked in the top 15 in the country in lacrosse (Princeton #3, Johns Hopkins #13), and both players are ranked highly in their respective classes (Froccaro is 25th among seniors, Crawley is 49th among juniors).

The team has relied on consistent performances from all of its leaders, not just the star two.

Senior Joe Mele leads the defense, Crawley and Froccaro control the offense, with eighth grade talent Nick Ferrero in the net.

And while Coach Rooney does not typically dive deep into his bench, opportunities have arisen for certain players to find their way into the starting lineup.

On April 4, junior Richard Greenberg tore his ACL in Oceanside. The Vikings would end up winning the game, but Greenberg required an MRI and discovered he would be out for the rest of the season.

Greenberg noted junior Derek Caruso



Courtesy of Derek Caruso

Senior Nate Omeltchenko cradles the ball away from a Hicksville defender. He, along with many of his fellow seniors, has taken on a major leadership role this season. The team has jumped to a 4-5 start (as of Monday, April 23), and they have looked very solid on both sides of the field thus far.

and freshman Joey Froccaro as two who have stepped up in his absence.

The younger Froccaro has scored six goals in three games since Greenberg learned he would be out for the season.

Similarly, in his first starting opportunity in a conference matchup against Farmingdale, Caruso made the most of his opportunity.

Caruso scored three goals which impressed everyone from Crawley, who assisted two of Caruso's goals, to Coach Rooney, who noted Caruso's ability to transition from hockey to lacrosse.

"We definitely had a big week at practice," said Caruso. "It was incredible. I have to give it to my teammates for knowing where I was on the field, and for them to have the trust in me to catch the ball and shoot was a confidence booster."

The offense still would not be complete without contributions from sophomore Luke Rizzo and senior Jon Obadia. The duo has combined to score 10 goals on the season. Rizzo leads the team with 11 assists.

Players on the team appreciate the addition of Coach Rooney due to his coaching skills and likeability.

"I feel like Rooney is a great fit for our team," said Greenberg. "We have a close bond with him and he is a guy that we get along with and like very much."

"I have truly enjoyed the coaching staff. They push us hard during practice and they provide us with information that is key for us to win games," said Caruso.

With 32 goals in nine games, J. Froccaro has scored at least two in every game he has played this season.

That is good enough to put Froccaro at first in Conference A in goals scored.

"Jake has a very high lacrosse IQ," said Coach Rooney. "I think what he does is sizes up defenders really well, and he's in no rush, and he's able to have the pace of the game at his pace."

While the offense has averaged a total of 9.3 goals per game, the defense has been just about the same, averaging 9.4 goals scored against.

In no game this season has the defense given up less than seven goals; however, the team's starting goaltender, just an eighth grader, has earned the respect of

his older teammates.

"In a sense, there is extra responsibility for the defense, but Nick has proved he is capable of learning quickly," said Mele.

Mele, a four year varsity lacrosse player, sets his standard for a good performance from the defense as nine goals or less. Anything more he regards as "unacceptable."

"Anytime we can hold a team under double digits I consider it to be a good game, especially because we have an offense that is capable of outscoring the other team," said Mele. "The game usually comes down to which defense will make fewer mistakes."

As for the team's nature, the players have maintained their dedication to togetherness and scoring more goals than their opponent.

"The guys on the team have really come together and we have become more and more like a family. We are excited about the opportunities we will have in the playoffs and we feel like we can make a run at the County Championship. It's going to take a lot of work, but I think that we are up for the challenge," said Greenberg.

Mele characterized the season by making a bold assertion, reflective of the team's quiet confidence.

"I like to think of this season as a redemption year. I expect our team to make it to Hofstra," said Mele.

From the outside looking in, the lacrosse team appears to be unified and universally set on one goal: winning.

Stats are as of Monday, April 23 from Newsday and LaxPower.



Courtesy of Derek Caruso

Senior Jake Froccaro jumps past two Hicksville defenders in an April 20 game at Schreiber. He is looking forward to playing at the next level at Princeton.