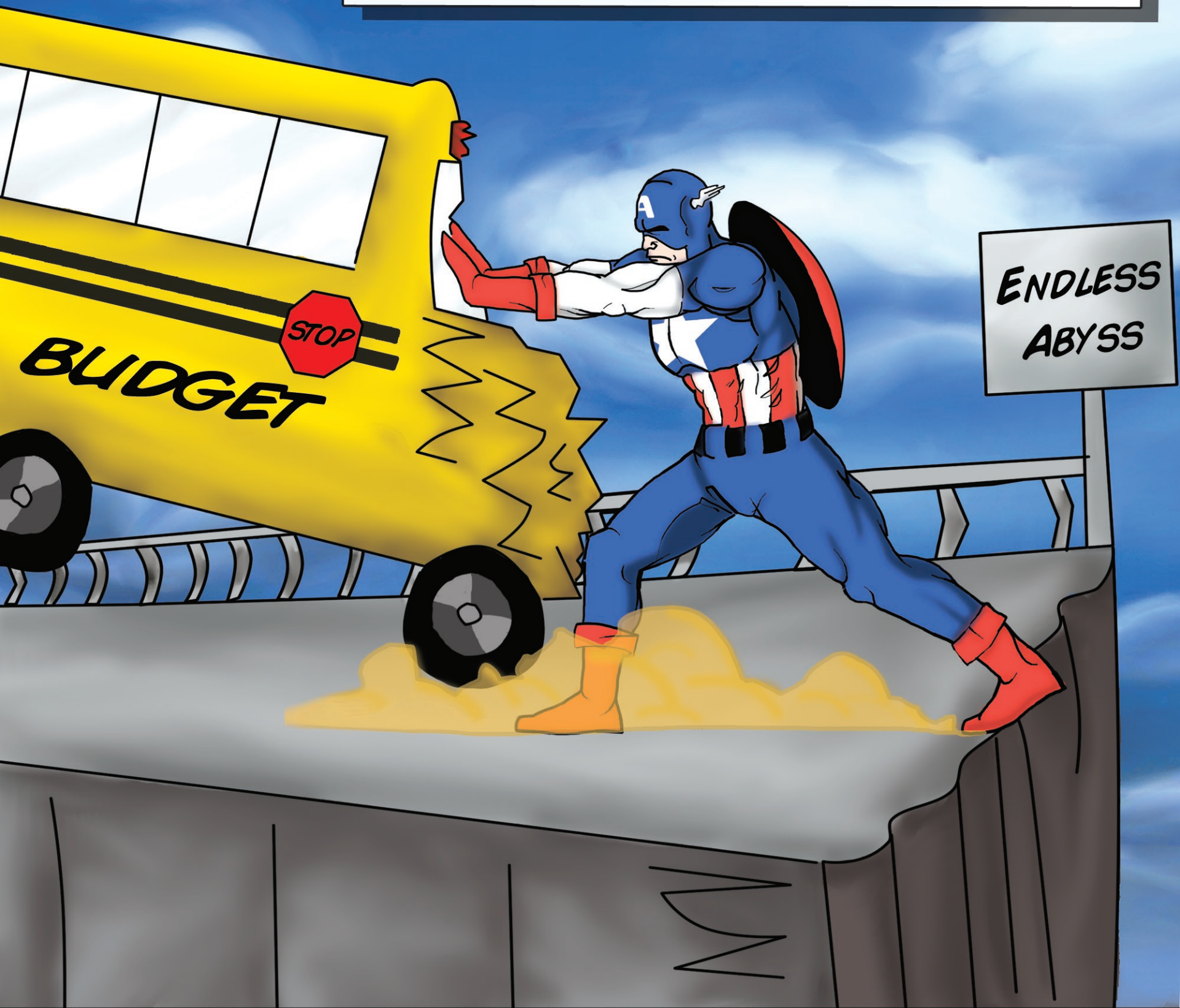


# THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXII No. 9 May 2012

**SAFE FOR ANOTHER YEAR!**



**The Dictator**

-A&E-



**Prom**

-Opinions-

**Golf**

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Junior Taylor Eisenberg took this picture while on a safari in Tanzania last summer. Her van had pulled up to a pack of lions eating alligator and wildebeast carcasses. This photograph is part of a series that she shot in Africa to add to her AP Photography portfolio.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spanish class travels to performance

As a follow-up to the quarter-long unit spent on the play *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, AP and 4H Spanish students recently attended a live performance at the Repertorio Español in Manhattan. On April 25, Honors Spanish teacher Ms. Marilyn Gonzalez and AP Spanish teacher Ms. Evelin Joseph took the 33 students who signed up to see Federico Garcia Lorca’s play.

“Our class trip to see *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* was a great Spanish experience. Since we already read the play in class, it was easy to understand and follow along,” said junior Emily Schmidt. “Reading a play and actually seeing a play are two entirely different things, and I’m really glad I got to experience both.”

*La Casa de Bernarda Alba* is a part of the AP curriculum, and students on the AP Spanish track read it as juniors. Set in Spain, the play is about Bernarda Alba, a tyrannical mother who attempts to dominate her five unmarried daughters, all of whom are between 20 and 40 years of age. The plot escalates as each of the virgin daughters falls for the same man. The production, like the original work, is completely in Spanish.

“The theater company did a great job

and they were true to the text,” said Ms. Joseph.

After rescheduling the trip several times, the teachers planned a day which included breakfast at a local diner and a stop at Pinkberry after the production.

“It was great to see a Spanish language production with my students. The students laughed at many of the lines and were amused by the acting. I wish we had more opportunities to experience the Spanish language and culture outside of the classroom,” said Ms. Gonzalez.

~Sophia Kim

Science Honor Society fundraiser

To help promote environmental awareness, the Science Honor Society held a fundraiser for Sustainable Long Island. Between April 30 and May 2, members of the club set up a table in the lobby, at which students and teachers paid \$1 to guess the number of candies in one of two jars of M&M candies. Those who guessed correctly won both the jar of candies itself and a \$15 gift card to either iTunes or Dunkin’ Donuts. Junior Minah Kim had the winning guess for the Dunkin’ Donuts jar, which contained 593 M&Ms, and social studies teacher Mr.

Petro Macrigiane received an iTunes gift card for the jar containing 700 M&Ms.

Sustainable Long Island is a local not-for-profit organization which focuses on providing communities with the necessary resources to decrease their negative impact on the environment. The Science Honor Society raised over \$100 for the cause.

“The organization does not only concentrate on environmental sustainability but also economic development and social equality on Long Island. These are topics that should be important to everyone,” said Science Honor Society president senior Janice Havasy.

Some of the main ways that Sustainable Long Island works to help local communities is by discussing more eco-efficient land use and redevelopment, business development, transportation choices, and downtown revitalization. For the first time, the Science Honor Society held a fundraiser that was not directly related to the club.

“It is important to raise awareness for science and make an impact on our local community” said club adviser Ms. Marla Ezratty.

~Michaela Gawley

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# HEARTS foundation hosts PortFest

## First-annual festival raises money to support arts programs in school

BY Celine Sze  
Assistant News Editor

Booths, tents, a makeshift stage, and hundreds of locals scattered Schreiber and the surrounding area to celebrate arts in Port Washington for the first annual PortFest. On May 19, students, families, and community members came together for the fundraising event.

According to the PortFest event program, Mr. Damon Gersh, the founder of the new community organization, HEARTS (Helping Enrich the ARTS), envisioned an event that would “create a fun, outdoor family festival featuring artists, musicians, and performers of all ages from the community.”

The organization began preparations for this event in October. During this time, HEARTS reached out to local artists, businesses, the school district, and other parts of the community to sponsor the event. Among the supporting organizations were Haven Art, iSchool of Music & Art, Wright Music, local band Rock Steady, and the Port Washington Education Foundation.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., events and activities showcased the arts in Port Washington. The festival began with performances from the fifth grade All-District ensembles and several high school ensembles in the auditorium. In the choir room, students from physical education teacher Ms. Nancy Klotz’s advanced dance and choreography class danced to Timbaland’s “Apologize,” and students from the Port Summer Show performed excerpts from some of their previous shows.

Principal Mr. Ira Pernick and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Dr. Nicholas Stirling were the masters of ceremonies from 11 to 3, and social studies teacher Mr. Jeremy Klaff and junior Benny Scheckner hosted from 3 to 5. On the outside stages, Schreiber students participated in the Jazz Ensemble and Decadence performed. The members of Decadence are seniors Brian Aronow (saxophone/keyboards), Bobby Katz (guitar/vocals), and Jesse



Harry Paul

From left: junior Laura De Bruin and seniors Jesse Weil, Christopher Falcioni, and Raffi Shen, junior Liam Marsigliano, and senior Alexis Fessatidis, all members of the Chamber Choir, perform during PortFest. The Chamber Choir was one of several student, faculty, and community member ensembles that performed during the festival.

Weil (vocals), and juniors Reed Kalash (drums), Miles Kurtz (guitar), and Nick Sapountzis (bass guitar).

For their last performance before graduating Schreiber, they covered a variety of songs, including an Adele medley and Maroon 5’s “Sunday Morning.” Katz also sang and played the keyboard for The Fray’s “Be Still” with senior Joonyup Yeom, who provided accompaniment on the cello.

“We have played together for over 4 years and performing at PortFest was a great, final high school performance for us. After the final chord of the last song, it became real that we may not perform together for some time to come,” said Katz. “Yet, we are hoping that in future years, we can collaborate to perform again at Portfest. It really was a special and memorable day.”

Students also contributed to PortFest by helping with the planning and volunteering at event-day activities. As part of their Senior Experience projects, Aronow, Katz, and Weil were student representatives of PortFest. Some of their responsibilities included seeking out student volunteers, advertising and raising awareness for the event, attending several planning meetings, and helping on the day of the event to keep it running smoothly.

“I think HEARTS is an excellent organization primarily because it provides opportunities for the arts in the community, which I have been intimately involved in for the duration of my high school experience. Because it was so familiar and important to me, I was really happy to get involved in any way that I could,” said Weil.

On the field next to the track, white tents were spread out on the grass with different activities held underneath them. Near the entrance, PortFest volunteers sold tickets that were used at many of the tents to purchase their goods. Local businesses Frank’s Pizza, Harbor Deli, Mojito, and Ralph’s Famous Italian Ices each had a tent that accepted cash and sold food, snacks, and drinks.

The five elementary schools in the district and Weber Middle School each had a tent dedicated to music or crafts. The Daly and Sousa tents hosted a “musical petting zoo,” where kids could experiment with various instruments provided by Wright Music (the name is a misnomer; there were no animals), and a drum circle, supported by iSchool of Music & Art, respectively. “Ductivities” in the Guggenheim tent let people create their own wallets, bookmarks, bracelets, and tote bags out of colorful and patterned duct tape that cost from one to five tickets.

“I enjoyed volunteering the whole day, mostly at the Guggenheim Ductivities tent, where I assisted kids in making things out of colorful duct tape for them to take home and use,” said senior Renee

Cohen. “It was so nice to see so many smiling faces from both little children and their parents who were making a fun craft while supporting a great cause.”

At the Manorhaven and Salem activity tents, kids constructed their own flipbooks and clay creations, respectively. The Weber tent featured “Domino Wearable Art,” where people made necklaces from domino pieces that they stamped and created collages on. The number of tickets for the goods at both tents ranged from two to four.

Additionally, there were tents with services that were free of charge. The Berest Dance Center tent held a “Dance Improv,” where kids and families could listen to stories and witness visual interpretations of them. The Weber Technology Exhibit offered brain teasers and puzzles for people to complete.

All the money that was raised through PortFest directly contributes to the promotion of music, the arts, and the community of Port Washington.

“It will go to enriching the fine and performing arts programs in the schools and bringing in special programs,” said Director of Creative Arts Ms. Sheri Suzzan.

HEARTS is also trying to raise enough funds to eventually renovate the Schreiber auditorium.

“I think that we’re really lucky to have an event that supports Port Washington’s music and arts programs. I feel bad for some of the unfortunate schools who have had to cut out their art programs because of budget cuts,” said senior Jennifer Kim.

The community supported and responded well with the attendance to this year’s first PortFest, which will now be an annual event.

“PortFest itself was an exciting and great event for Port Washington and I expect it to remain an integral part of our community for many years to come,” said Aronow. “To have the entire community sharing the arts on a beautiful day shows how great of a town we live in.”



Courtesy of Ms. Cindy Witkow

From left: Ms. Dvorah Troshane, two middle school students, and Ms. Mindy Germain, head of Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington, pose with hand painted recycling bins. Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington sponsored PortFest, and ran a booth at which children could help paint recycling bins. The Town of North Hempstead donated the bins, which will each go to one of the elementary schools.



## Senior Experience showcases skills of students

**BY Minah Kim**  
Assistant News Editor

As the Class of 2012 gets closer to its last days in high school, many seniors still have a few more requirements to complete, including a Senior Experience project. Students can choose to experience a profession, create and innovate using their talents and skills, volunteer and help their community, or explore any other interest.

Since the expansion of the Senior Experience program in 2011 to include mandatory “experiences” for AP students, the scope of projects has expanded. Senior Experience is now a requirement with a 60 hour commitment during their second semester.

“Senior Experience has started to become part of the culture at Schreiber,” said Assistant Principal Mr. Weiss who runs the program. “I presented it at all junior social studies classes and several juniors have already approached me about their projects.”

In the past, seniors have done projects ranging from publishing books to working overseas. This year's seniors are currently working on a variety of projects which they will finish by the end of May.

## Mural Painting

Seniors Elyse Belarge and Dan Preston are painting art over the white walls throughout the school. Both AP Art students are working on painting murals on the cafeteria wall and walls in the social studies wing.

"The cafeteria mural we originally

started inspired us. We had so much fun doing it that we decided ‘why not just do more,’” said Belarge.

Belarge and Preston plan to extend the existing cafeteria mural to the back of the cafeteria. Additionally, working with the social studies department, they will paint “halls of tolerance” in two spots in the social studies wing.

Because both students are in multiple AP classes, they deferred their project until after the completion of all AP tests. This is an option for students taking more than three AP classes. However, deferring their project left them with only a few weeks to complete their project, and the required coordination with the janitors, the cafeteria schedule, and finding supervisors has been a point of their concern.

“Perhaps for me, the most stressful part of the whole experience is the impractical time frame we have to complete it. As a student only taking three APs, I only have a limited amount of time during the school day to complete my hours, and as an employed high school student, I have virtually no time after school hours to work on my project,” said Preston.

Belarge and Preston have already brainstormed, sketched, and extensively planned the murals, but now they need to fundraise for more paint and supplies in order to complete them. Once they accomplish this, they will resume painting.

## Park Grand Opening

In efforts to improve the community, senior Sarah Autz got involved in a public works project in town. She, with active



Courtesy of Sarah Autz

**Senior Sarah Autz helps at the grand opening of Stannard's Brook Park. As part of her Senior Experience project, she helped plan and organize the event.**

town members, has been organizing the grand opening of the eight year project to renovate Stannard's Brook Park.

Mr. Myron Blumenfeld, chairperson of the Port Washington Parks Conservancy (PWPC), chose Autz to aid in the park project.

As part of her project, Autz assisted Ms. Valerie Taylor with planning the grand opening of the park. Autz's main responsibility was to handle press and publicity for the event.

"My main inspiration for this project was Mr. Blumenfeld," said Autz. "He has such passion for his project and such determination that I could not help but be inspired to do the best job possible."

After doing research on the park and its history, Autz drafted a press release and letter to the editor in the Port Washington News and spread posters and signs around town. She gave posters to all science teachers and put up posters in store windows and on telephone poles around town.

"Most of the difficulties I faced dealt with communication issues," said Autz. "Teachers and administrators did not effectively communicate with me, my mentor, or my sponsor."

On May 19, the grand opening day, she helped set up, informed people about the park, and collected donations.

"After working with Mr. Blumenfeld I have found that Senior Experience can actually be somewhat enjoyable if it is a project that you believe in. I have learned that anyone can get involved in their community and make a difference," said Autz.

## Port Pediatrics

Some students have taken advantage of Senior Experience as an opportunity to work in a profession of interest. Senior Yanaira Hazoury is currently interning at Port pediatrics where she not only learns about the job of a doctor, but also contributes her own skills to the practice.

"I decided to do my internship at Port Pediatrics due to the fact that I am

interested in medicine although it is a bit intimidating," said Hazoury.

Her own experiences shaped her desire to work in healthcare.

“If I ever become a doctor I would hope to work with Doctors without Borders. When I went to the Dominican Republic this summer with my family, I saw both children and adults with injuries that seemed easily cured,” said Hazoury.



Courtesy of Dan Preston

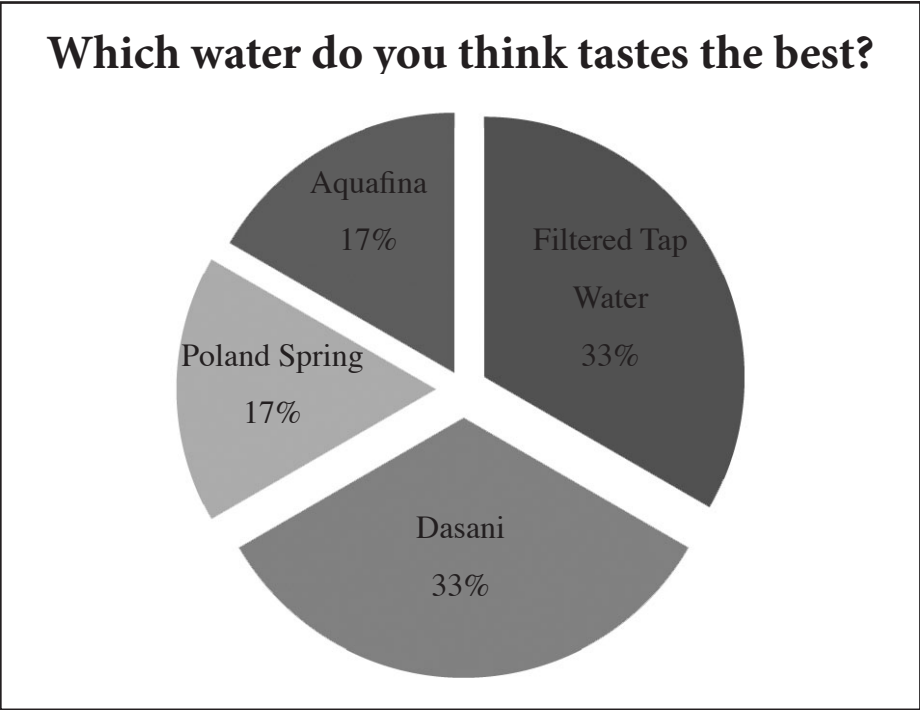
**Seniors Elyse Belarge and Dan Preston sketch their mural on the cafeteria wall. Both students are working on several murals throughout the school.**

After contacting a sponsor and writing a proposal, Hazoury started shadowing her sponsor Dr. Wilkins to experience the daily life of a pediatrician. Since the start of her internship, she has learned how to perform a regular check-up and strep culture and to identify a healthy ear and throat and the symptoms of a cold.

Hazoury has learned new skills while working under a doctor, but she has also helped many patients with her own skills. Fluent in Spanish, she helps her sponsor by translating for Spanish patients.



# Treehuggers sponsor water tasting



BY Rachel Cho and Lena Kogan  
Staff Writers

In order to promote environmentally friendly water-drinking habits among students, the Treehuggers Environmental Club held a “Tap Water Challenge” last month.

“The goal of the Tap Water Challenge was to show people that tap water is just as good as bottled water,” said freshman Tessa Peierls, a member of the Treehuggers club. “You don’t need to waste plastic to get water.”

As part of the event, Treehuggers Club members conducted a blind taste test by giving out samples of Poland Spring,

Dasani, Aquafina, and filtered tap water from the hydration station.

“At first it was kind of a ‘what if?’ situation,” said senior Alison Peraza, president of Treehuggers Club. “What if people think that tap water actually tastes bad?”

Participants were then asked to identify the tap water and the best-tasting water.

“It’s interesting to see how bottled water measures up to tap water,” said Peierls. “Usually, it was far worse.”

At the conclusion of the Tap Water Challenge members of the Treehuggers Club announced the results of their event which indicated a tie for best-tasting between tap water and Dasani. This contradicted a previous poll that asked

students which water they thought tasted best.

“People are under the impression that bottled water tastes better,” said Ms. Julie Barbieri, the Treehuggers Club advisor. “In reality, Dasani and Aquafina are simply municipal water, just like the one that comes out of your filter or faucet.

Although Poland Spring water is the only one of the tested water bottle companies that takes its water from a natural spring, it was voted as one of the worst tasting waters in the blind water test. Dasani, which tied for best taste with tap water, does not come from a natural spring and actually contains various additives to improve the taste.

Peraza developed this idea to support the annual theme of water and a protest against fracking, the common term for hydraulic fracturing, a process which is used to derive natural gas and oil from underground. Water is combined with other compounds to form a substance called fracture or fissure, and is then forced under high pressure into the ground. The pressure then forces the gas to be released into wells for harvesting.

Fracking is responsible for a boon of cheap, low-carbon emission domestic energy, used for over a million wells, but it may have other environmental consequences for surrounding air and water.

“I want to make a difference,” said Peierls. “Small changes can really help the world.”

The Treehuggers’ Tap Water Challenge was a success in proving that filtered tap water is just as good as bottled water.

“It’s cool that it gets people involved,” said Peraza. “For most events, you actually have to be a member of Treehuggers to participate, but this applies to more people.”

# Superintendent Dr. Geoffrey Gordon plans to retire in July

BY Hannah Fagen  
News Editor

When the Board of Education came together to announce the results of next year’s budget vote, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon had an entirely different message on his agenda. On the evening of May 15, Dr. Gordon announced that after ten years in the school district, he plans to retire from his position as superintendent of schools on July 31.

“I chose this time to announce it because I wanted to ensure the attention of the community was on the budget and bond vote, and the best interests of the community were kept in focus rather than any individual attention on me,” said Dr. Gordon.

The following day he elaborated on his decision to retire in a letter addressed to the students, staff, and community of Port Washington. His letter detailed some of the major changes and events within the past ten years in the district, and his hopes for the future of Port Washington schools.

In the letter, Dr. Gordon made mention of this year’s successful budget and roof bonds, in which nearly three quarters of all votes were in favor of both of the plans. He also referred to some of the district’s largest financial endeavors, including the construction of the turf, the Slade Center for the Arts, and the new track. He acknowledged that the school district has reached many of the goals that he had set for academics, athletics, the arts, and volunteerism for his time as superintendent.

“The goals I set for soaring student achievement and unifying our community when I arrived ten years ago have been accomplished,” said Dr. Gordon. “When I left AT&T 15 years ago, it was to dedicate myself to public service and through teaching and administration, help set a positive course for education and students who are the future of a stronger USA.”

Dr. Gordon has no definitive plans for next year, as of yet. He is looking into options in education both at the K-12 and university levels, in school districts in five states. Dr. Gordon is also considering the possibility of going back into business. But, for now, Dr. Gordon plans to stay on board in the Port Washington Union Free School District to ensure that the move to a new superintendent goes smoothly.

“For now, I will help the Port Washington district in the transition,” said Dr. Gordon. “I did that in my last district.”

Before coming to Port, Dr. Gordon worked as the Superintendent of Schools and, before that, high school principal, in New Providence, NJ. Before working in New Providence, Dr. Gordon served as Vice Principal, social studies teacher, and athletic coach in several districts.

“Dr. Gordon is a man who has given us ten good years of leadership,” said Board of Education member Mr. Robert Ryan. “He has given us the benefit of his business background, his education background, and his great sense of humor. He will be missed.”

# Kitchen fire neccesitates full evacuation

BY Minah Kim  
Assistant News Editor

In the midst of the first Advanced Placement testing week, the fire alarms went off because of an incident in the kitchen. On May 10, students, staff, and faculty inside had to leave the school building during the second half of 4-1.

Excessive smoke from cooking marinated chicken in the kitchen set off the fire alarms. Everyone, including students sitting for AP tests, had to follow fire drill procedures and evacuate the building.

“I knew this wasn’t a fire drill because APs were going on,” said junior Emily Hack. “I was worried that there was a real fire.”

Morning tests had finished shortly before, and students were sitting for the AP Japanese and AP Latin exams. The students sitting for the Japanese exam already started testing while those taking the Latin exam had not received the test booklet when the alarms rang. Although testing had not started yet for everyone, all the students were required to remain silent, in accordance with College Board procedures.

“It was taken kind of seriously, but because we hadn’t started yet it wasn’t that bad,” said senior Ali McCann, who took the AP Latin exam.

The fire also interrupted other students who were taking their finals in class, such



Hannah Fagen

**Classes wait along the sidewalk as a firetruck comes up Campus Drive. Firemen and police officers investigated the school for approximately 20 minutes before students and staff could re-enter and continue with their classes and exams.**

as AP United States History.

“It was inconvenient because we missed almost half the class during our final. I did have as much time as I would have liked to take the test,” said junior Dana Mirro.

Students and staff were able to enter the building after police and firefighters investigated the situation. Students had

been waiting outside for about twenty minutes before they returned inside.

This was similar to an incident several years ago when the fire alarm rang during AP testing. Because the students remained silent while outside and did not compromise testing conditions, they continued taking their tests when they returned to the building.



# School community celebrates Shakespeare Day



Harry Paul

Many faculty members, including Principal Mr. Ira Pernick and Shakespeare Day Faculty Coordinator Ms. Donna Valenti, participated in a fashion show, which displayed the different types of jobs that existed during the Elizabethan era.



Harry Paul

Junior Julia Bain and senior Jesse Weil prepare to sing the "Shakespeare Day Song," which is a parody of the song "Beethoven Day" from the musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.



Harry Paul

Science teachers Ms. Christine Nelson and Ms. Joy Grasso-Krebs sing "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" from the musical *Kiss Me, Kate*, which is based on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*.

## Port Washington voters pass budget for next school year

BY Ana Espinoza

Staff Writer

After a season of budgetary debates and decisions, local voters passed the budget for the 2012-2013 school year. The proposed budget, which consists of nearly \$133.5 million, passed with 2,547 votes in favor of approval and 845 against approval on May 15. As a result, the school district tax levy will increase by 2.07 percent, which is within the recently instated New York State limit of 2.13 percent.

Residents placed their ballots for the budget vote between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. at Daly Elementary School, Sousa Elementary School, Salem Elementary School, and Weber Middle School. A \$6.975 million bond to repair and replace roofs at Guggenheim, Sousa, Weber, and Schreiber and a vote to elect three uncontested school board members were also on the ballot.

Any citizens who were 18 years old or older and residents of the Port Washington School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote were eligible to register.

"The budget this year is a thoughtful proposal that's within the guidelines set by the state, so it does not exceed the tax cap," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. "I think it's what the community is looking for."

Even though the budget passed with a monetary increase, increases in energy costs and teacher raises mandate that the district make cuts to keep the budget balanced. Next year, there will be fewer classes for some electives due to retiring teachers who will not be replaced, as well as a reduction in the number of clubs offered.

"The budget not passing would have had far-reaching implications, and it would have presented a lot of problems," said Mr. Pernick.

The Board of Education started developing a budget proposal that would appeal to residents since the beginning of the school year.

"I think the Board, the administrators, and the superintendent have worked very hard to be respectful of the economic times and still maintain programs for students," said Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres.

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## Point

## Counterpoint

## Should students have to post college decisions on Naviance?

By Michelle Gil

Staff Writer

College decisions are known, deposits have been sent, Facebook groups have been joined, and a million items with your future school's name on it have been purchased. But, as we current seniors breathe a collective sigh of relief, a new year of kids is gearing up for the terrifying, exciting journey that is the college process.

Chances are, one of the first steps they're going to make is to their Naviance accounts. They can compare their grades and test scores to those of other students from Schreiber from the past few years who applied—and who may or may not have gotten in—to their colleges of choice. All of this, of course, relies on the outgoing seniors updating their college decisions (good or bad) on their Naviance accounts.

Currently, it is mandatory for seniors to update Naviance with their results, and for good reason.

Most important is the concept of paying it forward. Outgoing seniors used Naviance for help in the college process, have now finished the process, and have received (hopefully mostly good) results. So now it's time to make sure next year's seniors have the same success.

If updating Naviance weren't mandatory, many of the students who are completely apathetic or even antipathetic toward the college process wouldn't update, leaving the system with a lack of information for the next batch of students.

The efficacy of Naviance depends on knowing the results of all students at all of the schools to which they applied in order to give an accurate picture of what the rising seniors should expect.

Some argue that there are plenty of other resources out there for students to see data on what colleges are looking for—nationally released Common Data Sets from each school, the data and graphs on the website College Prowler, and the tension-filled “What Are My Chances?” board at the website College Confidential.

But while these may give average GPAs and test scores for prospective and admitted students around the world, they are lacking a very important element: context. Without the context of our own school for comparison, a student's grades and scores mean virtually nothing. Perhaps University X usually accepts kids with GPAs of 3.8. But on our scale of 4.5 with additional weighting, what does that even mean?

“I checked Naviance for all of the schools I applied to. It even gave me confidence to apply to a few schools that

I hadn't previously considered an option for me,” said senior Brian Aronow.

Whether searching for possible safety schools or looking to see if there is any hope for acceptance at a dream school, Naviance is invaluable in offering a standard to measure against.

If used correctly, Naviance can be invaluable. It helps to show the patterns of how universities feel about students from Schreiber, and lets you know if you fall within that pattern. If your stats are fairly lower than those of students admitted to a school from Schreiber, you know not to count on that school as a safety or even a target.

By Erin Choe and Hallie Whitman

Staff Writers

With the end of the school year quickly approaching, most seniors have made their final decisions about where to attend college this fall.

Now that these decisions have been finalized, seniors are required to post their final choices on Naviance, the website through

incorrectly rely on the Naviance data to determine their chances of being accepted into a school.”

Colleges do not only evaluate an applicant based on SAT scores or GPA; they also take into account a student's extracurricular activities and personality. A student is so much more than a dot on a scattergram chart.

“Naviance gives a good range of those accepted to a particular school from Schreiber alone,” said senior Nina Devas. “However, just because a student does not fall into the range on the graph, it does not mean the student will not be accepted. Colleges look at an applicant as a whole person, not just their range on a chart.”

Another flaw of the Naviance system is that it only compares a student to the limited number of previous seniors who applied to that school.

Since Naviance only shows data from Schreiber applicants, it does not completely reflect the college's standards for admission.

“Naviance only gives a percentage based on the number of students applying from Schreiber,” said Oelbaum. “For this reason, the scattergram chart displayed on Naviance is not accurate. A more precise data chart would include students from all districts who applied previous years to that specific college.”

Being compelled to use Naviance could also be considered a violation of privacy.

Students should not have to post their college decisions if they do not feel comfortable posting their

choices. Even if the system allows applicants to

remain anonymous, students may feel

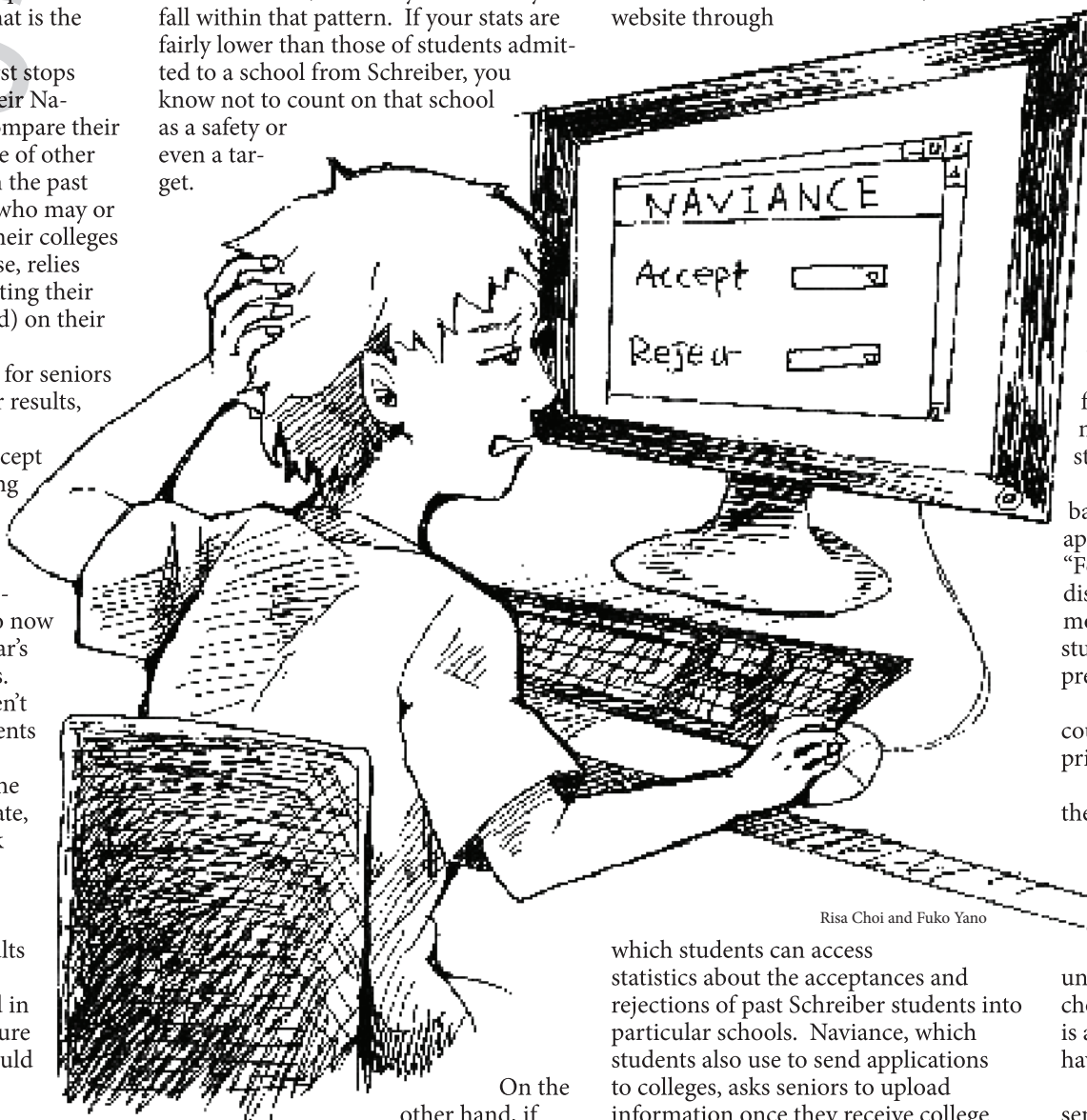
uncomfortable reporting their college choices. Rejection, or even acceptance, is a very personal matter that should not have to be shared online.

“I think that many of my fellow seniors would not feel comfortable posting their decisions online, especially if they were rejected,” said senior Jennifer Kim.

It is clearly not necessary to post college results on Naviance. The Naviance system provides an inaccurate representation that misleads students to base their decisions solely on data from past Schreiber students.

“College admission is not something that should be publicly posted for all other students to reference. It is a private matter that does not apply to other students, so the school should not require applicants to post their results in a public setting,” said Kim.

Also, it puts students in an uncomfortable position in which they are required to report such personal matters. The results of the college application process should remain in the hands of the applicant and the applicant alone.



Risa Choi and Fuko Yano

On the other hand, if

you find out your stats are on par or higher than the general admitted Schreiber student for a school you'd always hoped to get into, you can sleep just a little bit easier at night.

“Naviance wasn't, by itself, necessarily completely accurate in telling me where I would or wouldn't get in,” said senior Dani DiCaro. “But coupled with other tools, it was really helpful in figuring out where to apply.”

Naviance can't predict the future for you; it can't tell you whether you'll find a big envelope in your mailbox or not. But, now that the dust has settled on our college journey, we should leave behind a bit of our legacy to help out the Class of 2017, so that maybe next spring, they'll be able to update their accounts with good news and no regrets.

which students can access statistics about the acceptances and rejections of past Schreiber students into particular schools. Naviance, which students also use to send applications to colleges, asks seniors to upload information once they receive college decisions about which schools they were accepted to and which schools they were rejected from.

While this process is intended to be anonymous and to help future students assess the statistics at particular schools, it actually provides inaccurate representations of the information and is a violation of the privacy of students who may not be comfortable sharing their personal decisions.

One problem with Naviance is that it only displays a student's GPA and SAT and ACT scores, measures that do not accurately represent student achievement.

“Naviance can be misleading for those who are applying to that particular school,” said senior Ashley Oelbaum.

“Some students think that if they fall into a certain range on the scattergram, then they will or won't get in. They



# Why students should go clubbing

BY **Charmaine Ye**

Staff Writer

Do you like to go clubbing? Then look no further!

Schreiber offers 46 clubs and about 15 teams in which students can participate. Additionally, students are able to suggest new ideas for clubs whenever they want; all they need are signatures and a teacher for support and supervision.

Many sports have junior varsity and varsity teams, allowing students of different abilities to participate.

With so many choices and opportunities, students should not have a hard time getting involved, and joining an extracurricular activity or sports team is of the utmost importance to becoming a well-rounded student.

There are many benefits to taking part in an extracurricular activity. For example, extracurriculars help students become more involved in Schreiber in ways other than their school work.

It's very important for students to show school spirit, and extracurriculars demonstrate that students are comfortable in and proud of the institution that has provided them with the education that will take them toward future goals.

Clubs and sports also make school more fun by allowing students to meet and form connections with more people than they would otherwise.

"I like playing on the volleyball team because it's a great way to meet new

friends," said freshman Jared Kaminsky. "It's good to be involved in the school in ways other than academics."

Extracurricular clubs and sports also allow students to get to know teachers they might not otherwise meet.

Joining an extracurricular activity is also a great time management method. Because many clubs have meetings after school,

Many times, students who decide to not join a club or sports team get home every day and lounge around for the next three hours before starting any homework. As much as a salty snack and the latest episodes of *SpongeBob* sound like great ways to relax,

So wouldn't it be smarter to spend that extra time after school hanging out with friends and doing something productive for yourself and for your school?

Clubs are also beneficial in allowing students to learn important skills they can apply to other areas of their lives.

"Through drama club, I learned about various dramatic techniques such as how to deliver monologues that I can use in the school's drama productions," said sophomore Jack Fishman.

Personally, as someone who first came to the school last year, I can say that the best part of being engaged in extracurricular activities has been the opportunity to branch out and make tons of new friends.

In a school of approximately 1,250 kids, it is hard to find friends that you can connect with. Extracurricular activities helped make that process easier for me.

So whether you like dancing, reading, running, or talking, there is an extracurricular activity or sport at Schreiber for everyone.



Chris Goh

get their

done,

with less time for procrastination

and more for productivity.

students are later forced to work diligently to homework done, with less time for procrastination and more for productivity.

## Schreiber partakes in the digital revolution

BY **Aaron Bialer**

Staff Assistant

Schreiber is going paperless. Every newsletter, progress report, and report card for this school year is going to be sent out electronically to parents through PortNet. The decision to go paperless is great on many levels, as Schreiber is finally following the efforts of the rest of the world to reduce waste.

"It sounds like a great idea, and appears to be very easy to use," said foreign language teacher Ms. Cherie Delio. "Once we get used to it, it will work well."

First of all, sending out paper copies wastes an enormous amount of paper, and is harmful to our environment.

While the individual student may think he/she receives a small number of printed documents, multiple papers are sent to every student in the school—and it adds up.

With the increased environmental consciousness that has affected our society in recent years, Schreiber's initiative seems like a fitting course of action.

A number of parents in the district are comfortable using the Internet, so this amount of paper seems rather excessive.

It is also more convenient for parents to view things online, as the Internet is a more reliable and rapid source of information transmission than the paper mail of the past.

"The online report cards are better as a whole because our school is saving the environment by using less paper," said junior Shari Meltzer.

The school is aware that they may need to help parents adjust to the new system, but once parents are used to it, it will be much more convenient.

The school will help ease the transition by offering hard copies at parents' requests.

Aside from the environmental benefits of going paperless, Schreiber's new initiative also helps save money. Sending out mail costs the school a substantial amount of money, which could easily be saved by going paperless. The money saved on paper costs can now be allocated elsewhere for more productive uses.

"There were several factors that influenced this decision," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick.

First

was the amount of mail we sent out as a school and the costs associated with it.

Second was the knowledge that other school districts had made this change over years ago. I am excited for this to begin and look forward to the first progress report. I am a big fan of utilizing the website and its capabilities more often and this is just another potential use."

Also, going paperless takes away the stress of losing report cards or important newsletter. No longer will parents and students be stuck waiting for mail to arrive.

It also takes away from the stress of tearing that envelope opened with the

anticipation of seeing what is written inside.

Every newsletter or report card will be immediately sent out to everyone, and no longer will there be those few individuals who suffer from bad luck and get report cards days late or not at all.

"It was always extremely stressful to wait for my report cards in the mail," said senior Deidre Hanson. "Now, I am excited that I will be able to view grades online. It seems like it will be a much more economical system for everyone involved."

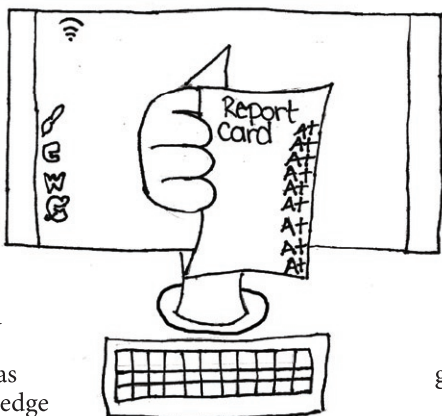
This new system also prevents the classic sitcom scenario in which students hide their report cards or change the grades before their parents can see them.

Now, parents will be notified instantly when grades and progress reports are posted. This ensures that parents will constantly remain informed about their children's grades.

There truly is no downside to the decision. This new initiative will prove to be beneficial for everyone involved, and there are no foreseeable consequences.

Schreiber's decision to go paperless is not only beneficial for the school and the environment, but also for students and their parents.

Going digital is simply the right choice, and Schreiber is making the right move by joining the rest of the world in moving towards a paperless future.



Alicia Diaz

## Students have no time for electives

BY **Emma Brezel**

Staff Writer

On the first day of Mr. Petro Macri-giane's AP Comparative Government and Politics class, he called our names out one at a time and asked each of us to stand up in front of the class and explain why we were taking his class.

Students who choose to take AP classes ask themselves this same question a million times a day, often late at night when they are finally finished with their 40 math questions, four-page Spanish essays, and poetic analyses that were probably due yesterday.

Most students would not admit this, but ultimately many are suffering through these rigorous, high-level classes mainly for boosts on their college applications.

Starting in middle school, students can choose to test into more advanced classes. From then on, those students are placed on a certain track that will take them through to their senior years.

Students who opt into these more advanced tracks during middle school end up loading their high school schedules with multiple advanced classes.

These students might end up missing out on classes that would be more interesting to them because they feel obligated to take a class that is at the AP or honors level instead of a regular level elective.

"I have always wanted to take some type of art class, but I feel pressure to stick to the more advanced track in all my subjects so there is really no room in my schedule for art," said senior Lani Hack.

Many students, especially as they get closer to senior year and applying to college, feel the need to cram their schedules with as many AP classes as possible because "it looks better" on a resume, even if they really dislike the subject.

"It's wrong for students to feel pressure because they should be able to decide how they want to spend their time and not have to worry about the future side effects," said senior Michael Sperling.

This whole predicament is especially unfortunate because our school offers a wide variety of interesting electives, such as Zoology and Fashion Design, and many students don't ever get the opportunity to take advantage of them.

In a perfect world, high school would be a time for students to explore fields of study that they are truly passionate about.

"Overall it's been really tough to work my schedule around the electives that I really want to take because I'm taking 5 APs as a senior," said senior Leah Weingast.

Unfortunately, the sad reality is that the majority of students are forced to consider what college admissions officers will think. Applying to college has become so competitive that students feel that even adding one more AP class to their schedule instead of art or music will give them the edge over another applicant.

Although this is inevitably the truth, students should try to think less about credits and more about their true, long-term interests.



# Parent involvement in prom should be limited

BY **Natasha Talukdar**  
*Staff Writer*

Prom night is considered the most important evening of the year for many high school students. With long-term planning and stressing, excitement builds up quickly for this special night. The thrill of pre-prom, after-prom, and the prom itself, is something that is inevitably felt by every attending student.

But what about parent involvement? Parents may be the people who pay for your entrance to prom, your dresses and tuxes, all other accessories and maybe even hair and nail

appointments. Often, these are the only things students want their parents to be involved with.

Events like after-prom can be something uncomfortable to discuss with parents and pre-prom can be something of an embarrassment, with crowds of teary parents and multiple cameras flashing simultaneously.

“With dress shopping and pre-prom planning, my mom was really involved,” said senior Sarah Autz. “My parents are always involved in everything I do, and I think they rightfully should be. For example, pre-prom is a great time to take lots of pictures and make memories of us kids growing up.”

Students look forward to celebrating

the near end of the school year. Parents often cherish seeing how much their children have grown.

But is monitoring their children and their every movement during prom night a good idea?

The fear of alcohol, drug use, and automobile crashes are only some of the many nightmares high school parents experience.

A simple talk may not be enough for some parents, leaving them wanting more comfort in knowing their child is safe.

But the alternative is sometimes not acceptable to the student. Some parents may wait right in front of the prom location, ready to pick up their child the minute prom is over.

“Prom is always a bit stressful but a lot of fun,” said Ms. Shahnaz Autz, Sarah’s mother. “It is enjoyable

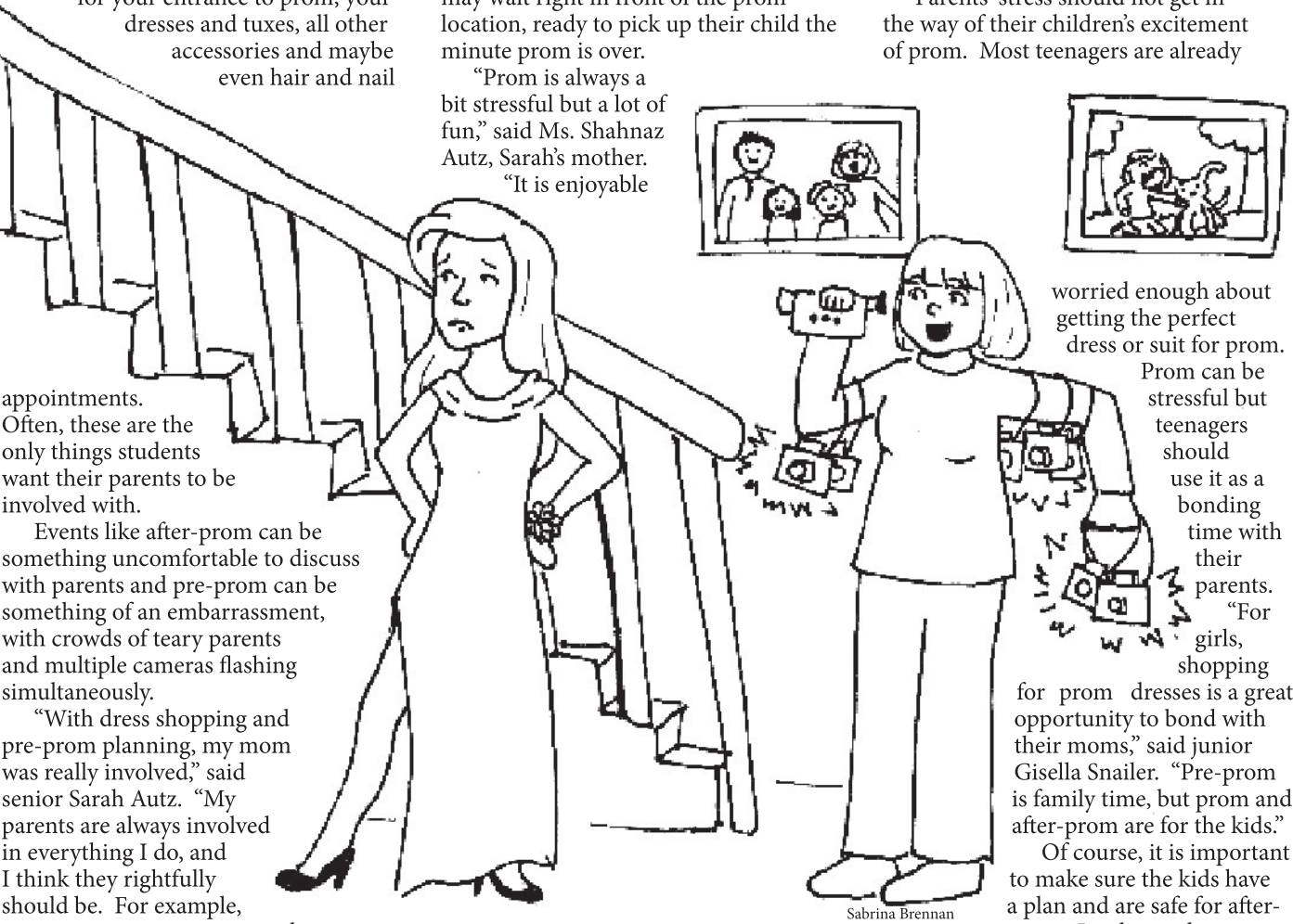
and emotional for us parents, but you still feel responsible for the choices they are making. I basically left everything up to

Sarah so she would enjoy after prom as best as she could. I left it open so she and her friends would feel responsible. Being supportive is key.”

Establishing trust between parents and children is the most important thing. Parents should leave their child to enjoy their special night, but they should also establish ground rules. After all, parents only want their children to be safe.

“Parents should be informed about what their kids want to do,” says Autz. “They should inquire to make sure that everything is legitimate and they should make sure that everything is safe.

Parents’ stress should not get in the way of their children’s excitement of prom. Most teenagers are already



worried enough about getting the perfect dress or suit for prom. Prom can be stressful but teenagers should use it as a bonding time with their parents. “For girls, shopping for prom dresses is a great opportunity to bond with their moms,” said junior Gisella Snailer. “Pre-prom is family time, but prom and after-prom are for the kids.”

Of course, it is important to make sure the kids have a plan and are safe for after-prom. It is better, however that parents do not interfere too much, since this is our special night.

# Vending machines offer lower prices for unhealthy options

BY **Hallie Whitman**  
*Staff Writer*

During periods 4-1 and 4-2, long lines at vending machines are a common sight. Students gather their change and wait their turns to purchase a drink or snack to satisfy themselves.

Unfortunately, many students select sugar filled sodas, iced teas, or energy drinks, instead of water or any other healthier choice.

**In a school that regularly emphasizes healthy eating and nutritious options in the cafeteria, it seems ironic to charge more for water than soda and other sugary drinks.**

In recent years, campaigns promoting healthy and fit lifestyles featuring less sugar and more nutritious choices have

gained momentum worldwide. Countless groups have worked to educate the general population about the importance of maintaining a healthy diet and exercising regularly.

At Schreiber, both administrators and nutrition experts from the community have worked to take several necessary steps to update the school’s food service in order to ensure that healthy food is featured prominently on the cafeteria’s menu and to eliminate unhealthy drinks and snacks.

However, in the school’s many vending machines, the prices of various drinks seem to contradict this emphasis on nutrition. While bottles of water cost \$1.50, cans of soda, iced tea, and energy drinks cost only \$1.00.

In a school that regularly emphasizes healthy eating and nutritious options in the cafeteria, it seems ironic to charge more for water than soda and other sugary drinks.

Sodas, iced teas, and energy drinks are packed with sugar, caffeine, and artificial substances such as high fructose corn syrup.

On the other hand, the human body

uses water to flush out the body’s systems to protect from disease and toxins. Drinking water and staying hydrated throughout the day is crucial in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The school has even installed a hydration station to encourage students to not only protect the environment, but also to drink water in lieu of unhealthy drinks.

In addition, students do not have to pay to refill a water bottle at the hydration station, further adding to the incentive to drink water.

Because of water’s obvious health benefits over soda, the school should encourage students to purchase water from the vending machines or refill bottles at the hydration station instead of buying the other unhealthier drinks most students usually select.

However, the vending machines’ prices send the opposite message.

Because of this price gap, it would be beneficial to reexamine the prices of drinks in the vending machine so they can better encourage students to lead healthier lifestyles.

# Embrace your inner meme

BY **Elana Galassi**  
*Photo Editor*

What is a meme? Pronounced “MEEM,” the term was originally coined by evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins as a cultural equivalent of a gene, but current students use it to describe a picture with a caption that likely had its beginning in the underground of popular websites like Reddit or 4chan.

These humble beginnings may leave one dumbfounded as to why they are so popular all of a sudden. The answer? They are hilarious.

When a meme becomes extremely popular within a short period of time, it is said to have “gone viral.” When something goes viral, it can be expected that within the days that follow, the meme will make an appearance on the local news station.

Although some may label memes as mean-spirited, if made correctly, the humor is usually of a higher standard than found anywhere else on the world wide web.

References to obscure television shows, underground music artists, and books tend to go over the head of the average internet-goer.

When someone becomes a meme, he tends to take it in stride. Zeddie Little, otherwise known as “Ridiculously Photogenic Running Guy,” has approached his newfound internet fame with good cheer. He does television interviews, and enjoys the funny tag lines that accompany his picture.

Despite the fact that the memes themselves may appear to be a form of bullying, administrators may be overestimating the mean-spiritedness and seriousness of memes.

For example, on the High School Memes website, students often just poke fun at their friends, as is evident from responses on Facebook.

If a meme is written about you, you should not be offended by it, even if it says something that could be hurtful. The writer is hiding behind a computer, clearly not having the courage to insult you to your face. A meme may even give you an opportunity to laugh at yourself: something that everyone can afford to learn how to do.

Besides, a meme can be a path to newfound fame and fortune. Since becoming a meme, Zeddie Little’s photo has had over 1.5 million web searches.

All serious matters aside, memes tend to be used by those who frequent certain websites as a way to make fun of something in pop culture.

Used to make a mockery of things like middle schoolers’ lack of musical knowledge or a teachers’ faux-pas, memes are just people’s way of expressing themselves on the internet. The memes usually aren’t meant to be mean spirited, and are often pretty comical.

Who knows? Maybe your next clumsy fall will send you on a trip to internet stardom.



# Editorials

## Supporting same-sex marriage

In the midst of one of the most important years for gay rights since the Stonewall Rebellion and the days of Harvey Milk, President Barack Obama came out in strong support of same sex marriage.

Activism promoting tolerance has experienced rapid growth with the initiation of the “It Gets Better” project, which was created to assure high school students of the bright future that lies ahead of them despite being bullied for their sexual preference.

Currently same sex marriage is legal in six states, including New York and Iowa, but it does not have recognition from the federal government.

At first it was not the president, but Vice President Joe Biden who stated his own opinion on the issue.

“I am absolutely comfortable with the fact that men marrying men, women marrying women and heterosexual men and women marrying one another are entitled to the same exact rights, all the civil rights, all the civil liberties,” said Vice President Biden.

However, after his vice president’s unexpected statements, the president did not immediately come out in full support of his second-in-command. Since his election, President Obama had only taken a strong stance against a proposed North Carolina state constitutional amendment to bar same-sex marriages and civil unions and the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell,” policy in the U.S. military.

However he had not specifically supported the legalization of same-sex marriage, with a lukewarm endorsement of civil unions.

David Axlerod, the president’s senior campaign strategist, told reporters for the *Chicago Tribune* that Biden’s comments were “entirely consistent with the president’s position, which is that couples who are married, whether they’re gay or heterosexual couples, are entitled to the very same rights and the very same liberties.”

But that wasn’t exactly what gay rights activists had heard out of Biden’s mouth just a day earlier, and they seemed to like what Biden was saying a whole lot better.

“Any reasonable person watching that broadcast of *Meet the Press* yesterday walked away with the impression that Vice President Biden supported marriage equality,” said Fred Sainz of the Human Rights Campaign, a group that lobbies for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people’s rights, in a public statement.

However on May 9, Obama belatedly decided to offer a firm opinion of his own.

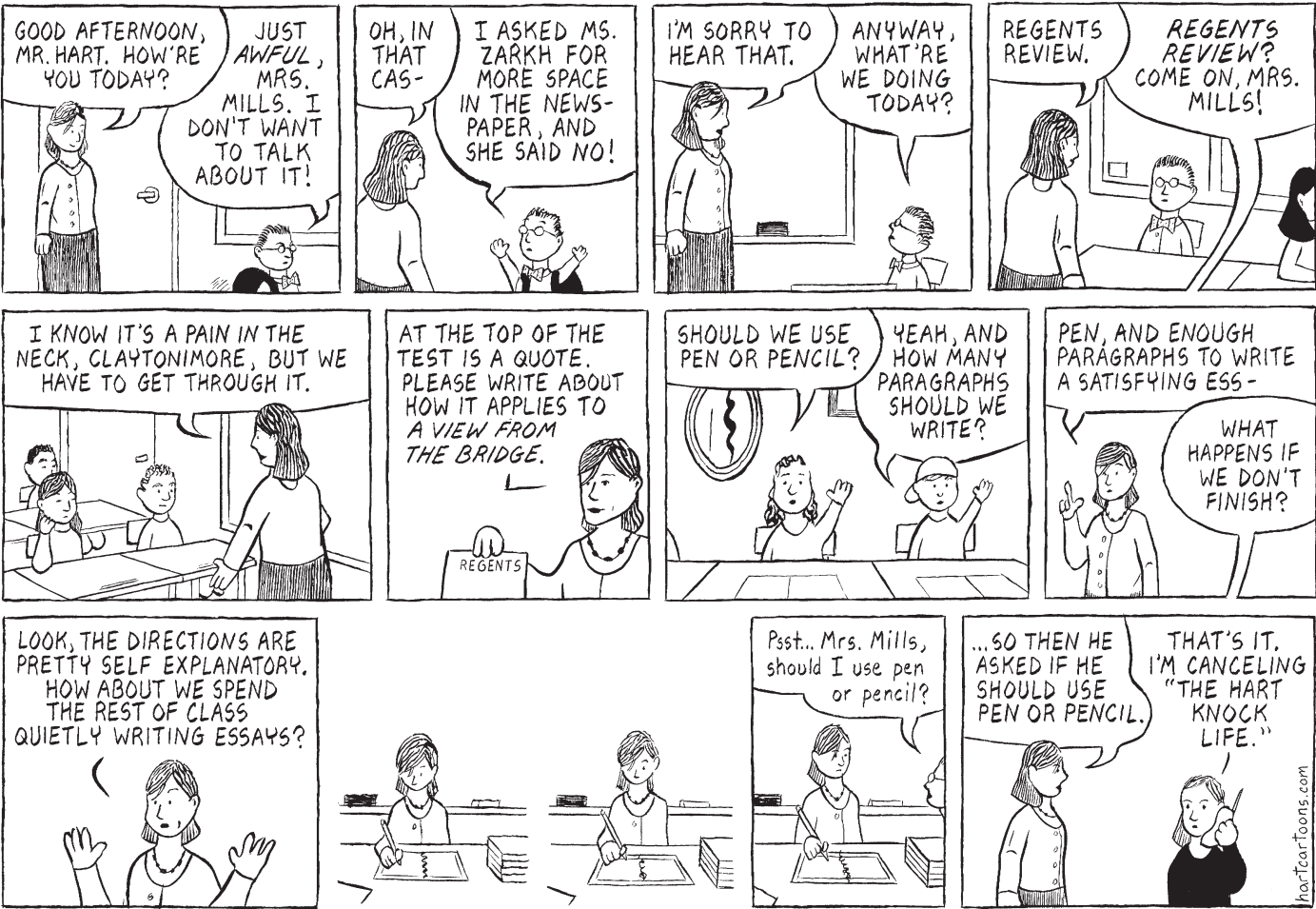
“I’ve just concluded that, for me personally, it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married,” said President Obama in an interview with Robin Roberts of *Good Morning, America*.

In many ways, what Obama ultimately dictated during his ABC interview was the inevitable end to his “intellectual wandering.”

Hopefully this presidential support will evoke a greater sense of tolerance within Schreiber, allowing gay students to feel support not only from their teachers and peers but from the U.S. president.

*The Schreiber Times* supports Obama’s ultimate statement on the issue, despite risking political dissent in an election year. While this decision may cost him some conservative votes in the polls, it will hopefully earn him many more with his strong support for same-sex marriage.

## The Hart Knock Life



# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

After many wonderful years working in the Port Washington schools, we have decided to retire at the end of this current school year. It has been a joy working with all the extraordinary children in the regular class-room setting as well as in our special reading classes. We will never forget them and thank them for all their remarkable efforts and love.

We would like to especially thank all the parents and members of the PTA who supported our endeavors by sharing their children with us and giving of their time and expertise.

Their children are wonderful and the time the parents give on so many projects at Manorhaven helps support the rich cultural climate that is part of the Manorhaven community. Most of all, we appreciate our working together as partners to allow our children to grow academically.

Thank you to the members of the larger Port Washington community who assist us in so many ways. The children’s physical, emotional as well as cultural and academic needs are so much a part of your agenda. Your generosity has not gone unnoticed.

Most of all we would like to thank all of the teachers, nurses, and support staff at Manorhaven and across the district. It has been a privilege growing and sharing with you professionally for many years. As part of the Manorhaven staff, we have worked among the best and brightest.

The many unique talents coupled with a spirit of sharing and trust create an exceptional learning community of which we are so proud and fortunate to have been a part for many years.

We have worked with several dedicated principals over the years. It has been a privilege to end our careers with Bonni Cohen. Her leadership blended with her compassion has enabled Manorhaven to continue to flourish as a vibrant learning

community.

A special thank you to our clerical, custodial and kitchen staffs, whose services each day make our jobs so much easier and more pleasant.

Thank you to the administration for providing us with the opportunities we need to become the best professionals in order to serve our students well.

It is with hearts filled with very special memories of our students and friends and an awareness of how fortunate we have been each day at Manorhaven School that we bid a fond adieu.

~Pat Lynch and Louise Pennisi

*Note: On Thursday, June 7 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., there will be a retirement party at the Port Washington Yacht Club, 1 Yacht Club Drive, for Ms. Pat Lynch and Ms. Louise Pennisi, Reading Teachers at Manorhaven School.*

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.



# School library smuggling: a history and a guide

BY Charmaine Ye and Danielle Ostrove  
Contributing Writer and Staff Writer

The library has always been the go-to spot for many kids during their off periods. Whether it is to get some homework done, take a nap, read a book, or simply because there is nowhere else to go, the library is where many kids end up sometime during the week.

Like many public libraries, the school “hotspot” has rules that kids try to break every day, creating a constant struggle between rebellious students and librarians.

On any given day, one can view students relentlessly try to sneak in their lunch or an afternoon snack, thinking they can pull off the innocuous misdemeanor without getting caught. And usually, they do.

Perhaps the librarians even get a hoot of laughter when they see how much effort it takes us to bring in a little morsel to snack on when we attempt to finish a last minute homework assignment or study for a test the next period.

After interviewing some librarians, we have come to a conclusion that they have usual suspects that come into the library to cause disruptions.

There may even be some students who enter the library only with the goal of causing a ruckus and ultimately getting kicked out.

If you thought you were on the librarians’ bad side for bringing in a bag of pretzels, fear not. You don’t compare to the kid that once brought a whole breakfast buffet, complete with waffles, eggs, bagels, bacon, and pancakes, into the library and just sat down eating.

Although we didn’t attempt any stunts nearly comparable to those of our



Harry Paul

Juniors Charmaine Ye (left) and Danielle Ostrove (right) defy the rules of the library by sneaking in pizza and a panda pillow pet.

predecessors, we did decide to go on a little mission of our own.

We noticed that many of the students like to take naps in the cubicles during their off periods.

Of course no nap is complete without a pillow, so we decided to bring our pillow pets to the library. The outcome: success.

For those of you who think you might like to try this out, I would love to tell you about how we dressed in black and scaled the walls with our pillow pets in tow. But this was not the case.

Instead, one of us walked straight into the library carrying a large plastic bag

with a pillow pet inside of it, in plain sight. She walked nonchalantly toward the first open cubicle. She sat down, took out the pillow and took a nice, long nap.

We noticed that the librarians never said a word, although some of the kids who wanted to do some work did not seem too happy about a kid taking a nap.

When the bell rang, we packed up the pillow and left the library without any trouble.

So, next time you plan on catching up on those “Zzzz,” it seems that bringing in a nice comfy pillow is acceptable in the library.

## Challenge: spend a day without “ums” and “likes” *Students use crutch words as a basic social language*

BY Rebecca Herz  
Contributing Writer

It is incredible how often we use crutch words. It does not even matter really who we are speaking with or about what topic.

We inevitably lean on them more heavily when we are nervous, rubbing our sweaty palms on our jeans, trying to look casual and, hopefully, intelligent, or when our classes have left us so depleted of energy that between caffeine jitters all we can muster up is a half-a-dozen “likes” per sentence, with “ums” enough to fill in any brain vacancies.

For many students, crutch words are a social language, much like texting or instant messaging.

However, some among us dare to ask themselves why, and how, they have become so dependent on this terse, empty language. Moreover, without “like” or “um,” what would our everyday conversations sound like? How would we, as a society, interact differently?

So I decided to put my linguistics to the test. For one day, I had a mission—no crutch words.

I wish I could tell you that my command over the English language was sufficient enough to conquer such a task. After all, it should be easy; 12 hours without an utterance of only two words—

“like” and “um.” But it was not at all what I expected it to be, and it soon became a challenge that led me down the steep road to speechlessness. The following is a taste of my experience.

I walk into my first period French class, over to my friend, to eat her food. But, to my dismay, the second I try to string together a sentence I find, already, that I am dodging those two words that seem to shoot out of my mouth like fireballs.

For a split moment I thought of trying to translate (badly) in my head what I had to say into French, but of course, then she might not get it at all. Then I had the brilliant idea of talking in a British accent.

Soon enough I felt a mind-boggling vacancy under my armpits, where of course, the crutches are supposed to rest. It was as if I was wobbling through my own dictations, dancing on tiptoes in the spaces between what I had the urge to communicate, and what I could actually say.

So, instead of saying, “Hey Ash, do you um, have any like, um, Chewy Bars,” what came out of my mouth was, “Hi Ashley, I was wondering if perhaps you would be willing to lend me a chewy textured granola bar.”

And I had to ask myself—is there no happy medium between a complete overexertion of linguistics, and a normal, human sentence?

After a long day of no “likes” or “ums,” I have to admit there were various slipups; however, failing caused me to ask myself why it had to be so hard.

I mean, after all of the time we spend as students working on the rhetorical triangle, vocabulary, essays, debate, etc. how can we not have such a secure command of our spoken language? Have our relationships made it easy to get away with relaxed language, so that it is always taking on the form of casual conversation?

In truth, I found during those 12 hours, the challenge of banning crutch words has its roots in our tendency, as Americans, to take liberties with language.

After all, American English has always been, since its humble beginnings, a conglomeration of many flavors, a “melting pot” of phonetics and linguistics that both contend with and complement one another.

Perhaps “like” and “um” are another part of what makes American language unique, alive, interesting. But it is equally possible that “like” and “um” are just sloppy teenager habits.

Here is my challenge to you: for one day, and one day only, put down your crutches. Let yourself wobble. See how long you can balance on your own linguistic resources.

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hreiber  
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BY Hannah Fagen  
News Editor

Sometime in the not-too-distant future there may be a whole new way to prevent the transmission of HIV between sexual partners.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is in the process of approving a drug normally used to treat HIV and AIDS for the prevention of these illnesses.

Truvada is a once-a-day antiretroviral pill and is the number one prescribed medication for HIV patients to take as a part of their combination HIV therapy.

HIV is a serious infection that often doesn’t present any symptoms for several years, during which time the body’s ability to fight infection is decreased. The last stage of the progression of HIV is AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), in an average year, more than 50,000 Americans are diagnosed with HIV, and nearly 15,000 die from HIV or AIDS.

HIV can be transmitted by having unprotected sex with an infected individual, sharing injection needles with infected individuals, or as a result of being born to an HIV-positive mother.

In order to increase the length and quality of their lives, HIV-positive individuals must take a “cocktail” of different complementary anti-viral medications. HIV-positive individuals have used Truvada to help control their conditions for years.

“This is a wonderful thing. Anything that stops nasty diseases that kill people is great,” said Ms. Marla Ezratty.

More recently, some doctors have prescribed Truvada as a preventative medication for those at risk of acquiring HIV. At that time, however, the medication was not FDA-approved for that purpose.

As a result, the company has neither been able to officially acknowledge the drug’s preventative capabilities, nor market it for that purpose.

These alternative prescriptions came about after studies showed that if individuals adhere strictly to its once-a-day dosage, Truvada can be approximately 90% effective at preventing the transmission of the HIV virus.

“Any advancement that we can make when it comes to protection from this deadly virus can only bring us closer to total prevention and a cure,” said Ms. Jeanine Kalinowski.

In the first week of May, an FDA advisory committee voted to officially recommend approval of Truvada as a preventative drug, in the form of a post-exposure prophylaxis.

The FDA has not yet officially approved the motion, but history shows that, more often than not, the FDA follows the suggestions of its advisory panels.

The committee voted in favor of approval for three main high-risk groups: men who have sex with other men, HIV-negative individuals in a serodiscordant relationship (one in which only one partner is infected with HIV), and people with multiple sexual partners. The vote passed by the smallest margin for the last group.



# Joke, insult, or threat?



## Two websites raise concerns about students’ safety and privacy

Almost every high school student uses the internet every day, not only as a source of information but also as a source of fun and entertainment. But, as both Schreiber and Weber students recently learned, playing around on the internet is not always so innocent.

Websites begun with good intentions can quickly become more serious and websites meant as a joke can become hurtful when the internet is misused.

In recent weeks, the students involved with the websites hsmemes.com and rateweber.com crossed these boundaries between internet fun and harm.

### High School Memes

At some point on April 26, the website hsmemes.com went viral among the Schreiber student body. The website's intention, according to its own information page, is to give students a place to "joke about their shared high school experiences for their particular school."

It is obvious that the site was meant to be positive; the instructions for creating memes for a school ends with "Have fun. Be creative. Be nice. Don't spoil the fun with bad posts!"

Initially, the Schreiber meme creators seemed to obey these guidelines. During its first days of popularity in Port Washington, most of the memes created were about common experiences, and importantly, were generally good natured.

"I thought it was really funny at first,"

said junior Ellie Zolotarev. "They were jokes about general stuff about the school that everyone could relate to."

The memes, however, quickly became less good natured. During the weekend of April 28 and 29, the focus shifted from shared experiences to comments on specific individuals, including both students and teachers, by name.

"It slowly got more personal, but it was still funny," said Zolotarev. "But then it just got mean, and I wasn't amused anymore."

Though many students believed that only they would see the memes, both school administrators and teachers were aware of the site.

"Generally, I am ambivalent about these sort of sites," said Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald. "While it can be fun talking about your school and allowing anyone to become part of the conversation and inside jokes, too often it unfortunately erodes into personal attacks and discrimination. Irresponsible, public remarks are tantamount to libel. It is too bad that there is little that can be done

to charge the people making unjustified, hurtful comments."

That point, when the site became a serious issue in the eyes of the school, occurred on the night of April 31, when several threatening memes were posted on the Schreiber page of hsmemes.com.

"We became aware of the site a few days before the threats were received, and we were monitoring it," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. "Having

seen the site and aware of the potential for posters to create mean or insulting memes, we were concerned, but not to a

point where we felt we had to take action."

While these specific memes were general in their threats, they contained statements such as "don't come to school tomorrow if you know what is good for you."

After seeing these alarming memes online, several students submitted reports to Report-it.com and sent emails to alert staff members.

"I was present at junior mock interviews that evening and Mr. Pernick stopped by my room to show me an email from people who were upset by the site," said Dr. Fitzgerald. "We immediately stopped our interview plans and went into addressing the website and its potential for disrupting the school and its students. Mr. Pernick sent out a Connect Ed call to the school population. He also worked with Dr. Gordon, the other assistant principals, and the police."

"Once we ascertained that the memes contained threats to the school and individuals, we contacted the police and the superintendent and began to plan to keep the school safe," said Mr. Pernick.

Though school remained open on May 1, school administrators working with the Port Washington Police Department allowed only the main door of the school to be open and searched the bags of all students who entered the building throughout the day.

Port Washington Police Detective Anthony Guzzello declined to comment on the lockdown to *The Schreiber Times*.

In an email to parents sent that morning, the threats were deemed not credible, but still enough to require a response.

"This is all precautionary to make sure that the students and staff are protected,"

said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon. "Sometimes when people do things that are very inappropriate and, frankly, stupid with posting on the internet, we have to make sure that all precautions are taken. We have had the police sweep the school to make sure that the students and staff are protected."

With the usual rush into school around 8:00 a.m., however, the line for backpack checking was overwhelmed, keeping students waiting in the rain to enter school for up to twenty to thirty minutes.

"This is an outrage," said junior Clayton Klein. "I can't believe this—they're making me stand out in the rain. I wanted to go to school. The kid who made this meme is selfish, and I don't like him."

Several students, in fact, questioned the logic behind this response to the threats.

"The kid that made the threat said he was going to kill everyone in the school—having hundreds of kids stand outside is a very good target for someone trying to target a bunch of people," said senior Adam Pollack. "I don't think this was a very well planned and executed operation for keeping the students safe."

Despite the sentiments of many disgruntled students standing in the rain, the vast majority of students thought that the reaction of the Schreiber administrators was fitting.

In the photo above, students wait on the front steps to have their bags checked. Threatening posts online caused these procedures.

Instead of being frightened, 64 students of 195 polled said that the day's events showed an overreaction on the part of the administrators. That only 11 students said that administrators did not do enough seems to show that students did not take hsmemes.com very seriously.

The dramatic influence that an online post on a website meant in jest had a palpable effect, as the popularity of hsmemes.com has steadily decreased among the student body.

After being ranked the #1 school in the country in terms of usage of the site on May 1, Schreiber quickly plummeted out of the top 15, perhaps as a result of realizations about the seriousness of the day's events.

"I believe that kids should be smarter than to post those types of things on the internet," said junior Richard Greenberg. "If that did not happen, all of the students would not have had to miss half of first period class to wait outside in the rain."

"It was funny at first, and it should have stopped there," said junior Elisabeth Kostallas. "Then it started to get mean, and it went overboard with the targeting of students and teachers that forced them to search bags."

Nearly a month later, however, the memes do not have a wholly negative legacy. While 78 students said the memes were, in general, distasteful, nearly as many remembered the memes as funny. More students thought the memes were creative than dangerous.

### Rate Weber

Shortly after some high school students created a possibly dangerous situation on the HS Memes site, one or more Weber Middle School students alarmed parents, students, and faculty members with a website called rateweber.com.

Through the site, users could rate and compare a selection of Weber female students based on their appearances.

"I found out about the site through Facebook," said a Weber student whose picture, along with her first and last name, was featured on the site. "My first impression was shock. I didn't realize that the boys would be so disrespectful to every single girl."

The website went live at some point during the weekend of May 5, and fea-

"I didn't really think it was a big deal at first, but then I realized the danger of being on the World Wide Web and that anyone in the whole entire world could look at a picture of me," said a Weber student whose picture, along with her first and last name, was featured on the site. "I was in a picture in a bathing suit, and it was actually a very scary situation for me."

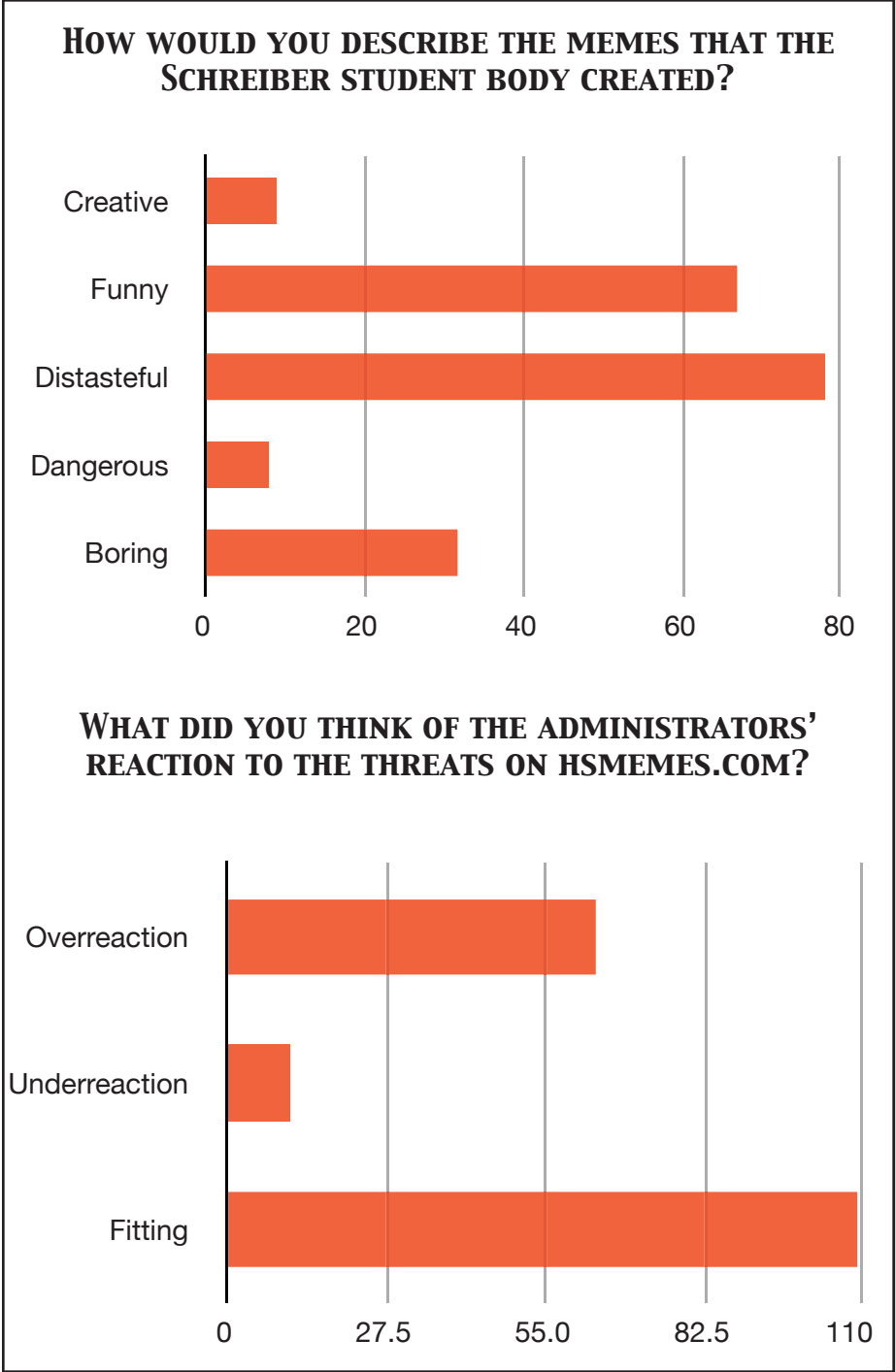
tured photographs, taken from Facebook, of more than a dozen Weber eighth grad-

ers, none of whom agreed beforehand to be on the site.

"I didn't really think it was a big deal at first, but then I realized the danger of being on the World Wide Web and that anyone in the whole entire world could

"My parents were extremely upset and really wanted me to find new friends," said the first girl interviewed. "These boys were obviously not my friends if they would do something like this."

A few of the girls on the website went



look at a picture of me," said the same girl. "I was in a picture in a bathing suit, and it was actually a very scary situation for me."

The girls' full names accompanied the pictures, and the site name indicated to any visitors where they all attended school.

"I was disgusted when I first saw it and thought how stupid the boys are," said another student whose picture was on the website. "It was a violation of my privacy, and it put our lives in danger."

According to a male eighth grader who was at the site's creator's home on the same day that the creator uploaded the website, there was a website before rateweber.com, though it was in a slightly different form.

"He had the website before me and a couple of guys and girls went to his house," said the male eighth grader. "Then he showed us his first website, comparing girls in our grades to celebrities using a private server."

The first website was password-protected, and only had the faces of the girls. The girls' bodies, full names, and school were not posted on the website.

At some point later in the same day during the weekend of May 5, an entirely new website, namely, rateweber.com, appeared on the Internet.

It was not until several days later that this site came to the girls' attention, and, shortly thereafter, that of the Weber administrative team.

to their guidance counselors to report the situation. During the rest of the week, Weber principal Ms. Marilyn Rodahan met with the students who were involved with making the website and the parents of the girls whose pictures were online.

She also ran a series of assemblies for the entire Weber student body. The school did not punish any student for creating rateweber.com.

"I was actually surprised that the school did not do anything about it, although Ms. Rodahan did have a meeting with the kids who had masterminded the website, and then again with those parents specifically, and then with the parents of the victims," said a Port Washington woman whose daughter's picture was on rateweber.com. "People need to be accountable for their actions. They can endanger someone else. I would hope that, at the very least, this would be a very good learning lesson for them. I take this extremely seriously—it's breaking my daughter's anonymity and her privacy—it's putting her in a risky situation."

Just hours after the Weber administrative team became aware about the website, its creator took the entire site down.

During the less than one week that rateweber.com was online, it received several thousand hits, and the ratings on fourteen girls' pictures advanced them in a bracket-style competition to determine who was most attractive.

"Due to confidentiality, I will only say that Weber addressed the matter and met with all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students in mini lunchtime assemblies, and with all staff and the parents of any students involved in the incident," said Ms. Rodahan.

### Internet Safety and Responsibility

Of the 195 Schreiber students polled, 99, or 51 percent, said that they had never regretted something they had posted on the internet. 176 students, however, also said that they think most teenagers do not exercise proper judgment and responsibility on the internet.

These results suggest, perhaps, that while teenagers are unwilling to recognize their own faults, they are still able to see trends of internet misuse, or perhaps students think that what they post on the internet may be irresponsible but not worth regretting.

The dangers that can occur as a result of the freedom to post, and post anonymously, on the internet are clear from recent incidents.

"The internet is a blessing and a curse," said Dr. Fitzgerald. "It's like driving a car. It's great if you're responsible; otherwise, it's dangerous."

In some instances, it is not the website itself that is inherently hurtful but rather people's ability to post whatever they choose.

"I don't think it is fair to label the site as positive or negative," said Mr. Pernick, speaking about hsmemes.com. "For me, it's all about the user. If used responsibly, then I have no problem with it. If it is used to create fear, chaos, or generally to disrupt our school and have even one member of the school community question their own safety, then we need to take more aggressive action."

The danger of such sites comes from the fact that many people, and teenagers in particular, do not use the internet responsibly.

"This website should be taken down because it was used to attack innocent people and to disrupt the school," said Dr. Fitzgerald. "Anonymous personal attacks are not fair, especially when they are untrue. Ask yourself why you are targeting a victim and find a healthier way to deal with it."

The ability to post on websites such as hsmemes.com anonymously, or create websites such as rateweber.com anonymously, quickly allows what seems like harmless fun to develop into a serious situation that can endanger one's peers.

"I would always be cautious anywhere on the internet where identities can be concealed," said Mr. Pernick. "Anonymity, like wearing a mask, often encourages people to behave differently. Anything you author, whether you sign your name to it or not, becomes a part of who you are."

Most important are the lessons that should be learned from these events about internet responsibility. Not only should we watch what we post about others on the internet, but also what we post about ourselves.

"I do want to be more careful about what I post," said a Weber student who appeared on rateweber.com. "I do not think that I am going to completely stop uploading pictures but I am definitely going to watch what I post. From this, I really learned about the immense dangers of the internet."

By Katya Barrett and  
Hannah Fagen  
Photo by Hannah Fagen



# Schreiber alum produces *How I Met Your Mother*

BY Veronika Onishenko

Staff Writer

Craig Thomas, Class of 1993, is living proof that a Schreiber diploma can help you develop your potential. Thomas and his writing partner, Carter Bays, are the masterminds behind the popular CBS television show *How I Met Your Mother*.

"*How I Met Your Mother* is, at its essence, Carter and I writing about ourselves and our friends, and all of our memories of our time living in New York City in our twenties," said Thomas.

Born in Flushing, Queens, Thomas relocated to Port Washington as a baby and completed all of his schooling through the Port Washington School District.

A typical "Port Washingtonian," he attended Salem until the 4th grade, Weber and ultimately Schreiber.

By high school, Thomas knew he wanted to be a writer and enjoyed his English classes at Schreiber the most.

However, what would ultimately help him the most in his pursuit of his writing career on *How I Met Your Mother* was his love of music.

Thomas enjoyed classes in the music department, where he played the trumpet and drums, and even remembers playing in Battle of the Bands during his senior year.

"My band placed a thoroughly unimpressive 3rd place out of five bands, the very definition of average, but it was really fun," said Thomas.

After graduating Schreiber, Thomas attended Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where he met his future collaborator Carter Bays, the co-creator of *How I Met Your Mother*. There, he had better luck with bands.

"We played in a nine-man rhythm and blues-soul band, complete with a four piece horn section—we were pretty good! As a result of that, we started writing music and comedy together and have been doing so ever since then," said Thomas.

After graduating from Wesleyan, Thomas and Bays wrote for *The Late Show with David Letterman*, and then moved to Los Angeles to work on a short-lived sitcom called *Oliver Beene*.

Even though the sitcom didn't survive, their work impressed 20th Century



www.zimbio.com

**Schreiber graduate Craig Thomas (third from the left) and the cast of *How I Met Your Mother* win the Favorite Network TV Comedy award at the People's Choice Awards on Jan. 11. Thomas has produced episodes loosely based on his humorous personal experiences, which has made the show a favorite among viewers.**

Fox Television enough to offer them a development deal to create a new show for the network.

And the illustrious *How I Met Your Mother* was born.

Although the show is wildly popular today, and has won a total of five Emmy-Awards and a host of People's Choice Awards, Thomas and Bays were amazed when CBS agreed to the show initially, which aired on Sept. 19, 2005.

"CBS bought the show and shockingly 'greenlit' shooting the pilot, meaning that they agreed to finance and air our first ten episodes, out of probably 30 to 40 that they bought, to be shot. We were thrilled and surprised because out of the 10 or so they made, they only put two or three on TV. A lot of luck, really," said Thomas.

For those of you that aren't familiar with the cultural phenomenon, *How I Met Your Mother* is set in Manhattan, and narrated by character Ted Mosby (Josh Radnor) from the year 2030.

Each show begins with a snippet of Ted explaining to his children the story of how he met their mother and everything along the way, mainly his quest for love and adventures with close friends Marshall Eriksen (Jason Segel), Robin Scherbatsky (Cobie Smulders), Lily Aldrin (Alyson Hannigan) and Barney Stinson (Neil Patrick Harris). The characters, according to Thomas, are loosely based on himself and Bays.

"The character of Ted is loosely based on Carter, who was single at the time, while the characters of Marshall and Lily

were loosely based on my wife and I who had been together since freshman year of college," said Thomas.

This is consistent with his belief that the show's success comes from its ability to speak to the audience and be relatable.

"I will point out that these are highly fictionalized versions of ourselves and our friends, but ultimately we try to make sure that every episode we write comes from a real place, experience, or emotion," said Thomas. "Really, the show just came from us writing our take on life in our late twenties into our early thirties. The old saying goes, 'Write what you know,' and even though it's a bit of a cliché, it's really true."

## Students seek satisfying summers both locally and abroad

BY Daniella Philipson and Alexa Pinto

Staff Writers

As AP exams are winding down, the weather is getting warmer, and seniors are becoming more difficult to see around school, it is becoming increasingly clear that summer is near.

Students are antsy and eager to leave class and walk down Campus Drive for a refreshing frozen yogurt or ice cream cone. Mel's Ice Cream truck is parked on Bogart, teeming with Schreiber and Weber kids on their way home.

Teachers and students alike can kick back and enjoy the sun without worrying about school work for two whole glorious months. Other than the summer reading, which, let's face it, everybody finishes the night before school starts, summer break should definitely be stress free. If you have yet to make your plans for the summer, here are some ideas to get you started.

Traveling abroad seems to be a popular activity for the 2012 summer, as is getting a job. Like many other students, junior Carly Grieco is planning to participate in a study abroad program in Rome.

The program, which is run by Brown University, offers a wide array of classes ranging from language to history. Through studying abroad Grieco plans on improving her Italian, which she has been learning since middle school, in addition to enrolling in culture and civilization classes.

Despite an already jam-packed schedule Carly also decided to take part in a summer writing program at Choate Boarding School in Connecticut.

Other juniors, including Michael Gilmore, Leif Firland-Schill, and Justin Aramalla, are heading to Europe to sightsee in Barcelona, Rome, and Denmark over the course of two weeks while staying in youth hostels.

Adding to the list of exciting plans

this summer, junior Niha Azam is set to participate in a three week exchange program.

Azam will be living with a Costa Rican family, affording her the opportunity to learn about the culture and to speak Spanish. The trip and location will also allow Azam to surf, explore a new country, and complete 50 hours of community service.

Summer 2012 will not be fun and games for everyone, however. After graduation, unlike most of his peers, senior David White will ship off to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, South Carolina.

In South Carolina, White will spend three months of basic training for the US Marine Corps. He will learn to be a basic marine and train to be a marksman with the M16 service rifle.

"The day I leave can't come sooner! The start to my military career is weeks

ahead of me," said White.

Seniors David Khorassani and Anton Vlahek are set to relax a little bit before heading off to college in the fall. Khorassani plans on remaining in Port Washington for the summer and is still on the hunt for the perfect summer job. Vlahek, on the other hand, can be added to the list of students who decided to travel. His plans include vacationing in Croatia for part of the summer.

Gilmore and junior Matias Franco are both working at Manorhaven Pool as lifeguards, junior Gina Perez will also be working locally at Ralph's Italian Ices, and junior Kayla Conway is excited to work at the nearby Pierce Camp in Roslyn.

Although working a job may seem tiresome, students should not feel limited to these ideas.

In fact, an important plan is to get a well-deserved and relaxing summer after a hectic school year.



# Dialog in the Dark exhibit is startlingly realistic

BY Sophia Jaffe  
Editor-in-Chief

Have you ever though what it would be like to be blind? Dialog in the Dark is an exhibition at South Street Seaport in New York City that simulates what it would be like to lose your vision. And the experience was “eye opening” to say the least.

I entered the exhibition knowing very little about what to expect. I knew it would be dark, and I knew a blind person would be my tour guide. But that was about it. I signed a waiver, and the lady handed me a cane.

Our group, consisting of eight people, then entered another room and sat on lighted cubes. The lady closed the door, and the lights and cubes began to dim, until it was pitch dark. I assure you I could not see anything, not even my hand in front of my face. I could not sense who or what was around me, and I started to feel a little on edge.

But then our tour guide, who went by Frank Senior, came in and immediately began to calm our nerves by assuring us everything would be okay. He then made a joke about how two people met on this

tour a few years ago and later got married. The punch line to his story: they met on a blind date.

We walked, well really stumbled, into the first stage of the exhibit. Frank asked us what we smelled, heard, and felt. Through each stage we had to guess where we were—Central Park, a subway station, or perhaps a supermarket. At various points, I felt my nerves go up because I felt lost, but it seemed that Frank could always feel it. He would reach out for my hand and ask me questions to force me to make sense of what was around me. His warm voice was soothing, and his paternal-like presence was comforting. I convinced myself that he was only slightly visually impaired and had some type of night vision glasses because he always knew where I was.

After an hour of bumping and shifting around, we arrived into a mock coffee shop, and the eight of us sat around a table. Frank asked us what we thought he looked like. I visualized a sweet but hefty old man. The lights slowly came on, and Frank appeared younger, thinner, and shorter than I had thought. He spoke to us about his life—how he had been completely blind since birth. Surprisingly, he said he wouldn’t change his blindness



Visitors of the Dialogue in the Dark exhibit experience what it is like to be blind, using white canes to navigate their surroundings

for anything. In no way did he make us pity his condition. In fact, he is a jazz singer and has never let his condition become a handicap.

Dialog in the Dark switches the roles. Frank had the incredible ability to navigate in the dark, and we were really the blind ones. This reversal was startling, engaging, and inspiring. It must be experienced in order to start an intellectual dialogue on blindness specifically and the true meaning of disability and ability.

# Treehuggers Club strives to protect and conserve the environment

BY Harry Paul  
Photo Editor

The days of play dates, frisbee games, pool parties, and frequent park goings are long gone for many Schreiber students as they struggle with their hectic lives. However, students who feel overwhelmed by the weight of their busy schedules often choose to participate in one of Schreiber’s eclectic and fun clubs, Treehuggers.

For the students who want to get away from their school work and enjoy nature, the school’s Treehuggers group is a popular destination. One of the most notable of this group’s achievements was the introduction of the hydration

perfect example. Recently, the group has organized and participated in a number of special events.

Schreiber’s Treehuggers took on the controversial topic of fracking, the practice used by large oil companies in which pressurized carbon dioxide is used to force raw natural gas or oil out of the earth. They helped organize a rally in Nassau County to prevent this practice, which they deride as harmful, and the event received a large turnout.

The school’s first ever Hydration station greatly helped the recycling deficiencies of the school. Since its installation, the words “will you stop at the hydration station with me?” and “I need to go to the hydration

station” can be heard throughout the halls of Schreiber, and a line often forms in front of it during periods 4-1 and 4-2.

In another realm of Schreiber’s recycling world, the Treehuggers Cap Recycling program is one of the newest additions to the school. Small containers have been placed in one of the two holes in all the recycling bins around campus to collect plastic bottle caps. This little addition has greatly aided in the school’s ability to separate bottles and caps, which should be recycled separately to maximize the efficiency of the recycling process.

Finally, an annual vegetarian dinner held by the Treehuggers, is open to

all, vegetarians or otherwise, to protest the unsanitary conditions and harsh treatment of animals in the food industry.

“It is a fun, tight knit club that is always looking for a way to help. We are always open to new members and encourage all to come share in our passion for helping the environment,” said Treehuggers co-president senior Renee Cohen.

Treehuggers is a very proactive organization, and the changes they have been able to achieve in just three short years show promise for the both the future of the group and the future of the environment, one step at a time.

“It’s so important for our school to have a Treehuggers club, just like all colleges do,” said Treehuggers co-president senior Alison Peraza.

station late last year. The club focuses on protecting the environment with practical adaptations such as changing to reusable water bottles and cleaning up the school grounds. The group holds meetings at 7:30 on Thursday mornings.

“I love extracurriculars and because of that I probably do way too many of them,” said Treehuggers co-president senior Alison Peraza. “It’s so important for our school to have a Treehuggers club, just like all colleges do.”

The club is an environmentally friendly and relaxing place for all those earth-minded students to dirty their hands, figuratively and literally, with the job of turning the school green. The new vegetable garden in the courtyard is a

Comic Spotlight: Chris Goh

HEY DUDE, CAN I HAVE SOME OF YOUR WAFFLE?

NOWAY MAN!

BUT WHY ARE YOU EATING WAFFLES AT 3 IN THE MORNING?

'KUZ IM A DOLPHIN!

AND WHY ARE WE IN SPACE?!

I DONT KNOW! I DONT GET THIS COMIC'S PLOTLINE!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

AAAURGGHHH!! THIS MAKES NO SENSE !!

GOH '12



**[Fashion]** File

BY **Caroline Ogulnick**  
*Staff Writer*

From rhinestones and glitter to sequins and studs, metallics are popping up everywhere this spring. Making a big statement is what this season is all about, and joining in on the metallic trend will definitely help you stand out. Clothing, shoes, and accessories can all be found in sparkling iterations, so it won't be hard for you to play your part. Even a touch of glitter will help create a dazzling look for this season.

Metallics are often found in any day-to-day outfit, whether they are the buckle to a belt or an accent on a pair of shoes. This season, however, they are becoming much more than a simple accessory. Sparkles of silver and gold are now the focal point of an outfit, creating a shimmering look from head to toe. Denim, dresses, and blouses are among the most popular items being produced in metallics, which can make any casual outfit look sophisticated for a night out.

**“Metallics are definitely a trend I am loving for this season. They change the feel to any outfit and create a sparkle that will be perfect for a day or nighttime look,” said sophomore Rachel Johnson.**

In order to participate in the metallic trend, you have to be brave enough to stand out in the crowd. Be careful though, because you don't want to create a shine

Twinkle, twinkle, little fashionistas  
*Metallics brighten new spring styles with shine*



**Metallics have pervaded the fashion scene, appearing in a variety of magazines and blogs. From clothing to shoes and accessories, metallics are being displayed on all ends of the fashion spectrum.**

that is too strong to handle.

“Metallics are definitely a trend I am loving for this season. They change the feel to any outfit and create a sparkle that will be perfect for a day or nighttime look,” said sophomore Rachel Johnson.

Beginning with metallic accessories will help you ease in to this glittering trend. Add a stack of silver bracelets or a gold chain necklace to an outfit, and you will already be on your way. Enhancing a pair of denim shorts with a metallic belt can highlight an outfit. A belt can provide excellent versatility if you are a newcomer

to metallics.

Wearing metallic shoes is also a great way to include this trend into your wardrobe. They are flashy yet subtle, and will definitely boost the shine of a look. Try adding shimmery ballet flats to a summer dress or skirt. It will not only create a simple hint of sparkle, but it will allow you to take a daytime look and wear it into the night.

If metallics catch your eye from the start, don't be shy to jump right in. Take a pair of metallic shorts and combine them with a neutral colored top. Add metallic accessories as well to contrast the shorts and create a more glistening look.

“I can't wait to stock up on metallics for the spring and summer. I love the way they can completely change even the simplest

of outfits,” said sophomore Jess Altuch.

The metallic approach to a night out will be a little different than a metallic look for school. If you are going to a special event, put on a gold-sequined dress. Then, pair it with gold heels and a metallic bag. Though it may sound like there is too much shine here, if you play it right, you can combine as many metallics as you like.

Searching for metallics this season will be an easy task for interested buyers, as they can be found in stores ranging from Forever 21 and H&M, to Free People and Urban Outfitters. Department stores will also be taking part in the metallic trend, advertising racks and racks of clothing and accessories. Don't hesitate to join in on the trend, because metallics will surely make your wardrobe shine!

Horoscopes amaze the masses with their accuracy

BY **Matt Heiden**  
*Copy Editor*

What does the future hold? The art of astrology, which is one of mankind's most ancient and accurate divination tools, has the answers. With the proper interpreter, you can predict anything up to any accuracy you desire. I have trained for several grueling, mysterious years with the Incan scrolls of yore, and here is what I have determined about the next month:

Aries - It might seem like a good idea to ask that girl/guy out, but, alas, the stars are not in your favor. Spend the next few days with your friends, or crying alone in your room, if you don't want to look like an idiot.

Taurus - You will have a day of amazingly good luck within the next several days, before having a string of mediocre luck. For instance, one Taurus friend of mine has a good chance of winning the Serbian lottery, before getting struck by a passing bicyclist.

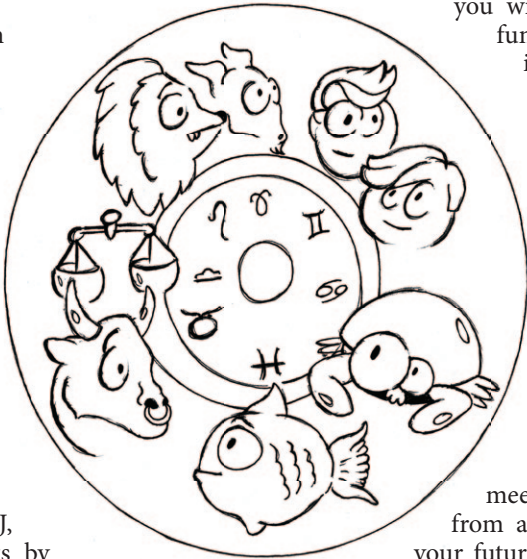
Gemini - Giving money to the nearest senior at midday will result in fantastic luck tomorrow. If you do not, the stars

will have their vengeance when you least expect it.

Cancer - I'm sorry to say, but the next few days will not be favorable to you. The stars are hard to read, so all I can confidently predict is that you should avoid spicy foods, the letter J, and any ballets by Tchaikovsky.

Leo - Existential crises will be especially depressing in the next few days, so distract yourself with romantic comedies or detective novels to stay sane.

Virgo - Take a risk and fail at something important in the next few days. You will



hate this advice, but in five years you will thank me for the funny story, especially if physical harm is involved.

Libra - Don't stray from your comfort zone today, or you will risk financial ruin. When taking public transportation, take the window seat if possible.

Scorpio - A chance meeting with someone from another country is in your future. His or her accent will be deceptively seductive, but you must resist. International romance is not in the stars today.

Sagittarius - Enjoy a nice home-cooked meal today, and you will feel rejuvenated beyond recognition.

Capricorn - Stop and smell the flowers, unless of course they are venus fly-traps,

for obvious reasons, or daffodils, because Jupiter is in alignment with Saturn.

Aquarius - If you break the law today, you will not get caught. Burn any horoscopes that tell you otherwise.

Pisces - Do not worry about small pieces of bad luck, because after about three unrelated misfortunes you will make a new friend. He or she will not be very attractive, but a comforting arm around your shoulder means the world to someone having a bad day.

Unfortunately, circumstances are hard to categorize. These predictions will come true for everyone, guaranteed, but they may happen in conveniently vague or metaphorical ways, as the constellations have ordained.

**Disclaimer:** Astrology is a specialized art in which Matt Heiden is not trained in the least. *The Schreiber Times* takes no responsibility for any injuries, personal disasters, or mishaps to the public.



arts&entertainment

# The Avengers smashes its Marvel predecessors



The Avengers prepare to fight Loki and his army of Chitauri aliens. An emphasis on character development makes *The Avengers* the must-see movie of the summer. movies.yahoo.com

by Victor Dos Santos  
Staff Writer

In the Marvel spectacle *The Avengers*, director and screenwriter Joss Whedon strives to make a visually appealing and character-driven summer blockbuster. Whedon attempts to give each Avenger his or her own story arc and chance to shine.

The opening of the film introduces us to the film's antagonist, Loki (brother of Thor), who is seen making a deal with an alien race known as the Chitauri. The deal they make is simple; in exchange for the Tesseract, a force that acts as both an incredibly powerful weapon and portal into any world, the Chitauri will give Loki an army with which he can take over Earth. When Nick Fury, director of S.H.I.E.L.D. (a recurring agency throughout the Marvel films), hears of this, he decides to stop Loki by assembling a team of heroes.

Following this opening, Whedon chooses to re-introduce the superheroes we have become familiar with over the

past 5 years: Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, and the Incredible Hulk. Given that each hero had their own individual films, character development has been put aside in favor of scenes that help give the audience a gist of the types of characters these people are.

Iron Man/Tony Stark is a self-centered and egotistical billionaire philanthropist. Captain America/Steve Rogers is still struggling to cope with being a super-soldier from the '40s who now lives in modern America. Thor, the God of Thunder, has an ego that tends to get the better of him. The Hulk/Bruce Banner struggles with the acceptance of being an angry green mutant monster. Whedon also attempts to introduce two characters that aren't so familiar: The Black Widow and Hawkeye, assassins who work for S.H.I.E.L.D. These two characters are developed throughout the movie.

One of the conflicts in *The Avengers* involves the process of bringing these heroes together for the Avengers initiative. Whedon brings them together in a flawless manner that kicks off with a scene in which Thor, Iron Man, and

Captain America battle in a forest. The Avengers themselves, of course, don't get along too well at first. This is where the majority of the emotional involvement originates. We get a sense of what types of characters these people are as well as what makes them tick, giving us a greater sense of why it might be difficult for these guys to work together.

Once these heroes finally realize that they have to put their differences aside and work together for the sake of the greater good, Whedon works hard to spotlight each character doing something amazing for at least 10 minutes in their final attempt to defeat Loki and save the world.

The beautifully shot climax of *The Avengers* alone is worthy of praise. All of the action is comprehensible and shot in a way that shows how each hero is working with the others to help save, or "avenge," the Earth. This filming style helps the audience realize that this theme is what *The Avengers* is about. It's about seeing how these characters work with one another to prevent evil from entering the world they are willing to die for.

That being said, *The Avengers* does

have its problems. Whedon also wrote the script, and in doing so he decided to keep with the consistency of previous Marvel films by making sure that the majority of the characters speak in puns. It is almost a detriment to the films, making it difficult for the audience to connect with the characters on an emotional level. At their very best, the puns garner a good chuckle every now and then. Another minor flaw is Loki; he is a good character, but a weak villain. Given that he himself, without his army of aliens, is so weak, as evidenced by an encounter between him and Hulk, most of the threat is gone allowing for a less tense climax.

Simply put, *The Avengers* is an awesome superhero movie. Since each hero had their own individual film to further develop their personalities, more time was spent in displaying the camaraderie between the heroes and the way in which they work with one another. Through beautiful cinematography, writing, and direction, Whedon helps make *The Avengers* the movie that you don't want to miss this summer, or ever.



# Sacha Baron Cohen creates more accessible, less daring comedy

BY Dan Bidikov  
Staff Writer

An organism that is removed from its natural environment and lacks the ability to adapt is either eaten or laughed at by members of the new ecosystem.

Sacha Baron Cohen of *Borat* fame uses this biological theme as a storytelling device for the third time in his satirical new film *The Dictator*. Cohen stars as Dictator Aladeen of the fictitious African nation of Waadeya, who goes to the unfamiliar democratic wasteland that is America.

Unlike Cohen's preceding films, *Borat* and *Brüno*, *The Dictator* is completely scripted and features big-name actors such as Anna Farris and John C. Reilly as opposed to unaware religious fundamentalists and homophobes.

By making a more traditional film, Cohen has lost some of his signature edge, but there was much to be gained by switching to a more standard format, including formulaic, crowd pleasing humor.

The political satire is as frequent as it is watered down, but it works to *The Dictator's* advantage: the movie requires little thought, which helps make for a more accessible comedy.

*The Dictator* is not a movie to be watched in theaters. Common responses to much of the humor included clapping, aww-ing, and overly audible laughter. Such behavior should remain within living rooms, where at least subtitles can be overlaid so that viewers do not miss any key dialogues. That is not to suggest, however, that the conversations in the film are at all necessary to make it an enjoyable experience.

Basic satire and "did you see that?"

slapstick create the perfect medium for thoughtless entertainment.

The lack of effort required by the viewer is comforting, although *The Dictator* reflects hard work on the part of the filmmakers and is much more than a two hour reel of hits to the genitals.

Obscenities are a major component of the humor in *The Dictator*. Thankfully, there is nothing as outrageous and disgusting as what was seen in Cohen's previous two films. By omitting those cringe-worthy moments, *The Dictator* is more fun for all; especially for those watching with their parents.

The energetic reactions to every other joke speaks well for

*The Dictator's* ability to resonate with its audience. It also helps that every character is a popular stereotype. For instance, Anna Farris's character, Zoey, is an ignorant, Brooklyn-dwelling hipster who is easy to both laugh at and sympathize with.

No longer reliant on ordinary human stupidity for laughs, the film's writers were able to entrust comedy to the hands of professionally trained actors who are (hopefully) just pretending to be small minded.

Jason Mantzoukas and J.B. Smoove (of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* fame) rise to the



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Nuclear weapons specialist Nadal (Jason Mantzoukas) presents Admiral General Aladeen (Sacha Baron Cohen) with his first nuclear weapon. Cohen has shifted away from the format of his previous films with a more traditional comedy.

occasion, laying out the gunpowder for Cohen to ignite on his path to making fun of everyone and everything.

The film's viral marketing was time well spent for Cohen, and his protagonist effortlessly nails his performance as an autocrat lacking both mercy and brainpower. While slightly different from his prior roles, Cohen shows through Dictator Aladeen that he is comfortable in the more customary comedic environment of *The Dictator*.

*The Dictator* is much more accessible than earlier Cohen outings, and its classic scripted film structure reduces much

of the darkness present in *Borat* and *Brüno*. Director Larry Charles (who wrote and directed for several television sitcoms including *Seinfeld*) thrives in the traditional style. Sacha Baron Cohen's brother, Erran Baron Cohen has even prepared a hilarious soundtrack with Arabic lyrics laid over classic songs.

Dropping the gritty, candid-camera style of *Borat* and *Brüno* had its benefits, but it also threw *The Dictator* into the same category as countless other blockbuster comedy hits. It manages to succeed in this crowded category, with light laughs and grade school-level satire.

# Dark Shadows may be the final nail in Burton-Depp coffin

BY Gabe Lyons  
Staff Writer

Filmmaker Tim Burton and actor Johnny Depp have become quite the Hollywood duo. Beginning with their collaboration on the critically acclaimed film *Edward Scissorhands*, they have made eight films together, ranging from a biography (*Ed Wood*) to period horror (*Sleepy Hollow*) to children's book adaptations (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Alice in Wonderland*) to a blood-drenched musical (*Sweeney Todd*).

Their most recent endeavor, a film adaptation of the 1970s satirical gothic soap opera *Dark Shadows*, offers a bloody look at an immortal who reappears after being locked in a steel coffin for over 200 years. The film follows him as he tries to adapt to 1970s culture.

In 1752, Joshua and Naomi Collins and their son Barnabas cast away from their native Liverpool on a ship bound for America with hope of escaping the strange curse that looms over the family. Two decades pass, and a very wealthy Barnabas (an unexpectedly bland Johnny Depp) has become the bee's knees of the town of Collinsport, Maine. Everything is going in his favor, until he makes the not-so-smart decision of breaking the heart of the woman who loves him, Angelique Bouchard (Eva Green). A witch, she responds with an attack resulting in a fate worse than death: turning Barnabas into a vampire, locking him in a steel coffin, and

burying him alive.

Over two centuries have passed, and Collinsport has become one of the fishing industry's hot spots. Near his burial ground, some construction workers are doing some work around the woods. Barnabas is freed from his coffin to Collinsport to the strange, counterculture-struck 1972, and returns to his ancestral home.

The film is full of sub-par performances, starting with the surprisingly annoying Michelle Pfeiffer. Pfeiffer, as the 1972 motherly owner of Barnabas' old home, presents herself as a helpless being, exactly the opposite of her character, who plays a large role in the film's climax. Chloë Grace Moretz, who proved that she can give a noteworthy performance with the comic book comedy *Kick-Ass* and Martin Scorsese's *Hugo*, gives virtually no effort in a role that, frankly, does not take much effort to pull off, as Pfeiffer's Alice Cooper-loving daughter.

The film is soaked in blood. Wait, this is a vampire movie, right? So isn't there supposed to be blood? Well, yes, but not nearly much as what is seen in this. There is simply too much blood. After an hour



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Barnabas (Johnny Depp) plays with David Collins (Gulliver McGrath) after his 200 year slumber. With this film, some might wonder if the Burton-Depp duo has lost its creative spark.

and a half, the blood becomes unrealistic. It makes one feel as if half of the \$150 million budget was spent on stage blood.

Tim Burton and Johnny Depp fail to impress with their eighth collaboration. With less than memorable performances, a screenplay that gives the impression that it was once found in a screenwriter's dustbin, and an overabundance of blood,

*Dark Shadows* fails to step out of the shadows into the light. Considering their seventh project, the 3D *Alice in Wonderland* — a boring, messy special effects extravaganza — it is hard to tell whether the director-actor duo can put out another at least somewhat decent picture.



# Rockstar picks up Max Payne franchise with lackluster sequel

BY Will Zhou  
Copy Editor

While *Max Payne 2* was generally well-received by critics and went on to receive several industry rewards, sales were disappointingly low. This may have been part of what prompted the transfer of the development of *Max Payne 3* from Remedy Entertainment to Rockstar Vancouver, a studio best known for its school-based free-roam title *Bully*. In many ways, the game is a deviation from previous titles in the series, for better and for worse.

**Art (7/10):**  
*Max Payne 3* features art of quality on par with most other recent console titles. The art, as well as the game as a whole, is vaguely similar to the *Uncharted* series, sans any breathtaking vistas. This game could have been released when the PS3 first came out with the same graphics quality. While this is not hard on the eyes, details like shadow resolution seem to be lacking; jagged outlines are especially visible when viewed close-up.

**Animation (7/10):**  
3D models are supposedly synthesized “real-time” with the Euphoria engine, allowing for better destructible environments (pillars can be shot down to metal beams, windows can be broken, etc.) and dynamic, realistic characters. For example, during Payne’s diving animations he hits obstacles and falls down realistically, and enemies don’t simply ragdoll when killed as they did in *Max Payne 2*. Previous titles in the series used



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**Max Payne 3 introduces a new dual wield system that allows the player to experiment with many different weapon combinations. The game’s otherwise impressive mechanics are hampered by its poor controls and restrictive cover system.**

comic book type cutscenes to aid in plot advancement and character development. This time, Rockstar has introduced full 3D motion cutscenes that are rendered using the in-game engine. Rockstar calls this a “motion comic book,” which does a great job with the plot and helping the player view things from Payne’s perspective.

**Gameplay (7/10):**  
*Max Payne 3* allows for some control over gameplay, including four different button layouts, options for reticle acceleration, vertical sensitivity, and horizontal sensitivity. *Max Payne 3* also includes the cover system used in the *Grand Theft Auto* series, which is a mediocre implementation that doesn’t allow for moving from cover to cover. Several strange bugs can be found

throughout the game: sometimes, the audio would not play during the cutscenes, and/or the subtitles would be completely out of sync. Other times, it would appear as if you had eliminated every enemy in an area but were still locked into the location as if you hadn’t. These aren’t game-breaking, but they are certainly strange for what is intended to be a triple-A title from a very well-respected studio.

**Story (6/10):**  
It’s always refreshing to see a shooter that isn’t set in the Middle East. Unfortunately, São Paulo doesn’t really lend itself to some magnificent storytelling, following Payne as the Branco family recruits him as a bodyguard, while flashbacks reveal Payne’s history. The game’s story as a whole seems to lack the sense of scale and the epic quality

that many other titles capture well. By the end of the game the story takes a rather silly direction that has Payne on basically a one-man crusade after a complete and sudden lifestyle change.

**Verdict:**  
So is this game worth \$60? Not necessarily. It isn’t a bad game, but it isn’t exactly great. Character development is slightly better than other similar titles, but the story lacks dimension, and the gameplay is really crippled by console controls. The way the story ends wraps up most loose ends nicely, but the way Payne acts near the end, and the way his personality changes, is sudden and slightly unrealistic. Waiting for the PC version, with its improved graphics, extras, and much better controls may be your best choice.

# Punk’d returns with celebrity guest hosts and hilarious pranks

BY Penina Remler  
Staff Writer

Five years ago, the phrase “you’ve just been punk’d” originated from the MTV series and quickly became a trending phrase. The MTV hit series, *Punk’d*, fooled celebrities into ridiculous and dramatic situations. Eventually in each show, the original host Ashton Kutcher would come out and break the news, but each contestant was almost always completely deceived.

This year, the series returned from its hiatus with a twist. This season involves the same scheme, but picks the brains of



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**Miley Cyrus watches as her prank takes a turn for the worse. Fans enjoy the new stars especially when being tricked.**

celebrity guest hosts such as Justin Bieber for ideas for pranks. Each joke is thoroughly organized to pull a successful trick against another celebrity friend. Some episodes have included Justin Bieber “punking” Sean Kingston, Miley Cyrus, and Taylor Swift.

What makes the new season more favorable than the old is the variety of celebrities on the show compared to the crowd featured on Kutcher’s seasons. Favorite celebrities this season have ranged from Zac Efron to Snooki to Diana Agron. Additionally, because each episode is hosted by a different person with different ideas, no episode is very similar to another. Many viewers may find the new series interesting to watch due to the fact that the celebrity hosts are in on the game too, by selecting who they want to be “punk’d” and partaking in the big joke. However, the show is slightly dramatic as every scenario featured in the new season is over the top, and the celebrities go to extreme measures to fool a friend. These stunts include everything from faking deaths to crashing cars. What the viewers do not know is that the attempts do not always run so

smoothly and when a celebrity can simply not be fooled, the episode is omitted from the show. Furthermore, the new season not only films the play-by-play of each big trick, but also explains how they are plotted both behind the seasons for optimal results.



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**Taylor Swift stands in awe as Justin Bieber reveals the episode’s ruse. The new season draws its appeal from its use of celebrity guest hosts in each new episode.**



# Music Box

## B.o.B relies on others' fame, fails to prove own talent



BY **Hayden Quigley**  
*Staff Writer*

Hip-hop artist B.o.B, whose real name is Bobby Ray, has released his second studio album, *Strange Clouds*. The album features appearances from Morgan Freeman, Taylor Swift, and Lil Wayne, giving each song its own personality but failing to show B.o.B's talent as an artist. His previous album, *B.o.B Presents: The Adventures of Bobby Ray*, also featured many artists. In his first album, he sang alone on only four songs, and on this album he sings alone in six songs. It seems that B.o.B uses other artists as a fallback to help distinguish each of his songs. By singing with other artists he appeals to their fans as well, broadening

the number of people who will purchase his album. These artists become a crutch for mass appeal when he should really be seeking to add personality to his songs himself. By using so many different artists in his songs, B.o.B does show that he can sing with anyone and in a variety of styles. B.o.B is somewhat of a chameleon in hip-hop music and proves to be a versatile, if sometimes generic artist. "There are people who are fans of the mix-tape stuff, people who are fans of just, you know, me playing the guitar, rocking out, fans of me singing, rapping, and fans of 'Nothin' on You' and 'Airplanes' who just know The Adventures of Bobby Ray material," said Bobby Ray to mtv.com. "But this next album is like a culmination of everything combined and I feel like that's really why I'm so excited about it and eager to put it out because I'm just ready to get back on the court with it." His song "Where Are You" (B.o.B vs. Bobby Ray) is perhaps the most self-aware track on the album. The song presents the two different perspectives of B.o.B and Bobby Ray. These are the artist's two identities, and he uses the song to vent his frustrations. This identity crisis makes B.o.B a more real and honest artist. Although the songs were lyrically different, most have the same rhythm and beat. Morgan Freeman lends his unique

voice to the album's first track, "Bombs Away." Freeman uses his deep, persuasive voice to capture the listeners' attention and make a great entrance for B.o.B. One of the more popular songs on the album, "Both of Us" features Taylor Swift, and is the most unique on the album. B.o.B. slows down the tempo and makes it a melodic song, appealing to Swift's fans as well as his own. Overall, *Strange Clouds* is a good variety album with many different artists to keep you interested. With upbeat, commercial appeal and big-name guest artists, B.o.B has ensured that the album will be met with success and popularity. In the future, it would be in B.o.B's best interest to perform solo and showcase what he himself can bring to the hip-hop scene rather than what his featured artists can do. By relying too heavily on other artists' cameos in his songs, he will lose his own style and surely fade away in the industry.



B.o.B performs at BET's Rip the Runway. His new album fails to exhibit any talent as a solo artist, and instead relies on the talent of his guests.

## Trespassing true to Lambert style

BY **Kelly To**  
*Staff Writer*

The runner-up of season eight of *American Idol* and world-famous musician Adam Lambert released a new album, *Trespassing*, encompassing songs ranging from slow ballads to pop songs. The style of music on this album matches his previous songs "What Do Ya Want From Me" and "If I Had You." Fans of typical pop/pop-rock music and fellow "glamberts" will definitely appreciate his



Adam Lambert performs live with his usual flashy showmanship. His new album combines a variety of genres to create a unique sound.

new catchy, upbeat tunes. Adam Lambert, the flamboyant "glam rocker," shifts away from guitar-heavy styles and experiments with more mainstream pop music. Half of the songs include slower melodic tunes that display Lambert's vocal dynamic. On the other hand, he also fastidiously amalgamates club-dance music with his sensational vocal effects. Lambert's signature high shrieks and intense lyrical ballads may all be found in this album.

Among its more interesting songs are "Trespassing," "Never Close Our Eyes," "Underneath," and "Runnin'." "Trespassing" and "Runnin'" lean toward dance party pop music while the melody of "Underneath" reveals the adept qualities of Lambert's voice. Critics say that Lambert has poured all of his heart and soul into this album and are afraid he did not leave any surprises for his future music. "I do feel that sonically, lyrically, and emotionally, this album is a surprise for people—and myself," said Lambert in an interview by *The Associated Press*. Lambert, along with singers including Lady Gaga and Katy Perry, is more performance-oriented. His appeal is due largely in part to his eccentricity and exciting stage performances. He returned to the semi-finalist round of this year's *American Idol* to perform his new song and awed the audience once more. Adam Lambert's exotic performances are what really bring his songs to life. It is his showmanship techniques that keep his fans hooked.



BY **Kerim Kivrak**  
*A&E Assistant Editor*

After the success of their eponymous debut album in 1984, The Smiths had no intention of slowing down. With the release of *Meat is Murder* the following year, the band became more musically and lyrically audacious, and the group's personality began to take shape. Although frontman Morrissey's personality had been prominent in their previous tracks, *Meat is Murder* marks the first time that The Smiths delved into more political and controversial subject matter. In addition to the obvious condemnation of meat-eating in the title track, Morrissey assails corporal punishment in English schools (in the comically hyperbolic "The Headmaster Ritual") and homes (in the more serious "Barbarism Begins At Home"). The politics of Morrissey's lyrics never detract from the songs' enjoyability, and the topics he tackles are rarely polarizing enough to alienate listeners.

## Classic Album: The Smiths: Meat is Murder

At this point in the band's history, the relationship between Morrissey and guitarist Johnny Marr had not yet started on the path of deterioration that would ultimately tear the band apart. For this album, the two bypassed any sort of third-party producer and produced *Meat is Murder* themselves. Marr took the opportunity to experiment more on the guitar. A catchy riff became the backbone of virtually every track on the album, and the band incorporated everything from rockabilly to funk in its style. For the most part, the album is devoid of Morrissey's characteristically depressing style. Even the more somber tracks are not especially dreary until the listener reaches the final track, for which the album is named. With the sounds of buzzing saws and the cries of doomed cows, Morrissey manages to capture the uncomfortable annoyance of being scolded by your preachy vegetarian friend. Still, the song is far from being bad and is sure to make you think before the next time you decide to "savor the flavor of murder." While it may not be the epitome of The Smiths' career, *Meat is Murder* is a monument in the band's development that is often unjustly forgotten between the debut album that preceded it and the iconic *The Queen is Dead* that would follow.



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# Athletes

## Jon Weber

BY **Jake Eisenberg**

*Assistant Opinions Editor*

“Outstanding sportsman. Super hard-working. Team leader, on and off the court. Enthusiastic, self-aware, and humble,” said tennis coach Mr. Peter Travis.

Praise such as this flows from the mouths of those who speak of senior Jon Weber’s athletic ability. The two-year varsity tennis player went to the county tournament at the end of this season, with senior doubles player Krishin Shivdasani. Although the duo subsequently lost to the pair that brought home All-State honors, they both still dominated during the season.

Weber played second doubles with junior Drew Feldman, and during the season they had a personal match record of 11-2. They beat the top teams in the top conference of the league, and helped lead the team to a 7-5 finish.

“Being with him on the court is an experience—it is exciting and he really knows how to have fun out there. Throughout the whole season he motivated the entire team and helped me become a better player,” said Feldman. “I learned how to stay mentally controlled on the court, as well as to develop my doubles game. It was great being able to play with him every day.”

At the end of this season, Weber will be awarded with the team’s award for the most improved player.

“His first year on the team, Jon’s play was shaky at best in the fourth doubles slot. He was a strong, but inconsistent player. This season, he has emerged as a force to be reckoned with, through his smashes at the net and enormous strides in his mental game,” said Coach Travis.

Weber’s love for the sport is part of

what helped him this season. He made great improvements in his net game, his consistency, and his mental game, making him a respected player among his team and others in the conference.

“I just loved the sport as a kid. It was a game that mixed intelligence with athleticism. I love doubles especially because the communication aspect makes it a lot more fun, as well as crushing an overhead over the net,” said Weber. “Gael Monflis was a big influence. He is my favorite player, and wanting to play more like him helped push me to become better. In addition, it was truly an honor winning the Most Improved Award, as all of my hard work is being recognized for paying off.”

Next year, Weber will attend the University of Delaware, where he will try out for the Division 1AA tennis team as a walk-on, hoping to continue playing at a high level.



Dan Miranda

**Senior Jon Weber competes at counties for Port Washington.**



# f the Month



## Ashley Pollack

BY **Drew Friedman**

*Senior Sports Editor*

Many people find what they like to do by going out and trying new things. If people didn’t attempt new challenges then they would never know what they are good at and what they are bad at.

Junior Ashley Pollack challenged herself in seventh grade and has never looked back.

“If I didn’t try to run on track in seventh grade and if Coach MacDonald didn’t convince me to do cross country, I probably would have been playing soccer right now,” said Pollack.

Pollack is now co-captain of spring track, winter track, and cross country and is one of the premier long distance runners for Port Washington, running the 400, 800 and 4 x 800 relays. She has been awarded MVP of the team and has gone to counties since she was a freshman. Pollack has also made state qualifiers in both spring and winter track the last two years.

She attributes her talents to Meghan Byrnes, class of 2010, who was a similar runner to Pollack and is now running for Johns Hopkins University.

“I’m not sure what it was about her, but I still make references to her during practice because she was a big part of how I learned to be a competitive and successful athlete,” said Pollack.

Pollack leads the girls team in the 400m with a time of 62.3 seconds, ranks second in 800m with a 2:24 and her 4 x 800 relay team consisting of her, freshmen Laura Russo, and sophomores Dian Lin and Joelle Feinberg broke the school record during winter track with a 9:48. But she isn’t the only one doing well this season.

“The team is doing great this season. We get better and better every year. We

placed third in divisions this year, and the last week in May we have our state qualifiers and a lot of girls have a really good chance of making it to states,” said Pollack.

Pollack runs year-round in cross country and winter and spring track.

“Cross country starts about two weeks before school and a lot of girls, including myself, attend foundations running camp over the summer for a week and during the year there is only about a week or two that I am not running when we are in between track and cross country,” said Pollack.

Ashley is motivated to continue running next season, and in college.

“I hope to continue to improve my skills and potentially run in college,” said Pollack. Pollack feels that the most important part of running is the team and their relationship.

“My favorite part about running is being with the rest of the girls. Winning a race is great, but you spend so much time with the team that you know everyone so well and care about them all,” said Pollack.



Courtesy of Ashley Pollack

**Ashley Pollack has won numerous awards, including team MVP.**

## Badminton squad takes home county championship as seniors graduate

BY **Aaron Brezel**

*Staff Writer*

A year ago, the girls badminton team, despite being in Conference II, shocked Long Island when they advanced to the county finals against perennial badminton powerhouse Calhoun.

Along the way, they defeated teams placed in higher conferences, showing a great degree of improvement throughout the season.

This year was certainly more difficult because the team moved up to Conference I. And despite facing mostly Conference II opponents last year, the girls have been dominating their competition.

Their hard work resulted in an 11-1 record throughout the regular season, earning them a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

Even more impressive has been the manner of their wins, with many games ending in blowouts.

In games against Farmingdale, MacArthur, and Mephram, the team won each match with a score of 7-0. The girls have also gotten key wins against Jericho and Calhoun, coming at 6-1 and 4-3 respectively.

“The win against Calhoun was especially sweet because we got revenge for both earlier this year and our loss in the finals last year,” said first doubles member senior Isha Gupta.

The season’s only loss came in the first of two games against Calhoun by a score of 5-2.

In fact the competition with Calhoun is so tight that at the conclusion of the regular season, both teams had matching records and were named co-conference champions.

Following the regular season, the girls badminton team came into the playoffs as the co-number one seed in the conference along with Calhoun. By the end of the season, the two teams would meet in the finals.

The first playoff game came on May 16, against Conference II’s third seed, Bellmore JFK, who secured a 7-3 record in the regular season.

Even with the first round bye, Port Washington did not miss a beat, blanking Bellmore JFK 7-0.

Next was the semifinal showdown with the Conference I third seed, Jericho, on May 18.

With a trip to the county finals against Calhoun at stake, Port Washington came

out strong once again and routed Jericho 6-1.

“Everyone really came with their A-game. I think the team will be ready to take on Calhoun in the finals,” said second doubles participant sophomore Lauren Livingston, prior to the county finals.

“We are looking to take the finals one point at a time. We shocked people last year coming from Conference II, but this year we have expectations to fulfill. Right now, I know that if we stay on track, we can beat anyone,” said Gupta.

To reach this point in the season, the team has relied on the consistent effort of each and every one of its players, and under the tutelage of Coach Dr. David O’Connor.

“These are a great group of girls who are actively supportive of each other and are eager to win. We are playing a lot more consistent over the last year. Specifically, the doubles pairs have improved tactics and the singles have been over all impressive,” said Coach O’Connor.

He cites the team’s advantage of having experienced players returning, especially in singles roles, to lead the team, as well as having alternates who are always ready to step in spots at a moment’s notice.

In particular, the performances of

sophomore Elizabeth Kallenberg at first singles and senior Olga Kosheva at second singles have set an example for the entire team.

Both remained undefeated the entire season, and while Kallenberg went on to become individual county singles champion, Kosheva’s only loss came against Kallenberg in the individual county finals.

“I just work very hard to improve my game any way I can and to win. So far, it seems to be working out,” said Kallenberg.

First doubles pair seniors Gupta and Juliana Beall compiled a regular season record of 9-1 and received All County honors.

The county championships against Calhoun were decided by one match, and the Vikings claimed victory by a 4-3 margin. Calhoun had won the county championships in the past three years.

The Vikings got victories from singles and doubles. Kallenberg won first singles; Kosheva got the win at second doubles; Beall and Gupta won at first doubles; Livingston and Liz Joahannsen won at second doubles.

“We’re super happy, and we’re all just really excited, and there are no words but unthinkable,” said Gupta.





# Athletes lose respect for the media

*After a series of confrontations with the press, athletes need to change their attitudes*

BY **Brett Fishbin**  
*Senior Sports Editor*

Sports generally do not change much. A football field has always been 100 yards, and a free throw has always been fifteen feet. In the early 1900’s, baseball players would arrive at the park, knowing they would play at least nine innings of ball, or perhaps a few extras if the game remained tied.

However, in our technologically expanding society, the culture that surrounded these traditions has revolutionized several times. Those 1900’s ballplayers had the pressure of 20,000 or so observers, and maybe a few newspaper writers. Now, athletes and coaches are faced with overwhelming attention from the media and the knowledge that everything they do or say will be immediately broadcast and seen by millions.

While this pressure is understandable, a troubling trend has arisen. Athletes and coaches have lost respect for the media. Think of it from a player’s perspective: you just lost a huge playoff game and all you really want to do is go home and try to think about something else for a few hours.

Then, like a choreographed dance in a Broadway musical, fifty sharks in suits ap-

pear from stage left, armed with cameras, microphones, and credentials. It is easy to understand why a star athlete or coach may look at them with disrespect, but it doesn’t mean that it is not a problem.

Athletes and coaches do not have normal jobs; they are paid to be entertainers, meant to provide stress relief (ironically) and entertainment to the busy lives of normal citizens.

Because of this, it is their duty to cooperate with the media and answer questions that fans want to hear. They need to do it not for the aggressive ESPN reporter, but for the fans.

Let’s look at an example. The New York Rangers, engaged in a tight playoff series with the New Jersey Devils, are coached by John Tortorella.

While Tortorella is known as a terrific hockey coach, he is often criticized for his media shenanigans. Earlier in the season, he showed disrespect in a variety of ways, ranging from ranting about someone’s cell phone going off, to answering questions that had not even been asked. More recently, he has given even less. After each (reasonable) question asked, a typical Tortorella response is “Yes,” “No Answer,” “We’ll keep that in the room,” or simply “No.”

While some were amused by his act, I truly believe that it is an embarrassment, not only to him, but to the team as

a whole. Why is a hockey coach entitled to deem himself superior to something that may be important to fans? Even from a humanistic perspective, Tortorella should understand that the media is simply doing its job.

This is certainly not an isolated incident. In 2005, Texas Rangers pitcher Kenny Rogers was frequently questioned about the alleged use of illicit pine tar. After dodging such questions for much of the season, Rogers eventually erupted and shoved two cameramen.

After one kept filming, he then shoved him again, and threw and kicked the camera. While Rogers was eventually reprimanded for the incident, it was another

instance of a recurring superiority complex demonstrated by sports figures.

Another similar incident occurred, concerning former Yankees pitcher Randy Johnson when he screamed at a cameraman repeatedly to get out of his face.

I could continue to provide countless examples, but the point has been made. Athletes and coaches should realize that just because they are physically gifted, they are not exempt from respecting others.

The media can certainly be overwhelming and aggressive, but they are there to serve the fans, the very people who make men like Tortorella, Rogers, and Johnson matter at all.

## On watching the Champions League Final

BY **Katya Barrett**  
*Editor-In-Chief*

I am often told that watching soccer is “too boring.” In most games, there doesn’t even have to be a winner, the haters point out. Sometimes not even a single goal is scored, they add, it can end 0-0. So rather than give a lengthy explanation of why this argument is, in short, silly, I’ll give you one reason why everyone should enjoy watching soccer once in a while: the Champions League Final.

Of course, if you aren’t sure what the Champions League is, this reason might not mean much to you. Put shortly, the Champions League is the best of the best; the top clubs from each of Europe’s top leagues fight for what is seen as the most prestigious club trophy in the world. Beginning every year with qualifying rounds in mid-July, the tournament always ends in mid-May as the final two teams fight for the title.

Less than a week ago, on May 19, Chelsea Football Club, which plays in the English Premier League (EPL), was crowned champions of Europe after beating Bayern Munich, which plays in Germany, 4-3 on penalties.

So why is the Champions League Final alone so great? Reason one: it’s enjoyable to pick one team to root for and one team to hate. If you don’t have a favorite team, choose one anyway. Pick the team you hate most, and then root for the other one. Pick the team with the (and this is totally subjective) most deserving players.

As fans know, chances are that the team you like the most won’t end up in the final every year. And the beauty of the Champions League Final is that for ninety minutes (or more if the game is tied), you can get so swept up in the game that you end up cheering passionately for a team

you’ve never even watched play before. For 120 minutes, plus penalties, on Saturday I screamed and held my breath for Bayern because they aren’t Chelsea, they wear red, and because Bastian Schweinsteiger seems pretty cool. No, it didn’t feel like rooting for Liverpool. But it was fun to get lost in cheering for a team I may never root for again.

Reason two: it’s inspiring to see how much the trophy means to the players. Professional soccer players play a lot of games in their lives, but few get to play in the Champions League Final. So when a player does get there, he knows it might be his only chance at the trophy.

You can see it in each player’s eyes. There’s no doubt that any player on the pitch on Saturday, and many, many players who didn’t make it that far, would give almost anything (a leg, first-born child, you name it) to get their hands on the cup. You have few other chances to see a game where every person plays so desperately.

Reason three (and this one is even simpler): there has to be a winner. Yes, other soccer games can end in ties. But in the Champions League Final, you are guaranteed goals. If there are none (or if it’s a tie) after 90 minutes, they play 30 more. If it’s still tied, they go to the dreaded penalty kicks. It is one game where you know there will be drama.

Yes, that winner may not always be the team you want it to be. For all my yelling at the television and wearing the color red and attempting to learn the Bayern songs, Chelsea still won.

Which brings us to the fourth, and my last, reason: it happens every year. The World Cup, in contrast, occurs every four. But every year, the craziness of the Champions League culminates in a final. While it didn’t go the way I wanted it to this year, next year it might. And that makes it worth watching.



New York Rangers coach John Tortorella gives a bored and careless look to the media after losing game 3 of the Eastern Conference Finals to the Devils.

## Varsity golf season recap

BY **Chad Edelblum**  
*Staff Writer*

In the world of Schreiber sports, no team has claimed as many conference and county awards as the Vikings golf team.

Although golf has historically been one of the best teams in school history, this year has been an unusual year for the once storied team of Schreiber.

After six straight winning seasons, the Vikings went 2-5 this year.

Although golf is a sport based on individual effort, high school matches are won based on team scores and winning the most total rounds.

The 2-5 record does not immediately impress, but with only three upperclassmen on the squad, it is understandable.

The three leaders of the team are seniors Liam Adair, Matt Brooks, and captain Colin Davies.

Davies, a four-year starter on the golf team, has helped out this young team with his leadership on and off the course.

Even in a down year, Port Washington golf is sending two players to counties.

Freshman Eric Schissel and senior Colin Davies were both selected to compete, and they are considered two of the top golfers on Long Island.

Both of these players shoot a consistent 42 to 43 every round which is just seven

or eight above the par 35 course they play on.

“The future of Port Golf is looking bright for the next few years. We have a couple of talented young players who have shown glimpses of quality throughout the season and some more waiting down in Weber who are on track to come up in the next few years,” said Davies. “The best way to improve is just to practice and play as much as you can in the offseason and work on consistency. A small fixable flaw in the swing can go a long way in improving your scores.”

The team also showed promise by putting up much better performances against its opponents as the season progressed.

“We saw some great improvement towards the end of the season. We have a great coach in Ms. Kathy Doughty. She taught all of us so much throughout the season and truly showed us her passion for golf,” said Adair. “When half of your license plate has to do with golf, you know she is going to be a great golf coach.”

Coach Doughty has been teaching golf in Port Washington for a long time and does not expect another losing record out of her team next year.

“Although it was a tough year, it was a rebuilding year. We’ve got a lot of promising golfers. I think the future is bright for this team,” said Brooks.



# VIKING SPORTS

## Baseball team misses chance of playoff run *Despite players' experience, team ends season on 0-6 losing streak*

BY **Dan Miranda**

Assistant Sports Editor

The boys baseball team's chance at finding its way into the postseason ended with a 6-0 loss to East Meadow. On May 7, senior Tim Costello started on the mound and a less than spectacular second inning cost his team a chance at the win.

Costello and his team had a difficult time at the plate against East Meadow's Matt Castaneda, who struck out eight in seven innings with no walks.

"The first inning, I didn't get off to a good start, walking the leadoff batter who ended up scoring," said Costello. "Then the second inning I couldn't throw a strike and being able to throw a strike is half the game."

"This is a predominantly senior team and it kills most of us to lose in a game like this," said senior Aaron Feinberg. "This one definitely hurts."

The Vikings' season, although defined by their 7-12 (3-12 conference) record, had many positives. Five of their starters Wayne Baker (Wheaton), Costello (Franklin & Marshall), A.J. Friedman (Tufts), Jacob Lanzkowsky (Hamilton), and Paul Mills (York) will go on to play Division III baseball next season.

It was not just seniors who found themselves pursuing collegiate baseball.

A couple of juniors are getting recruited to potentially play at the collegiate level, namely Nick Duarte and Bryce Keller.

"Almost every game there was a scout behind home plate projecting his radar gun towards the mound. The scouts came from various schools including Stanford, Columbia, Harvard, Yale, and Duke," said Costello.

Keller, whose fastball ranged from 80 to 90 miles per hour throughout the season, finished with a 3-2 record on the year, and had several games in which he looked virtually unstoppable on the mound. In



Courtesy of Tim Costello

**Senior Grant Ogulnick makes contact with the baseball in which he hit a single up the middle. The Vikings ended up losing the game 9-1 against the East Meadow Jets on May 10.**

the team's first game of the season, Keller threw 16 strikeouts in a one hit effort against Jericho.

That wasn't the only time Keller flirted with seven hitless innings, however. The highly recruited right hander threw a two hitter with 18 strikeouts against Plainview-JFK on April 19. Not only was Keller untouchable on the mound but he also hit over .400 on the season.

Meanwhile Duarte, a catcher who also has the versatility to play in the outfield, transferred from St. Dominic High School to Schreiber after his freshman year and quickly became a starter on the Vikings

roster. Duarte had a tough 2012 campaign but is looking forward to coming back stronger next season.

"I was seeing a lot of curve balls in the beginning of the year, and it got me in an mental slump, but by the end of the year, I was swinging the bat well and I look forward to carrying that into next season," said Duarte.

The team was not just a group of unconnected players. Every Saturday, the team got lunch at Harbor Deli in order to build team chemistry and bond together.

"This team was different from last year's. We had a lot more chemistry this year. Everyone liked each other, and we all played well, just not well enough," said Costello.

"We had the right group of guys but our top players were playing well at different times," said Duarte. "What separates Port from the other teams in the conference was that we weren't able to capitalize on other team's weaknesses, when they were able to take advantage of ours."

Just when the Vikings thought things were turning around, after winning five of six in the middle of the season (beating Plainview-JFK, rival Manhasset, and Valley Stream Central), MacArthur came in to sweep Port.

"It was unfortunate that when we were playing our best baseball, MacArthur was our next opponent. After getting swept, it was tough for the team to bounce back and try to sweep to make the playoffs," said Duarte.

"We were most dissatisfied with the beginning of our season in

which we got swept by Hicksville on two controversial calls. When we look back on the season we should have easily taken 2 or three games from them."

Injuries plagued the team throughout the season.

Going into the season the team was afflicted with the injuries of junior Zach Baer at second base, who hurt his lower back while fielding ground balls during practice, and senior Paul Mills who tore his labrum in his shoulder prior to tryouts. Lastly, captain Aaron Feinberg played through a knee injury most of the season after jamming it while sliding into second base.

"Going into the season we had high hopes of what we were going to be able to accomplish but because of injuries that limited some of our key players early in the season," said Baer.

The Vikings' injury-riddled start put the team in a hole to begin the season.

"We were not able to get off to the start we wanted and that basically set the tone for the whole season. Our major problem this season was our hitting. In the last six games of the season we scored only a total of five runs."

The team will lose nine graduating seniors including both captains, Tim Costello and Aaron Feinberg, and will be forced to cope with the loss of so many veteran players.

Sophomores, like Jordan Cohen and Matt Sica (who both found themselves as varsity call-ups throughout the year), will need to step up to a higher level if the team plans on competing next season in the already difficult Conference AA-II.



Courtesy of Tim Costello

**Pitching ace junior Bryce Keller was dominant on the hill throughout the season. Keller led the team in strikeouts and earned run average.**