

THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXIII No. 3 November 2012



Port Holiday Magic

-News-



**Twilight Saga:
Breaking Dawn II**

-A&E-

Letter of Intent Signing

-Sports-
Colleges Extend Deadlines
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Senior Jua Moon took this photograph of air bubbles in water. She likes to present this image upside down, as it is above, because it elicits questions from people. Some have asked if this is a photograph of mercury. Moon is an AP Photo student.

NEWS BRIEFS

Gas Rationing

Dozens and dozens of cars lined up in front of gas stations, with many drivers unsure if stations would open. Something had to be done. Nassau County officials announced on Nov. 9 that gas rationing would go into effect as of 5 a.m. that morning. The rule called for cars with license plates ending in an even number or zero to obtain their share of gas on even-numbered days, and for cars with vanity plates and plates ending with an odd number to fill up on odd-numbered days.

“It’s a great idea, but it would’ve been better if it came a week sooner,” said music teacher Mr. Anthony Pinelli. “A bunch of teachers have been carpooling to save on gas. I hear that the math teachers have four to a car and each take turns driving once a week.”

Mr. Pinelli, who owns a gas-efficient Toyota Prius, has recently been picking up other staff members to give them a ride to school.

This gas shortage occurred because many gas stations and wholesale gasoline distributors across the area lost power after Sandy, and couldn’t pump the gas from the tanks into vehicles. The available gas supply rapidly depleted, partially due to panic and attempts to hoard gas in light of uncertainty.

Fortunately, drivers noticed improved conditions in the days following the fuel ration.

“It is hard to tell if it was the rationing that shortened the lines,” said health teacher Ms. Patricia Kosiba. “The gas stations could’ve had their own generators, gotten power, received gas, or maybe the odd and even numbers worked. No matter what reason, I’m happy that the lines are shorter.”

The gas shortage impacted driving students as well as teachers.

“I think the gas rationing is effective. When I was babysitting last Saturday, it only took me twenty minutes to get gas,” said senior Mary Puglisi.

“In my opinion, it was the best thing to do because the lines were not as long and it was less frustrating. It seems like we now have more gas and there is no more sense of desperation,” said Spanish teacher Ms. Griselda Dupuy.

~Kelly To

SAT rescheduled

In the wake of superstorm Sandy, the November SAT was postponed to November 17 for many students in the New York and New Jersey area, including some of the students in Schreiber. Twenty test centers closed and eighty-eight colleges and universities extended their

early action dates or expressed flexibility in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

“While I was initially excited that the SAT was postponed, it later became evident that a postponement would be detrimental,” said senior John Meyer. “With no power, the extra work, and crew practice after school, I was left with very little or no time to do extra studying for the SAT.”

This change caused complications for seniors other than just the change in date. The November SAT is the last exam that can be sent as part of an early action or decision application. Most colleges were accommodating with the postponed deadline. For example, Columbia University, allowed students to submit SAT II Subject Tests after the postponed date, but did not allow students to apply early decision if November would be the first time taking the SAT. With the SAT being postponed, it created anxiety for many seniors applying to schools early action.

~Will Berger

Erratum:

In the Sept. issue, the headline “Guidance department establishes new rule” incorrectly represented the new policy. The guidance department only enforced a policy created by school administration.

The Schreiber Times

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Port Holiday Magic encourages small business shopping



School-age children help the community by cleaning up trash on Main Street. This event was a part of the Port Holiday Magic festivities.



A trolley drives down Main Street on Saturday, Nov. 24. Two trolleys carried shoppers throughout Port Washington from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There were stops along Main Street and Port Washington Boulevard.



Two Port Washington residents enjoy a trolley ride during Saturday's Port Holiday Magic event. The Greater Port Washington Business Improvement District sponsored trolley rides free of charge.

Students protest changes to senior AP classes

BY **Lena Kogan**
Staff Writer

Earlier this school year, administrators enacted a policy requiring seniors to attend AP classes after the AP exams. This was greeted with immediate opposition, as students worried that there would not be sufficient time to complete their senior experience projects. After many students expressed and discussed their discontent in a private Facebook group open to all seniors, some took the initiative to voice their opposition to this new policy.

Within a few days of the policy's reveal, senior Elana Galassi drew up a petition with the intent of going to a Board of Education meeting. The petition includes quotes from past and current seniors to demonstrate the senior class' protest and attempt to negotiate with the administration, and contains over 150 signatures. However, because of the disruption created by Hurricane Sandy, Galassi and seniors Tamara Hoffman and Salia Hovenac met with Principal Mr. Ira Pernick on Nov. 16.

"I spoke to Mr. Pernick to discuss his ideas for this petition, because while many were uncertain of what the rule would entail, the grade wanted to express their

attitude towards the rule. The goal of the senior experience is to give students a unique opportunity to pursue something valuable for their future, even if it was something outside of our community, which could be hindered by the policy," said Galassi.

However, in the past, there had been incidents when students were excused from class, and didn't do any work related to their project.

"Although it is a valid point, I do not see this problem with the class of 2013," said Galassi. "If students need to be excused from class, they will need to prove that they are serious about their project, providing evidence such as a written proposal and signature. The process is about being able to pursue something outside of school that you otherwise wouldn't be able to do."

The petition asserted that the opportunity to get time out of class for senior experience should be afforded to all students that demand the extra time, not just AP students.

"We believed it would be a very beneficial experience for all of us, regardless of how many hours, giving people the opportunity to do something really unique and special even if it meant leaving class for it," said Galassi.

"The central question of the petition

is the release time and students being released from AP classes after AP exams to go and do senior experience as we had done last year," said Mr. Pernick. "We met to discuss and relieve any sort of fear that because there was no release time that students could still go out and pursue the most unique experiences they could possibly find. The administration wants the students to find the most meaningful experience that they can find, none of that is connected to release time."

The administration and students are planning to continue to work together to create solutions to any problems with working on the senior experience, and allow seniors to create a memorable project, no matter their interest.

"It always poses some difficulty," said Mr. Pernick. "We created a program that allows students to go and pursue something, but if we can help them create an experience that they're never going to forget that's an okay sacrifice. We try to create flexibility and we're prepared for that."

The school is willing to negotiate students leaving school earlier in the year, before AP exams, for their senior experience, if they present a realistic case for themselves.

"We came to a mutual understanding

that really it comes down to the individual student," said Galassi. "If someone really wants to leave class for a unique and special opportunity, they can do that."

"To attain release hours from school, it must be written in your proposal when you need them, as well as why you would need them," Galassi said in the aforementioned Facebook group. "If there are students here, AP or not, that need release hours, both Mr. Craig Weiss and Mr. Pernick seemed very amicable and agreeable in terms of what they would allow."

However, many students still responded with negative feelings about attending class after AP exams.

"I thought the whole goal of the senior experience was to do something meaningful that you're passionate about, and for some students that means branching out from the confines of the school," said senior Delia van Praag. "I'm unsure about the new rule. At the beginning of the year, one of my AP teachers stated that besides senior experience projects, we would primarily be watching movie and relaxing as most AP classes do after they've finished the curriculum. It seems as if many seniors would benefit from using this time for their projects, no matter what the topic is about."

Students celebrate belated Halloween in costume

BY **Zareen Johnson**

Contributing Writer

When Hurricane Sandy hit Port Washington, it put a stop to Halloween celebrations. Although many kids went trick-or-treating, peers had no chance to see their costumes. In light of this, some students took to Facebook to organize a day to wear their costumes to school on Nov. 9. Many students either didn't know about this plan or ignored it, as only a small number of students wore their costumes.

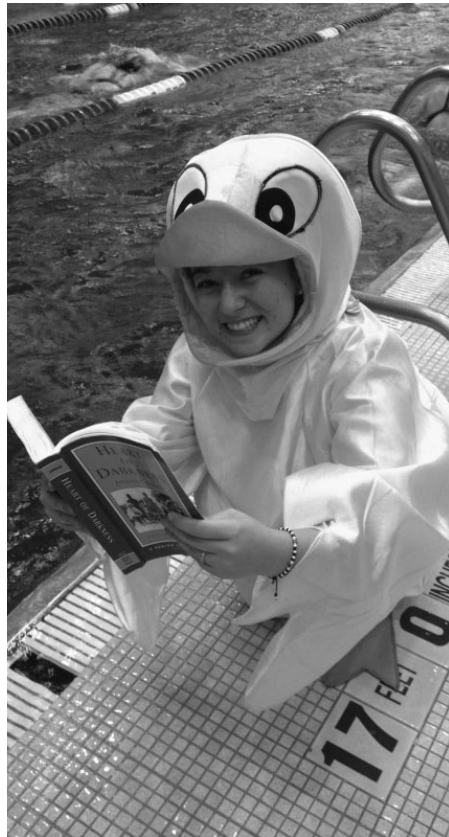
"I wanted people to dress up because it would be a lighthearted way to spring back from such widespread devastation," said senior Elana Galassi. "I was disappointed that we didn't have Halloween in school because it's always so much fun to see what everyone dresses up as and the funny costumes are spectacular."

Galassi and a number of her friends started organizing the costume day using social media, but it was hard for them to spread the news to other grades with such short notice and so many power failures.

"I asked Mr. Weiss about an announcement, but no proceedings were made," said Galassi.

The entire event was student-organized; the staff and administration were not involved.

"I dressed up because I was told it was a designated day to dress up but then when I got to school no one else was," said senior Arianna Kosloff. "It was a fun day and I got lots of confused looks in the



Courtesy of Ellie Zolotarev

Left: Senior Ellie Zolotarev attends swim practice in her duck costume. Right: Sophomore Adam Harris, dressed up as Christina Aguilera, poses in the hallway. Some students came to school dressed up in costumes a week after Halloween.

hallway. I just didn't want all the money I spent on my costume to go to waste."

Kosloff and seniors Ellie Zolotarev and Erin Condon dressed up as ducks.



Courtesy of Adam Harris

were juniors and seniors. Teachers and most underclassmen didn't hear about the event. Some expressed regret over not having a chance to wear their costumes.

"I love Halloween, especially dressing up. I had big plans for this year but didn't have a chance to wear my costume," said Earth Science teacher Ms. Jennifer Paradis. With many on Long Island still without power, students and staff faced much more pressing issues than Halloween costumes.

"No one really dressed up," said sophomore Adam Harris, who dressed up as Christina Aguilera. "It was awkward to be the only one in costume in a class."

Costumes ranged from Pac-Man and his ghosts to the Power Rangers. Another group costume was Thing 1, Thing 2, and also 3, 4, and so forth. All 50 Dr. Seuss characters were not able to roam the hallways, as the storm prevented many from receiving their costumes on time.

"I had a trio of ducks in class," said physics teacher Mr. Don Fish. "They were pretty well-behaved, not distracting in the least. Problems we did in class on that day featured ducks."

The turnout of costumed students was not as large as in ordinary situations.

"I wish the turnout could have been better, but there's always next year," said Galassi.

"I look forward to seeing some marsupials in the future," said Mr. Fish.

Guidance department hosts immediate action program for college admissions

BY **Rachel Cho**

Staff Assistant

Schreiber, has decided to host its first college admission immediate decision program. Representatives from Adelphi University, Dowling College, Mercy College, and St. John's University will visit Schreiber to review student applications and supporting materials. Students can find out whether they are accepted on the same day they submit their application.

"I see many seniors stress and worry about getting into a college and I think participating in this program lessens the pressure for the seniors knowing that they got into a school," said guidance director Mr. Hank Hardy.

Application fees for students participating in the immediate action programs will be waived. After submitting the necessary materials and having a 10 to 15 minute interview with a representative from the college of their choice, students will be notified whether they are admitted or denied.

To participate in the college immediate decision day, students must have attended at least one information session, held throughout the day on Nov. 16, complete a hard copy of the college application, and provide the required materials for each college they are applying to.

"I think it's really helpful, and it's easy because they tell you if you got accepted immediately. Overall it's a really good

program and I am glad Schreiber is offering it," said senior Tom Brown.

Dowling and Mercy Colleges contacted Schreiber immediately upon hearing of the program. The guidance department reached out to Adelphi, and SUNY Farmingdale is still in negotiation to visit at a later date. The administration also looked for local schools with a residential program, specifically.

Students will have to sign up to meet with college representatives on designated days and at designated times. Representatives from Dowling College will arrive at 9 a.m. on Dec. 3, representatives from St. John's will arrive at 9 a.m. on Dec. 6, representatives from Mercy College will arrive at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 7, and representatives from Adelphi University will arrive at 9 a.m. on Dec. 19.

"Through this program everything became more convenient and faster for the seniors," said Mr. Hardy.

"It gives you more confidence because you get your answer immediately and if you don't get in the representatives can tell you what you are lacking so you can fix it," said senior Joe Bonilla.

If students are not accepted they can re-apply for the same school.

"I really like that the colleges give us an immediate decision on the spot because it's so annoying to wait, and I also think the interview is a good experience for future reference," said senior Anna Haralampoudis.

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Minah Kim

Students carry paper towels and toilet paper outside to load into a car. Students donate hygienic products for areas of Long Island still recovering from Hurricane Sandy’s devastation. Below: Junior Amelia Pacht sorts donated items in the lobby. Diapers and baby wipes are some of the most needed items.

Student body recovers and gives back after Hurricane Sandy

BY Ana Espinoza and Minah Kim

Assistant News Editor and Senior News Editor

Hurricane Sandy devastated Long Island and changed lives, leaving many homes ravaged by floods and high winds or without power.

Although power has been restored to Port Washington, some areas were without power longer than others. LIPA restored power to Manorhaven less than a week after the storm, but restoring power to areas of Sands Point and Salem proved to be a much lengthier process.

Many students and staff members without power resided with friends or family for the duration of the power outage, while others remained in their homes and used generators.

“We had a generator for the refrigerator and a couple of lights, but no heat,” said social studies teacher Dr. David O’Connor.

In the aftermath of the storm, the Port Washington-Manhasset Office of Emergency Management (PWMOEM) has encouraged residents to sign up for North Shore Alerts as a part of storm recovery and preparation for future emergencies.

Shelters have been available for residents without power since the storm. The PWMOEM moved the town’s public shelter to the Port Washington Public Library on Nov. 8, and it remained there through the following weekend. Volunteers distributing water, MREs, and information were stationed in the lobby. The library helped residents affected by the storm before becoming a shelter by offering stations to charge electronic devices. During the first weekend after the storm, the library counted 1400 devices connected to its wireless network.

“The Library was incredibly busy starting with the day after the storm hit,” said library director Ms. Nancy Curtin. “We put extra strips everywhere so people

could charge their devices. We put extra chairs near all the plugs and chairs where people could relax, get warm and check their mail.”

The library also served free coffee and showed movies and programming to entertain families residing at the shelter.

“It was wonderful to be able to help people and to see that our residents were so comfortable in what felt like a community living room,” said Ms. Curtin.

Students and staff took different approaches to dealing with the storm and its aftereffects, especially losing power.

“Having no power was very irritating. It was freezing at night and there was nothing to do, but I did get my homework done,” said sophomore Rachel Ellerson. “It was kind of nice to have a week to chill, but also stressful. It was a little bit of both. I would support an annual October break.”

Electricity in most Port Washington homes returned by Nov. 16.

Although many Port Washington residents have recovered completely, nearby areas are still suffering. Several groups in the school have made efforts to help people in Long Beach, Island Park, and other areas of Long Island. Board of Education President Ms. Karen Sloan reached out to Oceanside School District, and the HSA subsequently organized a district-wide collection of school supplies.

“It is always heartwarming to see how much this community cares about others even when they are suffering,” said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick.

The English Honor Society used \$200 that the club had accumulated over the



Minah Kim

years from bake sales to donate school supplies at Staples to Oceanside School District.

“Without reams of paper, binders, pens, etc. it is really hard to have anything close to a normal school. If you think about how much paper teachers hand out in one day, without such basic school supplies, school is so much less productive,” said senior Miles Kurtz, Vice President of English Honor Society. “Right now, I am sure the school district just wants to go back to being as normal as possible and we are trying to assist them.”

The English Honor Society is also running a book drive for “reading Dreams” and the books collected will go towards restocking libraries and schools affected by Hurricane Sandy.

The Human Relations Club collected donations of diapers, wipes, and other basic supplies to donate to Long Beach. Junior Jamie Sall had connections to Long Beach where the club donated all the collected items.

“It is important to help people in need and we should all pull together to help people affected by this storm,” said junior Jamie Sall.

English teacher Ms. Zarkh and several students also organized a drive for Island Park, which collected toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, and hygiene kits including shampoo, soap, and toothbrushes.

Debate team organizes and hosts invitational

BY Rachel Kogan

Staff Writer

Despite difficulties presented by Hurricane Sandy, the debate team hosted and earned high ranks at its annual competition. On Nov. 10, the debate team and its adviser, social studies teacher Ms. Renee McClean, hosted six schools and participated in this competition. Preparation for the event proved to be quite a task as a result of the damages inflicted by Hurricane Sandy.

“It was very difficult this time because school was cancelled and we were not allowed to have after school activities,” said Ms. McClean. “So, students had to meet at their houses or the public library for meetings and preparation.”

Usually, students gather materials in order to come up with an argument in two weeks. This time, debaters had approximately two days to look over the arguments while Ms. McClean organized the competition.

Although Ms. McClean organized the largest portion of the event, the students on the debate team helped. They looked up participating schools online to understand their status after the hurricane. The debate team also made sure that there was enough food and drinks for participating students to eat. Since the school was closed during the weekend, the students also had to speak to custodians and make sure specific rooms would not be locked.

“Due to this shortage of time, students were extremely intuitive,” says Ms. McClean.

In order to create the best outcome from the limited time, Ms. McClean paired older and more experienced students on the team with the younger, newer students.

The National Forensics League organized several resolutions, and students later voted on the topic. The official resolution concerned how American foreign policy in the Middle East undermines our national security.

After much work, the debate team was able to compete in the tournament. The tournament took place in classrooms left open specifically for this event and in the cafeteria.

The tournament was a success for the debate team as many students received high ranks. Junior Chloe Margulis and seniors Robert Gray and Michael Krellenstein placed first in their divisions. Sophomores Andy Varvaro and Sam Reisman received second place in their division. The sophomore team Jacob Bloch and Joshua Curtis, and solo sophomore Mathew Nicholson both placed seventh in their respective divisions.

Schreiber also placed first in the Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate, and in the Varsity Public Forum. The team placed third in JV Public Forum and sixth in Novice Lincoln Douglass.

“It was so much fun to host the tournament again this year,” said sophomore and debate team member Sabina Unni. “We all did such a good job. I’m so excited to participate in this event next year!”

School cancellations affect 2012-13 academic calendar

Superintendent proposes three make-up days during February break

BY **Madeline Fagen**

Contributing Writer

The so-called "October break" that came as a result of Hurricane Sandy will have a significant impact on the 2012-13 school calendar. Students and staff members are worried, what will come of those missed school days? Administrators are only now beginning to provide some answers.

On Nov. 21, Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Mooney sent out an email to all district staff informing them of her proposal to take three make up days during the February break. On Nov. 23, she informed parents with both letters and emails. The Board of Education will likely finalize this change at their meeting on Nov. 27.

On Nov. 18, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that the New York City Department of Education would also cancel three vacation days during February break, and other local districts have followed suit.

"I already have plans and I'm going on vacation," said senior Sohini Upadhyay.

"I'm kind of mad because it ruins my plan of sitting on my bed and doing nothing," said senior Emily Lipstein. "After the stress of college applications it's nice to have a break finally."

The original calendar had 184 days, with four days built in in cause of weather-related emergencies. The district cancelled six days in total, thus needing to make up two more days.

"I think this plan is great. As an AP teacher, it's already tight as it is and these few days will provide great leeway," said AP Biology teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty.

The New York State Education

Department states that school districts must be in session for all students for no less than 180 days. Many students and staff members are concerned that the required amount of school days will not be met because of the six days off. However, according to a *Newsday* article, the State Education Department is considering the prospect of waiving the 180 day rule in these extenuating circumstances of Hurricane Sandy.

"It is not definite that SED will waive the 180 day attendance requirement," said Dr. Mooney. "While it is under consideration, I believe that it is fair to say that it does not appear that such a waiver decision would be favorable towards school districts at this time."

The SED regulations on attendance allow Election Day to be an instructional day for students. However, this is not an option for federal holidays, such as Veterans Day. Superintendent's Conference Days and Elementary Parent-Teacher Conference days are already included in the 184 day schedule, so turning them into instructional time does not count toward make-up days. Students attended school on Election Day solely for the sake of additional learning time.

The original decision to close school was based on many factors. According to Dr. Mooney, school was closed on Nov. 8 because reports of the storm seemed very severe. The district continued to be closed for the rest of the week because state law mandates that school buildings must have power and be able to maintain a temperature of at least 65 degrees in order to open. Additionally, the roads were dangerous with fallen trees and wires, and buses could not run.

"Although extra school would not be the most favorable situation, think that we

will have school given back on days before finals where we usually wouldn't have

"It is not definite that SED will waive the 180 day attendance requirement," said Dr. Mooney. "While it is under consideration, I believe that it is fair to say that it does not appear that such a waiver decision would be favorable towards school districts at this time."

school because of the many days missed," said freshman Steven Sandoval.

Many other staff members agree that using Election Day as an instructional day was a good decision.

Schools were reopened on Mon, Nov. 5 because all seven buildings in the district had power, roads were safer for bus travel, and food services would be able to provide

hot meals for students and staff.

"I was glad to have school on Monday," said freshman Tracy Naschek. "It was important to continue the regular schedule because we had so many days off."

That first week back since the storm experienced a 90-95% attendance rate for both students and staff, despite the power outages and lack of heat that many were facing at the time.

"Since a lot of teachers don't live around here, I expected many of them to be absent due to the gas situation," said junior Alex Larizadeh.

"Missing five days is a very unusual occurrence so being able to gain one day back was a good opportunity," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick.

Many students agree that it has been hard to miss this amount of school and to try and come back into the old routine.

"It has been very hard getting back into the usual routine, but I am glad that some normalcy has returned with school being opened again," said freshman Milan Sani.

The school district has been trying to make missing school days less of a burden for students.

"I think the best thing we can do to help our students is to try to have a normal school life," said Mr. Pernick.

Freshman class discusses issues at town hall meeting

BY **Peter Kirgis**

Contributing Writer

In the midst of election season, freshman students had the opportunity to exercise their democratic rights. Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller held Schreiber's first town hall style meeting in the Commons on Nov. 9 in order to receive input from students.

"It's important to me to develop a good relationship with my students," said Mr. Miller. "I would like to foster an environment of openness and communication. I don't think my school administrators cared what I thought. We need to let kids know that we care what they think."

Mr. Miller posted flyers informing when and where the "town hall" would occur. About 50 freshmen attended the meeting. Students sat in groups at tables, and Mr. Miller and students exchanged questions and responses. Students discussed various topics, including the effects of Hurricane Sandy, prices going up in the vending machines, and the differences between Weber and Schreiber.

Students also asked if the end of the first quarter would be pushed back, due to lost school days as a result of Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Miller felt that

pushing the quarter back would confuse and complicate grading. Because the first quarter counts as only 20% of the final grade, students also felt it wouldn't make sense.

Mr. Miller also voiced his opinion in saying that he was not sure whether school days would be made up in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, but he thought it was a possibility that school days might not have to be made up because of a new law.

The consensus of the group was that compared to Weber, Schreiber classes consist more of lectures than class discussions. Students had mixed feelings about which teaching style they preferred.

Although turnout was not as high as he had hoped, Mr. Miller expressed his satisfaction with the town hall meeting concept.

"We plan to hold another town hall meeting towards the Christmas break," said Mr. Miller.

Students also enjoyed the meeting.

"It was more personal," said freshman Danny Devlin. "It gave more attention to the individual."

Students interested in attending future town hall meetings should listen for announcements on the loudspeaker in the morning, from their teachers or from Mr. Miller.



"We pay special attention to children"



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Point

Counterpoint

Should seniors keep their college choices a secret?

By Chloe Klug
Contributing Writer

For many high school seniors, applying to college is the most stressful and important process in their lives thus far. Often, a senior is surrounded by friends, family, and even teachers, who ask about their college choices. However, talking about college choices only serves to add to the stressful process of applying to college.

“I hate it when other people ask about where I am applying to college,” said senior Dana Majewski. “It makes me uncomfortable, especially when it is a subject I would rather keep to myself.”

By keeping their choices a secret, seniors can relax and not worry about other people knowing where they got accepted or rejected.

Many seniors do not want to share their colleges of choice because they think some of the schools to which they are applying are less popular or less reputable than others.

“Many students do not share their choices to avoid the criticism of other students who claim that you

“When I am in the guidance office handing in my application processing forms, it is normal to see students covering up the names of their schools,” said senior Alison Peltz. “It makes me uncomfortable that some students look over at my form and take a glance at the schools that I am applying to. I prefer to keep it to myself, and not make it a public statement.”

People should respect their friends’ decisions about whether or not to share where they are applying.

They have a right to keep their college choices a secret and, in the end, it should only matter if they are happy with whatever school they will go to later on.

A student’s journey in choosing the right college for them is not a matter that should be shared with the world.

“It is really up to the student whether they want their college choices to be kept a secret or not,” said Director of Guidance Mr. Hank Hardy. “What happens between the college and you is definitely a matter of privacy. The student’s choice is the one that really matters. Peer pressure should not be into

By Makenzie Drukker and Emily Schmidt
Contributing Writers

The beginning of senior year brings new stresses for every student.

Not only do we have to worry about math homework and make sure our social studies papers are turned in on time, but we also have to face the added pressure of college applications and their tedious essays, forms, and supplements. Not to mention, the fast approaching deadline for every college applied to.

We complain, as high school students do, to our friends because we know they can relate. Then comes the inevitable: “Well which school is that essay for?” usually followed by “If you’re telling people.”

Some students will readily count off the ten, fifteen or even twenty schools to which they are applying, while others hide the information.

Keeping these secrets is simply not worth it. Every student should be able

be applying early decision.

However, even within the same friend groups, there are others who are reluctant to discuss their college choices. When asked, they brush off the question, telling others that they are not telling anyone.

We are sure there are schools to which we have applied that will not accept us, but we have accepted that.

Rejection happens to everybody, so why not be able to talk about it and take comfort in the fact that it is a universal experience?

“What will a person knowing where you’re applying really do?” said senior Evan Kerr.

Furthermore, there are very few people who are so concerned with the lives of others that they will truly remember that someone applied to Tufts, Cornell, Harvard, Yale, Amherst, Wesleyan, Boston College and Brown, in that exact order of preference.

Quite frankly, we doubt most people could name more than one or two schools to which each of their friends are applying.

The fact of the matter is this that discussing one’s college choices is just a timely subject of conversation.

It is something to talk about, complain about, and look forward to.

It is unlikely that any remotely kind person would judge someone for being rejected from a school, especially since he or she has probably felt that same sting of rejection.

Rejection is a universal experience, and everyone will face it at one time or another.

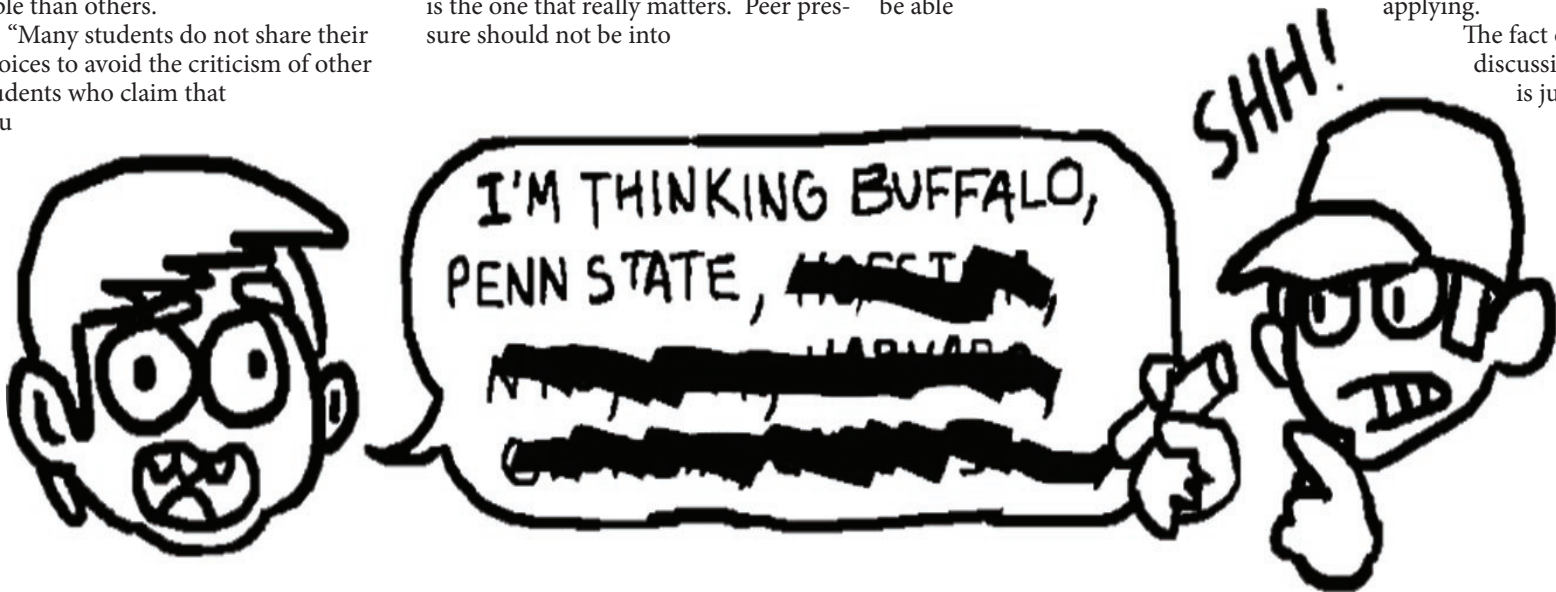
If we reveal our college choices to friends, the reality of being rejected will actually be less painful.

It is actually a relief for us to talk about where we are each applying.

Hearing others talk about how difficult the essay was for College X, or how they know they do not have a chance of getting into College Y reassures us that everyone else is going through the same things we all are, and reminds us that we are not in this alone.

And in a process as stressful as college applications can be, we would much rather bond over and joke about rejection with trustworthy friends than wallow in it alone.

Ultimately, we need the support of family and friends to survive the brutal process of college applications, and there is essentially no use in keeping college choices a secret from those we trust.



aren’t smart enough to apply to that school,” said senior Dana Mirro.

Some may feel insecure or even embarrassed about their college choices, and discussing them constantly may make them feel even worse.

“I think that it is a good idea to keep your college choices a secret, in case you get wait-listed or rejected,” said senior Lily Weisberg.

Take this scenario: you are having a conversation about colleges with your group of friends, and everyone starts listing their choices.

You yourself don’t feel comfortable with saying where you are applying to out loud, and choose not to say anything. Usually, the continuous nagging and pushing to get even one school out can lead to an uncomfortable situation.

For seniors applying early, there usually are not many schools to list. If someone asks where you are applying early, they will likely remember the few schools you name.

account.”

Sharing college choices is only an issue for a short time; once people are accepted into college, the worried feeling of embarrassment disappears, and we can share the excitement of an acceptance letter with family and friends openly.

to express their college choices.

“I think it’s really important to be proud of where you’re applying,” said senior Tori Lehrer. “Still other students will launch into lengthy explanations of which schools are their ‘safeties,’ their ‘targets’ and their ‘reaches.”

They will talk about early applications, including where they may

Schreiber Speaks

“College choices are like personal belongings; you wouldn’t want anyone looking around and asking questions, right?”
- Gisella Snailer, senior

“Having college choices be kept a secret is unnecessary. Being able to share college choices with friends helps ease the stress of college.”
-Christina Corbo, senior

Extra credit is much more than “free points”

BY **Emma Brezel**

Staff Writer

It’s the night before the end of the quarter and you have been working hard all semester, but you seem to have come up just short of the grade you wanted.

Whether it’s a 94 or a 69, one percent has never given you so much anxiety. If you are lucky, you may still be able to achieve your dream grade with some extra credit.

The temptation of “free” points is what draws students to extra credit, but the extra credit assignment has different implications for the teacher.

For instance, one popular health extra credit is to have a discussion with a parent or guardian about a topic that was discussed in class.

This may seem easy, but the purpose of the assignment goes beyond boosting a student’s grade.

“We often offer extra credit that involves parent communication,” said health teacher Ms. Janine Kalinowski. “For example, we ask students to get a ‘Contract for Life’ signed by a guardian in the hopes that parents have open discussion with their child about the risks involved in substance abuse and to always arrange for safe transportation.”

This assignment also proved to be helpful to the students.

“It seemed like an easy ten points,

but this assignment allowed me to discuss important issues with my parents that wouldn’t normally be discussed,” said senior Michael Sperling.

Extra credit can be used to supplement class discussions and even to get students to apply their knowledge to the real world.



Jane Nolting-Kolb

College deadlines extended to help students

BY **Natasha Talukdar**

Assistant Opinions Editor

Many colleges extended their early action and early decision deadlines in light of the complications that resulted from Hurricane Sandy.

For many high school seniors, this news brought immense sighs of relief about meeting deadlines.

“It is very convenient for schools to push back their deadlines,” said senior Emily Hack. “Students who did not have access to power after the hurricane must feel a great relief to know that their schools extended their early deadlines.”

Because of widespread power outages across Long Island, many students would have faced great difficulty in completing early applications on time.

“I think it was a great idea that colleges extended their deadline due to the effects of the hurricane,” said senior Reed Kalash. “It would have been impossible for many students on the east coast to get their applications in on time when there was no power to access their online applications.”

It is true that students without power or those who waited until the last minute to submit their applications benefit from this, but what about students who finished days or even weeks before the deadlines?

Most likely, these responsible students must now wait longer to receive an admissions decision, which is unfair to those students who thought ahead and got their work done on time.

“I finished my applications early, before the hurricane, to make sure that nothing would go wrong,” said Hack. “I personally think that colleges should let

us know what their decisions are on the original dates that they intended to, but it is understandable if they do not.”

Often, seniors try to get the worst out of the way, and for those applying early, getting their applications done as soon as possible is usually the best option.

But because of these extended deadlines, many students are now worried that they won’t hear back soon enough

“Students who did not have access to power after the hurricane must feel a great relief to know that schools extended their early deadlines,” said Hack.

from their colleges.

Seniors applying to their dream school for early admissions often wait to complete all applications depending on whether or not they got accepted into their top schools.

College applications contain lengthy supplements and essays, and most seniors strive to avoid having to do extra supplements if necessary, and knowing if one has been accepted to their early school is crucial in making this decision.

Waiting to submit other applications would save the applicant a significant amount of money in application fees. Most importantly, a great amount of stress and work from applying to more colleges would be prevented.

In contrast, some students were not bothered by this delay.

Those who feel less stress about

In light of Hurricane Sandy, social studies teacher Mr. Craig Medico assigned an extra credit assignment to his AP Macro/Micro Economics classes. The assignment asked students to evaluate the effects of Hurricane Sandy on the local economy.

“This assignment really made me apply the knowledge I had learned in class to the real world,” said senior Shalini Radhakrishnan. “Things we learn in school can seem so disconnected from reality, but this extra credit allowed me to apply these topics to something that is very relevant to us.”

Biology teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty also uses her extra credits to open her students’ eyes to the world around them and introduce them to new and interesting topics.

Her biology students are allowed to write a summary of any episode of PBS’s NOVA, a science show examining a different subject in each installment.

“All the NOVA are really interesting and you can pick whichever one you want,” said sophomore Eric Adsetts. “Even if the topic doesn’t pertain to what we are discussing in class, it is still cool to explore a completely new field of study and learn things that I would never learn in school.”

Extra credit is not simply “easy” points given away to help with students’ grades. Rather, extra credit is beneficial for students to learn about interesting topics that might not have been explored fully during the actual class time.

finding out if they were admitted or not to their top choice schools will be less affected by this.

“I honestly do not think a few days or even a couple of weeks would make a difference,” said senior Ben Lerner. “Even if you are applying early somewhere, it is best to have other applications ready to submit for regular admission. It is good to have schools as a backup and to make sure your application process goes as smoothly as possible.”

Although there might be the slight disadvantage of hearing back later from colleges, the decision of extending the deadline was unavoidable and necessary because of this hurricane disaster that hit Long Island.

Ultimately, it is reasonable that even those who met the original deadlines will have to wait slightly longer to hear back from their schools, despite the possible disadvantages of this.

“I definitely think it’s fair if I have to wait longer for a decision,” said senior Emma Zorfass. “For many people, the extensions made the difference between applying to the schools they wanted to and missing the deadline, so I’m willing to wait a couple extra weeks to hear back.”

Hurricane Sandy took a terrible toll on residents everywhere on the east coast, and thankfully, colleges were gracious enough to extend their early action and early decision deadlines.

This will make applying to college an overall easier and less stressful process for all of those affected by the terrible storm.

While it may be annoying to wait a bit longer for decisions, the benefits of this decision outweigh the costs.

Current Events: US policy toward Iran

BY **Robert Gray**

Staff Writer

Anyone following the presidential election may have noted that the positions of the Republicans and Democrats in regards to Iran are the same. While the degree of force recommended to deal with the Iranian nuclear threat is questioned, both sides agree that the Iranian nuclear program must be stopped. Stronger sanctions, and perhaps military action, are recommended to deal with this situation. This is not a prudent stance to take if we really wish to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

The warlike stance that the United States has pursued towards Iran is counterproductive. The United States is, according to Vice President Joe Biden, “willing to talk to Iran, and to offer a very clear choice: continue down your current course and there will be pressure and isolation; abandon your illicit nuclear program and support for terrorism and there will be meaningful incentives.”

Our approach to Iran’s nuclear program is eerily similar to the manner in which we dealt with Iraq. The emphasis is on force, pressure, and uncovering evidence of an ongoing weapons program. There is a completely adversarial relationship between the current regime and our own government. The precedent is established that the United States will assist in nuclear development, so long as proper oversight is allowed. But here, no effort to replicate that situation has been taken. Rather than overseeing or assisting, the U.S. has pursued conflict. However, the stakes are different in Iran. Already, continued pressure and isolation are making Iran less willing to cooperate. Iran has not been willing to engage in high-level negotiations.

Iranian officials have delayed setting a new date for talks, believing that they face a covert war. This is acceptable, seeing as the United States has a long history of intervention in Iranian affairs. Recently, Iran has voiced concerns that IAEA inspectors pass intelligence information from sensitive military sites to their respective governments. With escalating pressure and open debate in the United States about an eventual attack, it is unlikely that Iran will be prepared to make unilateral concessions.

We are backing the Iranian government into a corner, and increasing the rewards they will reap if they are able to produce a weapon. A Western strike on their program would be a mere setback, not an end, to the program. The Iranian military and air defense systems are not unsophisticated, and with the potential of terrorism, it seems certain that such an intervention would be costly. Iran could easily cut off oil supply through the Persian Gulf, leading to global crisis. The U.S. military is already stretched thin due to recent taxing wars, and adding to this would be irresponsible. An attack would only solidify Iranian hostility and unite the people behind the regime.

To prevent Iran from creating a bomb, and to avoid war, we need a reset of relations along a more conciliatory line.

Extending the quarter isn’t necessary after missing school days

BY **Hallie Whitman**
Opinions Editor

After Hurricane Sandy and the nor’easter during the last week of October led to six cancelled school days at the very end of the first quarter, both students and staff wondered whether administrators would extend the quarter.

In theory, this would allow for additional time for students to complete assignments and for teachers to administer final tests or quizzes.

Ultimately, the administration decided, rightfully, to keep the original quarter dates and follow through with the official schedule.

“I’m glad that the administrators decided not to extend the first quarter,” said junior Lylia Li. “It will definitely benefit not only the students, but also the teachers in the long run.”

Extending the quarter simply would have caused more disruption to the already interrupted school schedule. Overall, it was the smartest and most beneficial decision to keep the original dates.

This was beneficial to both students and teachers alike, as making any more changes to the schedule would have resulted in superfluous, unnecessary confusion and extra additions to the workload.

Since the first quarter counts the least under Schreiber’s weighting system, the second, third, and fourth quarters, which are valued as more important, will remain unaffected. This is the most

favorable solution for everyone in the school community because the quarter that counts the least is cut short, while the more heavily counted quarters are left to their full length to allow students the proper

amount of time to complete all assignments and earn the best grades possible. “Because of the unique weighting system, all of the quarters other than the first count for more than this one,” said senior Ashley Pollock.



Value of the public library reasserted

BY **Michael Sperling**
Contributing Writer

It would be an understatement to say that the public library in Port Washington was helpful during the time after Hurricane Sandy.

Not only did it function as a public facility to many powerless families, but it also became a home to many of those who would rather not freeze.

Every day after school, students and adults alike flood to the library either for its resources or simply to find a quiet place to do work. However, over those few days after Sandy, the library became overcrowded with fights over outlets.

“When I went to the library, it was packed and there were no more seats left,” said senior Emma Brezel. “I wanted to charge my phone but there were no outlets left but luckily, the library had set up extra outlets and I was able to find a place to work.”

With nearly the entire town without power, the few places that were functioning properly, such as the library, became infested with people looking for the opportunity to relax and charge their electronics.

Yet, as time went by and people still did not regain power, the library did not simply become a place to charge phones, but more of a place to escape and to get out of the house.

“I didn’t go to the library during the storm but I didn’t have power for twelve days,” said senior Leah Weingast. “It was really nice how the community came together. The activity center at Schreiber and the library were great places to spend time at. The teachers at Schreiber were also really understanding with assignments and projects after the storm.”

The library was warm, it had power, and it even had access to the media section. What else could you possible need?

In addition, thanks to the generous organizations in town that were providing food and water to those who could not obtain it, people were actually allowed to eat in the library. In fact, the library was comforting to the extent that shoes were even optional, which something that I thought I would never see.

The strange thing about it all is that, after Sandy, people started to see the same folks at the library repeatedly with their families and electronics. At first you don’t think anything of it, but as you see children running around and playing together, and adults laughing over cups of hot chocolate, it’s clear that the library became something more than a shelter for those who were affected by the storm. It became almost a place to reignite the spirit of the community in this town. Not to say that there was never a sense of community, but the library was able to bring these feelings out in all of us in the same place.

“The overly crowded library was reminiscent of the Schreiber cafeteria in that all the chairs were taken, causing students to sit on the floor with their laptops,” said senior Jillian Knoll. “Many were charging at the nearest outlet in panic and would not subside until they could check all of their social networking sties and finish their homework before the library closed.”

There is no coincidence that it has been said that disaster brings people together and that is exactly what the library was there for. They gave power to the powerless and company to the lonely during this trying time of eighteenth century life.

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Editorials

Proposal to shorten February break to compensate for lost school days

With six days of school missed due to Hurricane Sandy many were left wondering: When is the other shoe going to drop? When are we going to have to make these days up?

A week and a half ago Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Mooney answered this question for us, by suggesting to the Board of Education that district schools must eliminate three days of the week-long February break, creating two three-day weekends, instead of one continuous ten day break.

While many were hoping that New York State might come through and allow schools to continue without making up for lost time, such a waiver has not yet come through, and will only be offered to districts on a case-by-case basis, assuming that the district has already eliminated any disposable vacation days.

Although *The Schreiber Times* understands the district's need to comply with state laws, this solution is extremely frustrating. The three week long vacations during the school year are necessities for many stressed and over-taxed students and teachers.

Additionally, students whose family members have already booked and paid for vacations will have to either miss several days of instruction, or sacrifice their parents' money. Teachers, in many cases, may have planned to go away during the vacation, and may still choose to do so.

These pre-planned vacations may result a school week in which student and teacher absences are high, and those who

do come to school are bitter about being there. This is not a conducive environment for academics.

While *The Schreiber Times* understands that extensive planning went into this, we wonder why the days could not have been taken in smaller pieces from other planned vacations.

The Schreiber Times is appreciative, however, that the school district chose not to interrupt vacations that coincide with important religious days of observance.

Still, because this sudden addition of school days falls during a time in which students expected to not have to be at school, *The Schreiber Times* suggests that the district not penalize students for absences on these days.

However the most frustration lies with the state, which continues to mandate that no schools operate on federal holidays such as Martin Luther King Day and Memorial Day, which would not have competed with serious vacation plans and would have likely produced higher attendance rates than the cancelled February break will.

It would be more helpful, still, if the state could make a motion to immediately waive 180 day requirement, allowing schools to proceed as planned, without punishing students and teachers by eliminating vacation time.

It is unfair that the state has, so far, held strong on the 180-day requirement, because Hurricane Sandy was a legitimate natural disaster, which left many schools in New York State with no

choice but to close. The state should not punish our schools by decreasing needed aid because of unavoidable closures.

Regardless, the shortening of President's week vacation will without a doubt wreak havoc on many families and teachers in our district putting them in the precarious situation of either canceling flights and hotel reservations or using "sick days" and hoping that they don't actually get sick later on.

The Schreiber Times understands the complexity of this issue and will continue to support administrators' decisions, so long as they are just and fair towards the student body.

Community comes together after Sandy

When disaster strikes, we have three options. We can choose to ignore the problem, become bitter and simply complain about it, or adopt can-do attitudes and do something to make the situation better.

After Hurricane Sandy struck at the end of last month, the Schreiber community overwhelmingly went with the third option.

The Schreiber Times would like to thank each and every person who put in an effort to help out.

Whether you headed to the make-shift community center in the wake of the storm to donate goods, services, or a smile; ran a drive of some sort; collected money to help those in need; made a trip to a devastated community to help rebuild; or simply housed friends or family without a safe, warm place to live, *The Schreiber Times* wants you to know that you made a difference, and your efforts are appreciated.

It is during difficult times such as these that peoples' moral characters are tested. In the month following Hurricane Sandy, the Schreiber community has proven itself to be one made of caring, selfless, and genuinely kind individuals.

The Schreiber Times is grateful to be

a part of such an amazing community that came together in a time of difficulty for those in neighboring areas, and is proud of all of the students, teachers, and families who helped out during a time in which they may have needed some help themselves.

Although the storm has passed and life in Port Washington has nearly returned to normal, it is important to note that many individuals, even here on Long Island, are still suffering immensely, and may continue to suffer throughout the winter.

The Schreiber Times urges the student body to realize that although it was important that we support victims of Hurricane Sandy immediately after the storm hit, it is even more important that we continue to help those affected, as the post-storm "hype" dies out, and less aid is available.

Have something you want to say to the Schreiber community? Then submit a Letter to the Editor at www.theschreibertimes.com under the tab "Submit a Letter!"

Times Policy Statement

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

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

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

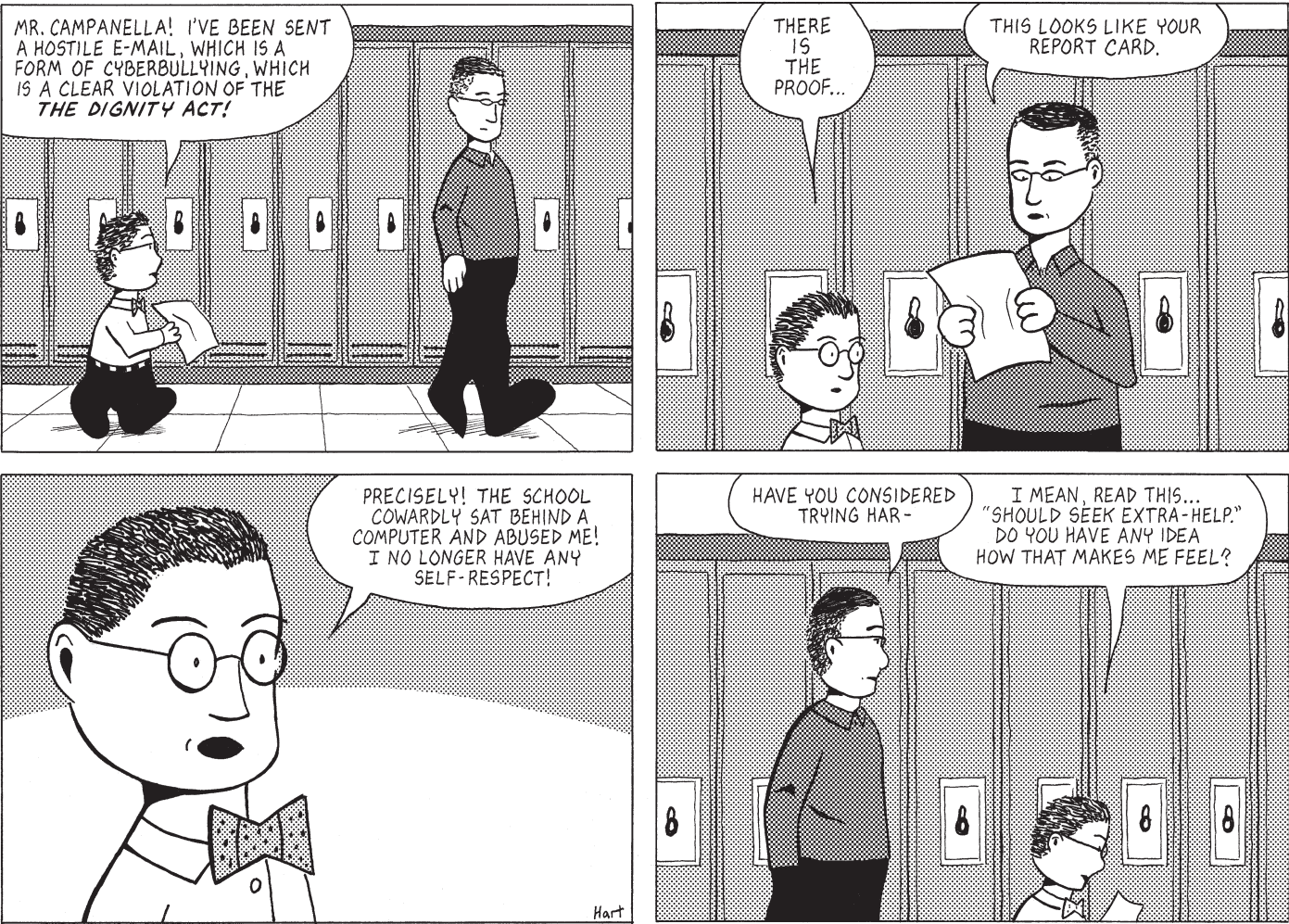
We will print letters to the editors if judged to be of sufficient quality and importance on a space-available basis. We will not print letters that are obscene, libelous, or contain unfounded charges. The Times reserves the right to shorten letters if doing so does not alter their meaning, and to choose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

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

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

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

The Hart Knock Life



Mini lines for the iPad Mini, which falls short of expectations

by Jack Weinkelbaum
Staff Writer

The release of a new Apple product typically draws scores of dedicated fans, who camp out in front of stores for hours. Hardly anyone was freezing on line outside of the Apple Store prior to the release of the new iPad Mini, which has generated deservedly little hype.

The primary differences between the

iPad and the iPad Mini are superficial ones. An obvious difference that distinguishes the Mini is its smaller screen, which measures 7.9 inches compared to the regular iPad's 9.7-inch display. However, the iPad Mini's 1024 x 768 screen is not a retina display like the iPad's, and customers who are accustomed to the retina display's exceptionally high pixel density will be disappointed. Further, the iPad Mini contains the iPad 2's old processor, the dual-core A5 chip, which is



www.apple.com

Apple's playful new television commercial for the iPad Mini displays the new product as an instrument, as well as a tool that increases productivity. The piano app is one of many allowing generally productive people to procrastinate.

considerably slower than the new triple-core A6X chip in the larger 4th generation iPad.

The iPad Mini features an aluminum back and diamond-cut aluminum sides, similar to that of the iPhone 5. This new product is charged by the Lightning Connector, which will make current iPad holders grumble. Old Apple dock connectors are now obsolete and the new adapter costs an astounding \$30.

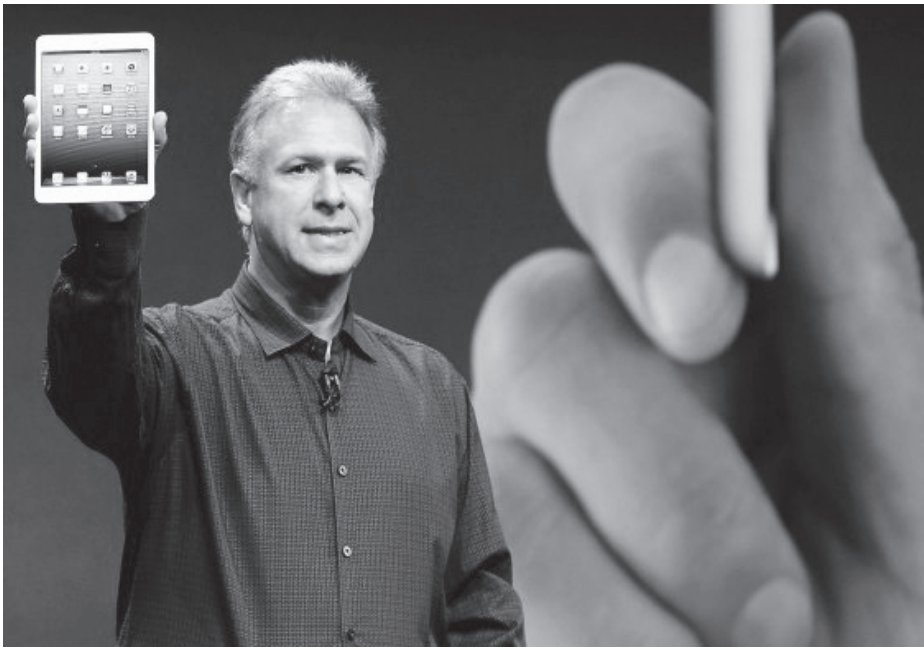
For those who use their mobile devices as cameras, the iPad Mini has a 5 megapixel back camera with 1080p video recording and a 1.2 megapixel front-facing camera with 720p video recording.

The iPad Mini Wi-Fi-only models start at \$329 with 16GB storage. Other tablets offering similar performance with high

resolutions, such as the Kindle Fire HD, are available for \$199. With prices like those, it is pretty hard to consider buying the iPad Mini when other companies are offering more features for less money.


"Although it is cheaper and more convenient to carry than the regular iPad, the iPad Mini just is not worth it because the price is still expensive for what you actually get," said senior Debbie Oyarzun.

If you are in need of a smaller tablet, look for more reasonably priced Android alternatives. Unless you are trying to complete your collection of Apple products, adding the iPad Mini to your assortment of electronics is not worth the price.



www.nymag.com

Apple's senior vice president of worldwide marketing, Philip W. Schiller, introduced the company's latest product, the iPad Mini, which is essentially just a shrunken version of the full size iPad.



AUDITIONS

TUESDAY,
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Prepare 16-32 bars of music, to
sing a capella,
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THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

production challenges student actors to handle sensitive topics

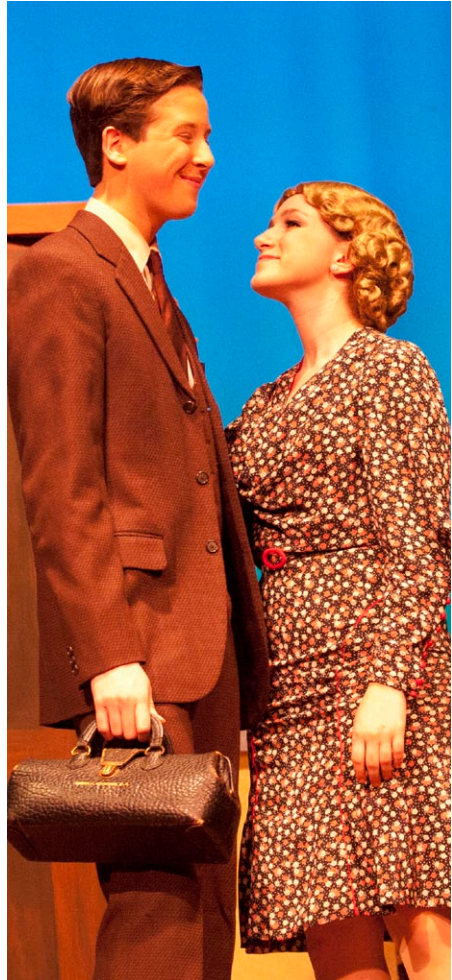
Lies. Pain. Destruction. Death. High school play?

Performed during the weekend of Nov. 10, Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour* tells a cautionary tale about the power of lies, and the importance of being true to oneself.

Best friends and coworkers, Karen Wright (senior Julia Bain) and Martha Dobie (junior Sydney Ronis) run a girls' boarding school to which they have devoted their entire lives and savings.

The first few scenes of the play showed Wright and Dobie at the school with their young students, and were relatively uninteresting.

From the opening scene it is obvious, however, that schoolgirl Mary Tilford (junior Sabrina Brennan) is the quintessen-



Harry Paul

Ms. Wright (senior Julia Bain) looks lovingly into the eyes of her fiancé (senior Liam Marsigliano). The two end up breaking their engagement because Ms. Wright could not trust that her fiancé believed she was heterosexual.

tial bully and troublemaker. Armed with connections to the school's major benefactor, her grandmother Mrs. Amelia Tilford (senior Delia Van Praag), blackmail for every student, and a knack for misbehaving, her potential for manipulation and destruction is manifold.

The downfall of the headmistresses starts when two schoolgirls overhear Martha being criticized by her aunt for her "unnatural" relationship. With this information, Mary Tilford, frustrated with the teachers' punishing her for her misbehavior, runs away to her grandmother's house. Simply wanting to get out of school, she concocts a rumor that her two teachers "have been lovers" which would devastate their livelihoods and lives.

Cue the drama and desperation.

Although the role may have warranted it, Brennan's performance during the more intense moments of the play was over-dramatic, and, at times, almost terrifying. Her mood transitions appeared sudden and unstable, creating an almost psychopathic element to her character, and eliminating any chance of the audience sympathizing with her.

"Mary is really evil," said Brennan. "She is the epitome of the school bully, and not only does she bully the children, but the adults as well."

Genuinely disturbed by the supposedly lesbian teachers, Mrs. Tilford quickly spreads this information to Mary's classmates' families, who promptly withdraw their children from the school, effectively destroying all that Wright and Dobie have worked for in one night. Dr. Joseph Cardin (senior Liam Marsigliano) steps onto the scene to defend his fiancée, Ms. Wright, from the false accusations of his aunt Mrs. Tilford. In this scene, Marsigliano and Bain emerged as two of the most believable and compelling actors in the play.

"This production has made me become a better actor," said Marsigliano. "I never thought I could do drama until this show. Even in past drama productions, I did not get it or I played an over-the-top performance. But this show has really taught me to branch out and do something bigger than comedy."

Van Praag perfectly executed her role as the intolerant, stubborn old woman who could not see past her own convictions. Her voice cracked and croaked as she spoke louder and the argument intensified. She even perfected the small minute details of trembling hands when pouring whiskey and turning the dial on her telephone in her worry and shock.

"It was a little strange, considering I'm

quite liberal and very much support gay rights and marriage equality," said Van Praag. "Although, it was sort of fun to play a villain, someone who was so bigoted and closed minded, yet someone who strongly believed she was doing the 'right' thing."

The teachers proceed to bring the false claims to court for libel, but with the testimony of another student blackmailed by Mary and the absence of the aunt who knew the truth behind the conversation that started it all, the teachers lose the case.

The play then cuts to the teachers sitting in their abandoned schoolhouse for

(although the word is never explicitly said in the play), and has been in love with her best friend all along. Ronis was natural and free with the expression of her emotions, and had an extremely convincing breakdown laden with guilt immediately preceding her suicide. Her fear and helplessness were palpable to the audience, and not a dry eye was in sight after hearing the sound of the shotgun.

"Sydney's final confession scene is one that always brings tears to my eyes," said director and science teacher Ms. Christine Nelson. "She's given her all since the audition, and she's always been right there



Harry Paul

Mary Tilford (junior Sabrina Brennan) makes an excuse to her teacher, Mrs. Lily Mortar (freshman Elizabeth Muratore) for her lateness to class. Mary's habitual lying gets her in trouble later in the play, when her grandmother reveals that Mary has fabricated a story about her other two teachers being "lovers."

an indefinite period of time. The rumor, having spread to the town, prevents them from ever entering the public again, as made evident by the grocery boy (freshman Max Miranda) who snickers and scoffs as he drops off the groceries. This time when the teachers are cooped up in the schoolhouse elicited the most dramatic and emotional performances.

Bain made her character extremely relatable, and exuded loving care for all of the other characters throughout the performance. The audience understood and even felt Wright's pain when she broke it off with Dr. Carden, for fear that he would never again trust that she hadn't had romantic feelings for Dobie.

The best performance, without a doubt, came from Ronis. As Martha, Ronis had to play the part of a woman who realizes, to her horror, that she is actually a lesbian

with her emotions. She gives a lot to that character."

"I am thrilled that I was able to be in my favorite show and play my dream role. It's tacky to say this, but it was a dream come true," said Ronis. "This gave me an opportunity to play a part that has a lot of depth and a lot of realism in it. It is a heavy situation, and I think that in itself being exposed to something like that and having to portray something like that is helpful as an actor."

Bain's reaction in disbelief to Dobie's suicide created an instant tension in the theater. After this climax, the entrance of Mrs. Lily Mortar (freshman Elizabeth Muratore), completely unaware of the tragedy that had just occurred, was irritating to say the least. Her purpose in this play was the most ambiguous and only her selfishness and obliviousness reverberated

throughout the play.

The play ends with the shameful entrance of Mrs. Tilford, who comes to exonerate the women. When she finds that Martha has committed suicide, she realizes the unmendable consequences of her rash actions. Bain boldly and indignantly makes the last statement of the play, condemning all those who caused this tragedy.

The theme and message of the play were difficult to understand, although this was not the fault of the actors. The central theme is obviously the destruction that lies and herd-mentalities can reap. However, the more controversial and interesting of the ideas covered, that homosexuality can be natural, is never developed. The topic of homosexuality was introduced in the play, but, could have been better explored by challenging the prejudices that ultimately caused Martha's death.

When Lillian Hellman first wrote *The Children's Hour* in the 1930s, any mention of homosexuality on stage was illegal. Public acceptance of homosexuality has grown much larger since then, as is evidenced if only by the production of the play in a public high school. Members of Schreiber's Gay Straight Alliance used this as an opportunity to spread its messages of accepting, understanding, and embracing Schreiber's LGBT community, and set



Harry Paul

After a rumor that Ms. Dobie (junior Sydney Ronis, left) and Ms. Wright (senior Julia Bain) are lesbians spreads throughout the town, Ms. Dobie realized that she actually did have feelings for Ms. Wright, and has an emotional breakdown before ultimately taking her own life.

up a table in the lobby distributing pins, pamphlets and "ally" stickers.

"I think it really stays true to the fact of what it was like



Harry Paul

The Children's Hour opened with a few scenes set at Ms. Dobie (junior Sydney Ronis) and Ms. Wright's (senior Julia Bain) school. Here, students rehearse scenes from Shakespeare's *Cleopatra* and do each other's hair. Just minutes later later, the students are all withdrawn from the school because of a vicious lie.

to be homosexual at this time and it brings this to light to people who don't really know much about it or people who don't care," said freshman Alexandra DeAngelis who played Peggy Rogers, a schoolgirl bullied by Mary Tilford. "When I first found out, I was a little surprised, but the cast is so great. We can definitely handle it."

Aside from the actors' performances, impressive set construction and quick transitions made the production shine, and helped the audience to adjust to a sometimes confusing storyline by clarifying where each scene took place and which characters could be expected to appear. Crew members swiftly transformed the stage from the interior of the schoolhouse to Mrs. Tilford's living room.

This show was a departure from the light-hearted comedies or cheerful musicals that frequent the Schreiber stage. The

also lacked a key quality of many plays and musicals: a happy ending. What is quite notable, in fact, is that *The Children's Hour* offered no solution to the destruction caused by Dobie's concealing, and, ultimate disclosure of, her sexuality. Perhaps, instead of attempting to teach the audience a lesson about how to handle difficult sexual situations, this show offers a plea to remedy the social stigma and personal sense of wrong experienced by homosexuals. *The Children's Hour* ended with an air of desperation and hopelessness, as Wright contemplates how her life was completely destroyed by the ill-will of a little girl.

"Of all of the shows I've done, this is probably the deepest thematically. This show in particular has a darker mood," said Ms. Nelson.

Although *The Children's Hour* featured more mature themes and wasn't the least bit uplifting, the actors were able to bring a very powerful story to life.

By Hannah Fagen
and Minah Kim

How to be a hipster: the official guide on straying from the norm

BY Charmaine Ye
Staff Writer

Want to be a hipster? According to urbandictionary.com, a website heavily relied on by teenagers, the definition of a hipster is someone “who is ‘in the know,’ ahead of the norm, and not too mainstream.” In other words, the term “hipster” cannot clearly be defined because categorizing someone as one would make the word too ordinary.

“The thing about hipsters is you can’t want to be one or try to be one, you just are one,” said senior Margaret Pepe.

So, unless you can disregard the opinion of your peers, an act that seems impossible for high school students, you will find it nearly impossible to defy mainstream culture.

Fortunately, I have been studying these so called “hipsters” in school and have deduced a few key points to help you become a hipster, learn to recognize them, point them out to tourists, or completely avoid them.

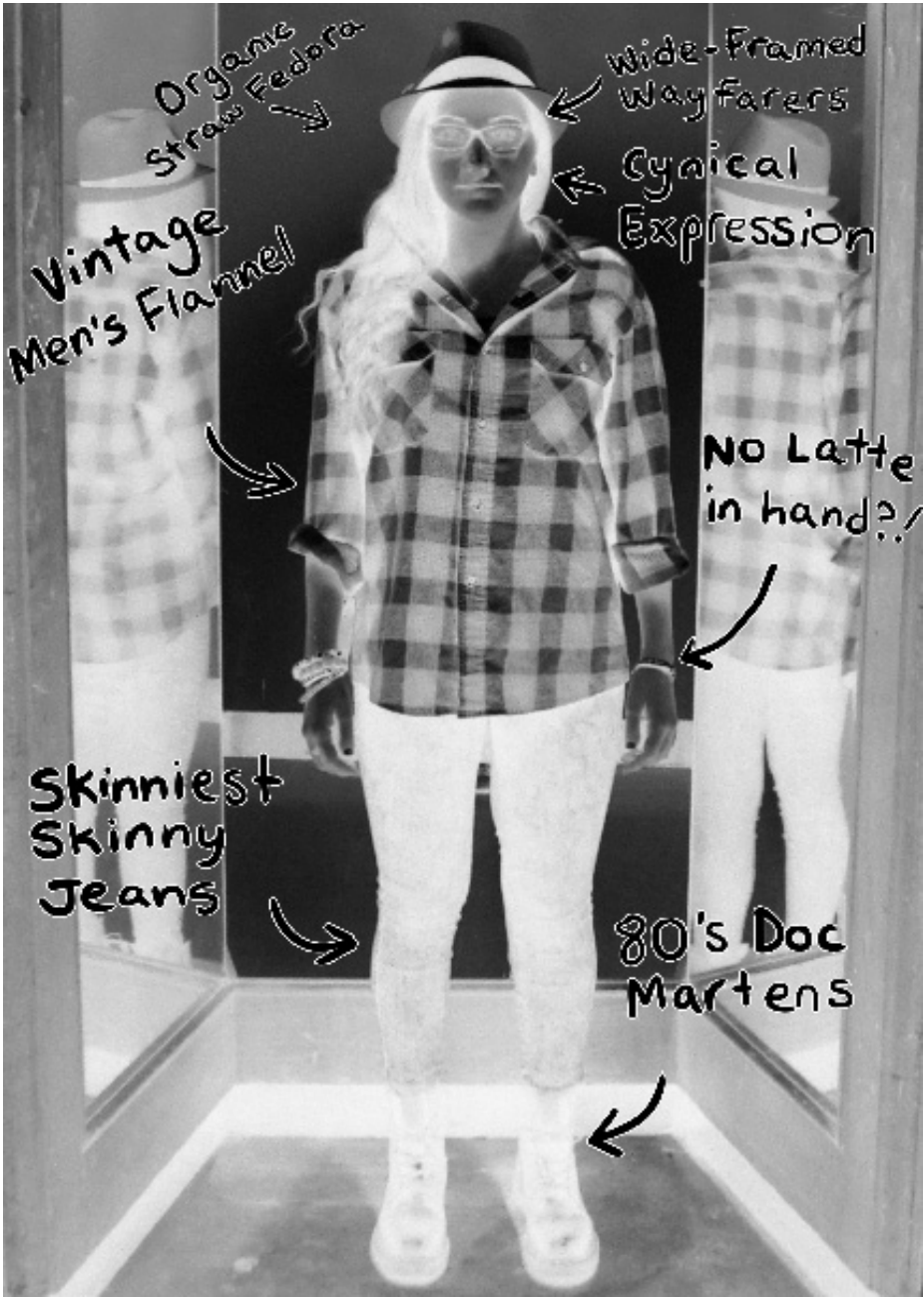
First and foremost, hipsters have a defined appearance that is hard to miss. They can be found wearing big, black-rimmed glasses, even if they don’t need them, and shopping at thrift stores for vintage-style clothing. A “hip” shoe collection is generally composed of worn-out old sneakers or boots, namely your parents’ Doc Marten’s.

Urban Outfitters might seem like the perfect place to obtain a hipster-esque wardrobe, but Pepe disagrees.

“No, hipsters do not shop at Urban Outfitters,” said Pepe. “Think that through. Everyone shops there. It is far too mainstream for them.”

However, the store does offer some hip accessories, such as portable cameras that can be used to take blurry pictures that are supposedly “artsy.”

Speaking of photos, a popular hipster activity is taking pictures with



Chris Goh, Brian Seo, Daniella Philipson

A hipster poses pretentiously in front of a three-way mirror. Her vintage clothing and oversized glasses are typical hipster attire, as are the Doc Martens that are vestiges of the '80s.

Instagram and “hashtagging” everything in the photo with #Instahipster. They are also interested in blogging, typically on Tumblr, while listening to vinyls on a modern record player as they type.

“On Tumblr, you have to be a true 90’s kid and post photos of stuff from the 90’s,” said senior Emily Lipstein. “Also, people post music from unheard of bands or music from other countries.”

Ironically, hipsters do get most of their ideas by recycling mainstream culture and making it mainstream again.

“Sometimes people who try to be hipster and be ‘different’ end up coming off as kind of elitist,” said senior Makenzie Drukker.

If you are a student who constantly has ear buds plugged in, you can become a part of the hipster-craze by adding some indie rock music to your playlist. Indie rock usually consists of bands with odd names that either have a deep hidden meaning or one that was just randomly made up. Furthermore, if you would like to get more in touch with the hipster vibe, listening to old records is encouraged.

Since hipsters tend to be judgmental, it is not surprising that many of us feel a strong aversion to hipster culture. If you are trying to minimize your interactions with hipsters, be sure to avoid places like Lower East Side record stores, bohemian coffee shops, small bookstores, and Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Despite any hard feelings toward hipsters, we should all acknowledge the fact that they can be very interesting to watch. Perhaps, if you have some time to spare one Saturday afternoon, you can take the subway down to Williamsburg and watch the hipsters run rampant through the streets. Be sure to bring a foreign friend, your dad’s film Pentax camera from the late 80’s, a pair of oversized glasses, and a festive hat so you can fit in with the natives.

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Her Hope

She hugs him in front of all her friends
She hopes her love for him will never end.
With him, it’s different
With the others it was just pretend.
The others that she tried to love
But her strong will refused to bend.
She wants to make this one work
The problem is he can’t comprehend
How her heart was ruined.
But that’s something she’s sure he can mend
They will last because he is good to her
He is her best friend.

-Veronika Onischenko



Wit and Whim officially opens for business

Port’s newest store is a fun place to shop, give back, and discover new art

by Daniella Philipson
Features Editor

Since the end of September, Port Washington has been home to Wit and Whim, a quaint local shop that combines art with fashion and philanthropy. The cozy store houses a collection of unique gifts, jewelry, and artwork in a recently restored 1885 home at 6 Carlton Ave., just past the Port Washington Public Library. Wit and Whim’s offerings are similar to those of Anthropologie—fashionable clothing items and accessories that are versatile enough to be dressed up or simply worn casually.

In order to create an eclectic one-of-a-kind feeling, Wit and Whim’s founder, Ms. Laurie Scheinman, draws upon a variety of sources to piece together the store’s collection. Wit and Whim is brimming with fun fashions, unique accessories, and pieces of artwork that make for great birthday or holiday gifts. The prices are as diverse as the products, ranging from \$8 for a Lego Ring to \$3,500 for an upcycled rug.

“I have gotten great stuff from vintage markets and estate sales. I also like to check out the scene in Brooklyn and SoHo and try my best to bring the art and fashion of the city into Port Washington,” said Ms. Scheinman.

The Brooklyn and SoHo influences are certainly evident once you enter the store and take in the leather goods and New York City-inspired artwork that lines the walls. Leather bags, wallets, and coin purses are only some of the items that feature fun images of the city. The pop art inspired t-shirts, patterned infinity scarves, clutches, and vintage clocks are



Harry Paul

Wit and Whim’s handmade hairclips are hand dyed in Africa and sold to benefit children in an orphanage. Each clip is unique and is named after a child in the orphanage.

scattered throughout the store and make for exciting eye candy.

Ms. Scheinman’s jewelry collection is especially impressive and reasonably priced, especially for the high school student’s relatively thin wallet. The best part of it all is that all Schreiber and Weber students get a 15% discount upon presenting a student ID card at the register.

“When I travel abroad I try to bring back the brands and items that are really

big over there. Our brass necklaces are an item that have been really popular here that I brought over from London,” said Ms. Scheinman.

Ms. Scheinman wanted Wit and Whim to be more than merely a place to shop; she hoped to create a place for philanthropy. Through collaborations with organizations and artists, Wit and Whim has dedicated itself to giving back to the community.

For example, each of the funky rose hair clips, which are hand-dyed and wrapped in Africa, is named after an orphaned child. With each purchase of a “named” hair clip, proceeds are sent to the orphanage housing the children for whom the accessories.

Wit and Whim also partners with Hearts, a non-profit organization that aims to preserve and enrich the arts in Port Washington public schools. During the months of November and December, a portion of Wit and Whim’s profits will go to the American Red Cross to help aid the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Whether you want to buy your holiday presents, discover new artists and designers, or help a good cause, Wit and Whim is a great place to check out!



Harry Paul

Unique brass necklaces are a hot item at Wit and Whim this holiday season.

SIGI_SQUAD. by Chris



GOH'12

Fashion

File

by Caroline Ogulnick
Assistant Features Editor

Atten-tion! Military style is aiming for this season's top trends list and has hit number one. If you're tired of resorting to a boring black hue to match with your everyday outfits, challenge yourself with a hint of military green. Though these greens and camouflage prints usually cause one to blend in, this trend definitely makes you stand out. But be aware, because you do not want to shoot and miss while incorporating this style into your latest looks!



www.urbanoutfitters.com

Military trend charges the fashion battlefield

March into the season with the latest styles from military inspired clothing

This fall, military-inspired attire began to pop up everywhere. Displayed in tops, jackets, pants, and shoes, this trend is hitting all parts of the style spectrum.

Although black is a color that is shown all year round, green has challenged it on the battlefield and appears to have emerged victorious.

Try wearing military style skinny jeans with a brightly colored top. Before this trend, many would assume that black bottoms are the only option when trying to match with bright colors. Combining the colored top with military inspired pants will not only serve as a replacement for black bottoms, but will create a more edgy, on-trend look.

"I own a military style jacket and it goes with almost everything I own. The dark green color is as universal as black, but gives you a more casual look," said junior Bomin Choi.

Military style jackets are the most popular item reflecting this trend. As the weather becomes colder, the search for a new jacket begins, and many end up buying them in more common colors such as black or white. The military trend is allowing you to put up a fight against the typical winter apparel this season.

If you're really into the trend, buy a military-inspired jacket in green or a camouflage print. In addition to standing out against the crowd, your military jacket will be a stylish substitute for your usual winter jacket.

"I usually match my military inspired jeans with neutral colors, but depending on the style, I definitely think that they

would work well with bright colors and patterns as well," said junior Emma Schildkraut.

Most military inspired jackets and pants tend to look very similar. There are only so many shades of green and varieties of the camouflage print, and some are searching to take this trend to the next level. Many clothing lines are beginning to reconstruct military jackets by replacing the original sleeves with either black leather or denim. Details such as zippers, pockets, and studs are being added as well.

One thing that you have to be careful about when trying out the military trend

is making sure you do not wind up looking like you actually belong in the military. Often times, mixing a military style jacket with military style pants will make you look like you're ready for combat rather than a day at school. You can march with confidence by wearing this trend properly.

Military inspired pieces are being featured in top designer clothing lines in addition to streetwear brands. It is very easy to find pieces when searching for this trend as it is in the mall, department stores, vintage stores, and local boutiques. If you're looking to rebel against the norm this season, the military trend is one you should look into.



www.mazelle.com



www.singer22.com

Buying pieces like this jacket and jeans are a great way to join the miitary trend.

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—David Hare



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arts & entertainment



Bella Swan (Kristin Stewart) now in vampire form, along with Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) prepare to battle as the Volturi come after their daughter Renesmee (Mackenzie Foy). The final *Twilight* installment met expectations set by the previous films, and fans new and old alike will have a blast seeing it.

BY Charmaine Ye
Staff Writer

The end of *Breaking Dawn Part 1* left Twi-hards in suspense with a quick shot of Bella Swan's new blood-red vampire eyes. This cliff-hanger caused great excitement for the fifth and final installment in *The Twilight Saga, Breaking Dawn Part 2*, and teens flocked to the theaters to see if Edward (Robert Pattinson) and Bella (Kristin Stewart) finally get their happily ever after.

The movie picks up right after Bella wakes from her transformation from human to vampire. The tacky special effects used in the previous movies to show the special vampire abilities of super speed, strength, and, of course sparkle, are again utilized in this film to display Bella's new abilities.

The Twilight saga ends at the break of dawn

The movie goes on to show the long-awaited scene where we first meet her daughter, Renesmee (Mackenzie Foy). Again, the hilariously awful effects were used to show the infant as a creepy computer-generated face, but due to the super growth spurt, Renesmee's role is quickly taken over by Foy, and viewers are saved from the horrifying image.

It seems as if all the loose ends are finally coming together until Renesmee becomes a problem. The Volturi, the vampire police force, are afraid Renesmee might be a threat to their kind. This brings about a full out vampire war of the

Cullens against the Volturi and the movie's main focus shifts to the Cullen family as they prepare for the epic battle.

We see familiar faces return, including the Denali Clan, the Cullen's "cousins" in *Breaking Dawn Part 1*. Also, new vampires from all over the world are scouted by the family to help stand against the Volturi.

The movie comes to revolve around this showdown and becomes an action-packed fight similar to the third movie in the saga, *Eclipse*. Again, our favorite werewolves are fighting alongside the Cullens, except this time Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner), a member of this supernatural love triangle,

is there not to protect Bella, but to protect his new soul mate, Renesmee.

The plot of the movie closely follows Stephenie Meyer's book, but with a surprising twist at the end, that enhances the movie without completely straying from the books.

The first movie in the series was a disappointment, with poor acting and production value, but the movies have significantly improved despite Stewart's consistently subpar performances. Though Stewart is often considered awkward, she does provide comic relief during intense scenes in the movie.

Overall, *Breaking Dawn Part 2* is surprisingly a fantastic movie that keeps viewers on the edge of their seats with action-packed fights and intense romantic scenes that will surely make it a favorite of many teenage girls.

Silver Linings Playbook is soulful and sincere

BY **Victor Dos Santos**
Assistant A&E Editor

Director David O’Russell’s filmography suggests that he is familiar with stories that focus on the most unordinary people. However, no matter how odd the character, O’Russell manages to make them come across as both realistic and heartfelt. Adapted from the novel by Matthew Quick, *Silver Linings Playbook* tells the story of a couple of dysfunctional people who, despite their neurotic and violent tendencies, are as charming and entertaining as ever.

Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence play Pat Solatino and the mysterious Tiffany. Cooper plays Pat, a former substitute teacher who was recently released from a mental hospital after violently assaulting another faculty member for sleeping with his wife. Obsessed with straightening up and winning his wife back, Pat struggles to find a way to cope with reality. He eventually befriends Tiffany (Jennifer Lawrence), a recently widowed and unemployed woman, whose depression resonates with Pat. The two come to realize that by being crazy together, they can help each other out and be slightly-less-crazy.

O’Russell presents the various high-strung characters in this film in a way that makes them both sympathetic, entertaining, and even charming. The film’s quirk and charm emphasizes the craziness within every character in this movie, including Cooper’s football aficionado, obsessive-compulsive father played by Robert De Niro. That’s not to say however, that whenever a character does something out of the ordinary the film shifts to a comedic romp. At times the mental disorders these characters share, ranging from depression to bi-polar disorder, feel more like impediments than



www.collider.com

Pat (Bradley Cooper) agrees to compete in a dance competition with Tiffany (Jennifer Lawrence) in exchange for a shady favor. In *Silver Linings Playbook*, Pat befriends Tiffany and forms a relationship, as he becomes a more positive person.

assets that add depth to the characters. It’s that sense of realism brought to *Silver Linings* that helps make it feel all the more genuine in its attempt at telling Pat’s story. Seeing how he is able to balance out the crazy in his life through his relationship with Tiffany makes *Silver Linings* one of the most heartwarming films to come out this year.

The film is not without its flaws, it does feel as though it ends with one too many loose ends, and, unsurprisingly, Lawrence and Cooper’s characters get together

towards the end of the film. It feels very unlikely that a loving relationship would completely rid oneself of a mental illness, as is the case with De Niro’s character and his wife played by Jackie Weaver. Chances are, you won’t be all too bothered by the fact that everything ends in a pretty happy-go-lucky manner for the majority, if not all, of these characters.

It’s as well made as a film can be, tying together themes dealing with mental disorder, football, and heartbreak with terrific performances and very well

developed characters. *Silver Linings Playbook* deserves credit simply for being a romantic comedy that is bold enough to present characters who are heavily flawed. It is interesting to see the ways in which they can form a mutually beneficial and loving relationship and make the audience care so much about seeing it work. It’s a true testament to just how well written and directed this movie was. The real silver lining here is knowing that movies like this are being made.

Daniel Craig continues to seize the day in Skyfall

BY **Cal Gross**
Contributing Writer

50 years have passed since Ian Flemming’s *Dr. No* appeared on the silver screen, beginning a Bond movie empire that has kept viewers entertained with the exploits of British Intelligence agent James Bond ever since.

In director Sam Mendes’s *Skyfall*, Daniel Craig returns as James Bond after having played the part in *Casino Royale* in 2006 and *Quantum of Solace* in 2008.

Compared to the lackluster *Quantum of Solace*, *Skyfall* is a triumphant rebound. Craig’s Bond in *Skyfall* is growing tired of his job, aging, and stretched beyond his limits physically and mentally as he adapts to the digital age of espionage. This conflicted, and more human Bond presents a fresh change in dynamic that brings Bond to a place darker than we have ever seen before.

Skyfall begins with Bond pursuing a mercenary through Turkey to retrieve a stolen hard drive containing the identities of every undercover NATO agent working in terrorist organizations. Ultimately, Bond’s partner accidentally shoots him, and he is labeled “missing, presumed killed,” and the target escapes with the information.

Bond recovers from his injuries during his hunt for the real perpetrator of the terrorist attacks. The man behind the

elaborate cyberterrorism is the eccentric Raul Silva, played by Javier Bardem.

Bardem’s chilling performance as this megalomaniac hacker harkens back to his previous role in *No Country for Old Men*, where he played a similar creepy and menacing character. The scenes between Bardem and Craig are convincing and well-acted, as Bardem’s unique performance is gripping through every moment of his time on screen.

Chemistry is lacking in the relationship between Bond and his latest “Bond Girl,” played by Naomie Harris, who though, witty and skilled as an agent, leaves much to be desired in her uninspired performance as Bond’s central love interest.

Throughout *Skyfall*, Bond’s exploits take him to such exotic locations as a waterborne casino in Macau, the skyscrapers of Shanghai, and back to his native Great Britain in London and the Scottish Highlands.



the-void.co.uk

Daniel Craig reprises his role as James Bond to retain his title as MI6’s most dedicated agent. Sam Mendes directs intense action sequences that mix with character development in *Skyfall*.

Bond movies have always been known for their musical scores, and in this area *Skyfall* delivers. Its score, composed by Thomas Newman, and powerful intro song by Adele are what make *Skyfall*’s soundtrack so great.

Daniel Craig’s Bond has given the character a new meaning, revitalizing the

role and fitting it for the 21st century. This is a Bond who draws from what viewers know and love from Bonds past, but is engineered to be a smarter and richer character full of humanizing flaws. With *Skyfall*, Mendes successfully proves that you can teach an old dog new tricks.

Taylor Swift’s true colors shine in her latest pop album, *Red*

BY **Hannah Zweig**
Managing Editor

Taylor Swift emerged as a country music icon six years ago, blending the genre with mainstream popular music. Her debut album burst with freshness reflective of her naïveté and inexperience with teen romance. However, Taylor Swift’s new album, *Red*, which she released on Oct. 22, breaks away from her previous albums in a manner reflecting Swift’s fleeting youth. Through this album, Swift speaks with more experience both in life and love. The album received a fair deal of hype due to the release of four promotional singles starting in August. In a webcast with her fans, Swift debuted her first single “We Are Never Getting Back Together.” The song served as prep for her new album’s departure from Swift’s traditional style, giving fans her signature breakup theme with a more “pop” beat. The song’s approach to shattered relationships spun a traditionally sad topic on its head, furnishing it with a set of motivational lyrics in a way only Taylor Swift could. “This is exhausting,” Taylor Swift sighs during a simulated phone conversation with an ex at a break in the song. Her voice sounds differently than it had while she was pining over “Drew” in her famous “Teardrops on My Guitar.” Her tone exhudes less desperation and more confidence. Swift, to the discontent of many of her country fans, took on a slightly different tune, no longer straddling the “pop-country” bridge in many of her songs, and

instead adding strong rock undertones. A change in appearance accompanied the new musical style, with Swift straightening her signature curly locks, adding a fringe along with red lipstick. “I Knew You Were Trouble,” was released as the third promotional single, featuring a more melancholy tone and leaving the taste of remorse lingering on millions of fans lips as they sang along. The song courses through a realization that Swift should have known better before falling for the unidentifiable “him.” Swift fluctuates in the chorus from high to low, and while the lyrics themselves cling together with cohesion, the result is an inexplicably catchy tune. The theme of this album was not lost on her most avid fans, as Swift relinquishes her previously childish persona and replaces it with a more mature and likable one. The relationships she describes in this album are more complex and thus have attracted a more diverse fan-base while maintaining her 13-year-old die-hards as well as gaining some older fans with whom her lyrics truly resonate. The most blatant evidence of Swift’s maturity fighting its way through her lyrics is in her song “22,” which strikes a significant contrast to her previous “Fifteen” which was released in late 2009. The dance-beat paints a picture of a “girls night out” with an older audience in mind. As with many of her albums, Swift’s fans were left scrambling to determine who the songs on this new album are about. While the melange of rock, pop and country sounds can muddle any clear

indicators as to who the celebrity exes are, one thing was most definitely clear: Swift had no intention of ever getting back together with them, “like ever.”



taylorswift.com
Taylor Swift performs live, expressing the maturity of the sound in her new album. Swift has established her role as an inspiring figure for her fans.

These *Housewives* are surreal

BY **Katie Fishbin**
A&E Editor

With season three of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*, the group returns with additional housewives to add to the already dynamic group. The season follows seven wealthy women through their flashy, drama-filled lives. Despite the somewhat boring idea, the show really begins to heat up, and loyal fans are always eager to learn what happens next. Yolanda, the newest introduction to the housewife family, offers yet another strong personality. She emphasizes her success from her modeling career and boasts of her husband David Foster’s success and sixteen Grammy wins. Though we have not been able to truly “get to know” this new addition, it is clear that she will bring the heat as the season continues, and that is absolutely all we are looking forward to. Throughout this new season, housewife Taylor Armstrong has become a focus of the show. After her downward spiral, conflict with her husband, Russell, and the aftermath of her husband’s suicide, she now seems to doing better than ever in season three. Despite her domestic abuse she is taking her recent experience and

spreading awareness about this cause. Not only has her story truly touched fans, but it may also offer some connection to viewers themselves. The sisterly drama between Kim and Kyle Richards also seems to have persisted. Though Kim, an alcoholic, recently made it through rehab, her old aggravating ways seem to be intact. Her constant tardiness has already picked up again, leaving Kyle hopeless at the start of season three. Lastly, Lisa Vanderpump and Adrienne continue to butt heads. Former neighbors, the two had their major clash at the reunion special from season two. Though viewers may have thought a resolution may take place, this is fortunately—for drama’s sake— not the case. Lisa continues to further her friendship with Brandi Glanville, another new addition to the cast. This controversial character never fails to add tension to the group of housewives. Though the story tends to stay the same, the combination of continued conflict and flashy lifestyle is what keeps the show alive. This guilty pleasure reality show would be nothing without the drama. *The Housewives of Beverly Hills* will definitely keep viewers interest through season three.



bravotv.com
Yolanda, the latest addition to the Beverly Hills crew, vents about her materialistic concerns. Their over-the-top, dialogue has entertained for three seasons.

Authors’ inexperience shows in *Second Sight*

BY **Dan Bidikov**
A&E Editor

Second Sight, the premier literary effort of two bored moms from Washington, chronicles the adventures of Kyle, a gay high school student who lives in a bizarre parallel universe in which his powers of basic reasoning and intuition can only be explained by the aliens around him as psychic powers. While *Second Sight* possesses an interesting premise, all potential for exploring sensitive issues is squandered. There is no discussion of the protagonist’s homosexuality—there is no interesting conflict or struggle within the story as a result of his sexual preference. His homosexual nature is there to attract readers who want to raise their credibility among progressives. It is a classic example of slacktivism—readers are supposed to feel as if they have made strides for the gay community because they spent money on something they otherwise wouldn’t have. Instead of building on heavy themes, the novel focuses on plot—the story of how Kyle and his supportive, environmentally conscious, fashion forward friends attempt to solve a case of missing laptops within their school. It is consistently gripping, in the fashion of an unskilled midwife handling a slippery baby. While many stories build to a massive climax, this book’s epic conclusion is just as flat as the rest of the trivial events that happen in the span of Kyle’s hesitant acceptance of his psychic powers. Character development is short and

sweet, as the authors have imposed a strict three sentence maximum to each interaction between the diverse group of well-dressed teens, and have limited conversation topics to the homecoming dance and recycling water bottles. *Second Sight* is a valueless time killer, and would likely see huge success, had it been on a bookshelf labeled “You Will Like These Books No Matter What” and featured two attractive teens on the cover. While this review may seem overwhelmingly negative, keep in mind that *Second Sight* was not made to be compared to real books. It was written to fit in among other young adult teen reads, a category where the bar is very low. That is a shame, because one would hope that authors writing for teenagers would at least want them to move past a fifth grade reading level, but instead are fixed on taking the easy way out. People complain that teenagers do not read enough, when the problem is that they read too much—too much trashy lit with text message lingo replacing prose and detailed descriptions of clothing filling in space where critical thinking could be prompted. *Second Sight* is just another tragic example of a book that is marketed a certain way in an attempt to get young people to enjoy it. Instead of teaching a lesson or provoking emotion, it behaves like a teacher of shirt folding struggling to make his course more interesting by including dated references to a television series from his childhood in his lecture that most of the class will not even be awake to hear.

Wreck-It-Ralph racks in ravishing reviews from viewers and critics alike

By Sophia Kim
Contributing Writer

Disney has outdone itself in the new film *Wreck-It Ralph*, with excellent animation and wide-ranging appeal. The movie is set in the present, but revisits the '80s in an homage to gaming history.

Ralph (John C. Reilly), Disney's new protagonist, plays the typical "bad guy" in a popular arcade game called *Fix-It Felix Jr.* After thirty years, he decides he wants to change careers. Ralph's way out is a medal that can only be awarded to a "good guy." Ralph must adopt a fake identity and "Go Turbo," the unspoken crime of game-jumping that guarantees the game's demise.

During his journey, Ralph encounters Vanellope (Sarah Silverman), a mischievous girl "glitch." They agree to a mutually beneficial deal in order to achieve each of their individual goals, that Ralph comes to accept himself for who he really is: a bad guy with a heart.

This film revisits the 8-bit graphics

used in video games from the '80s, such as *Donkey Kong*. The characters from older games move between these 8-bit graphics and modern high-definition graphics. For those with experience

with games from the '80s, this is sure to evoke some nostalgia.

Hero's Duty is one of the games Ralph enters in order to prove that he can also be a "good guy," and it is



The not-so beloved video-game character Wreck-It Ralph is tired of being the bad guy in his own game. In Disney's latest animated film, he decides to leave his own video game and prove his worth by winning a medal in another video game. *Ralph* is a beautifully animated film whose nostalgia is sure to win the hearts of many.

New Hitman is a disappointing sequel, but a solid stealth game

By Kerim Kivrak
Copy Editor

With over six anticipation-building years since the release of the universally acclaimed *Hitman: Blood Money*, *Hitman: Absolution* has impossibly high expectations to meet. It's best not to think about *Absolution* as a sequel to *Blood Money* (those who do will be sorely disappointed) — it's an original, fun and flawed game in its own right.

Absolution is a near-total departure from the design philosophy of the previous games in the franchise. Traditionally, *Hitman* games have you carefully upgrading and selecting your equipment before stepping into a sandbox and using disguises and your environment to eliminate your target in any way you choose.

While the game still gives you a fair number of ways to kill your target, you cannot select your equipment before each mission and the levels are segmented, with a number of disparate areas with intermediate objectives standing between you and your target.

These objectives are usually along the lines of "Disable the security system" or "Get to the elevator," the sort of thing that the previous games left you to choose to do.

Absolution takes a more conventional approach to stealth. Stealth is about observing patrol routes, staying out of guards' lines of sight and moving through a level without alarming anybody. These principles were present in the first two *Hitman* games, but absent in *Blood Money*. They return in full force in *Absolution* in one of the most challenging stealth experiences in recent memory and by far the most difficult installment in the franchise.

Whereas previous games had you starting with a blank slate and avoiding attracting attention to yourself, enemies in *Absolution* are always on the lookout for our bald-headed assassin. Disguises take a backseat to evasion as they become more of an aid than a license to roam the level as you please. Remaining out of sight is still the goal, whether that means blending into a crowd or crouching behind a

crate, but a disguise gives you a few extra seconds of anonymity to others wearing the same uniform and total anonymity to everyone else. These extra seconds will usually be enough time to break the line of sight and return to invisibility, but this is not a substitute for sneaking around.

The game's AI is adequate; nothing more, nothing less. NPCs will react to the noises made by objects you throw, allowing you to lure them away from your intended path and sneak by unnoticed.

Their ability to identify the source of a disturbance is rather inconsistent; if you throw a hammer in front of a guard, they will marvel at where it could've come from but never attempt to trace its path back to you. If you shoot a guard in the head with a silenced weapon, any adjacent guards will immediately know where you are and open fire.

If bad AI bothers you enough to impede your ability to enjoy a game, chances are the stealth genre isn't for you. In stealth games, mastering and exploiting the AI becomes a part of the game itself.

As always, the player has the option to tear through each level with guns blazing. Inside *Absolution* is one of the best third-person shooters of the year, with gratifying, visceral gunplay and a decent variety of weapons to pick up around each level.

But the game punishes you for straying from stealth. In fact, with the new scoring system, the game punishes you for doing anything other than what it wants you to do. It discourages creativity, spontaneity, and adaptation in favor of mindless repetition. This has no place in

a *Hitman* game. *Hitman's* greatest strength has always been player choice. I can decide that risking getting caught during the laborious body disposal animation is not worth it, and that I'd rather leave the body in a secluded corner of a room where it would never be discovered. In previous games, this was not a problem. In *Absolution*, I am punished for this.

The game's greatest flaw is in its level design. This is tragic, considering the brilliant level design that marked the previous games. There are many portions of the game with multiple entry routes, many paths you could take and contextual means of causing distractions or seemingly accidental deaths. The problem is that for every well-designed area, there are half a dozen lazily crafted linear sequences.

Absolution is far and away the most cinematic *Hitman* game thus far. The missions are not just a series of disconnected contracts; they all exist to advance the game's narrative. The story is told through cutscenes featuring top-notch facial animations and quality voice acting. David Bateson returns as the iconic voice of Agent 47, and celebrity voice actors Vivica A. Fox and Powers Booth bolster the cast of new, thoroughly entertaining characters.

The story is predictable and not at all compelling, but the characters are some of the most memorable video game characters of this generation.

Within the levels themselves there are many scripted NPC interactions. At worst, they help build immersion and add depth to the countless nameless characters. At best, they are exemplary of the *Hitman* series' characteristic humor.

Although many features from *Blood Money* are absent, the game's refined stealth and shooting mechanics promise a new, radically different experience. Faulting a game for being original is silly.

Does *Absolution* fit alongside its classic predecessors? No. Is it an enjoyable game? Absolutely.



Agent 47 silently dispatches a guard with his signature Silverballer pistol. *Absolution* strays from the unique gameplay of its predecessors, but it is a challenging, unique game on its own.

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Athletes



of the



Month



Evan Kerr

BY Jake Eisenberg

Sports Editor

Senior Evan Kerr grew his volleyball roots at a young age. Growing up watching people play intense games on the beach, he can now not only play against them, but beat them.

His sophomore year, Kerr received the junior varsity Coach's Award, and, last season, he was recognized as a scholar athlete. Kerr has been a part of the varsity volleyball team for the past two seasons, making it to the conference semifinals in both.

Aside from participating on the school team, Kerr has also participated on club teams, such as the Long Island Volleyball Club 18-year-old regional team (LIVBC).

"Being a part of the club team and playing the same position I do for the school helped me to play at a higher level. It forced me to improve and become a better volleyball player," said Kerr.

As far as role models go, Kerr's are not far removed from the Schreiber court. Paul Kagan and Daniel Minnicucci, '12, created a blueprint for the player he has been and wants to continue to be. From Minnicucci, Kerr learned how to do everything and enjoy it, even if the outcome was not positive. Kagan played the same position as Kerr last year, in a similar fashion. Both are "defensive middles," middle players who are better at blocking than hitting.

"When Evan leaps for a spike, I don't just see him reaching for the ball, but striving for the goal of perfection — to be a better person, and a better player. I am honored to call him my teammate and I know he will go beautiful places in life,"

said senior Mike Berry.

Despite Kerr's departure this spring, the team will be left in good shape due to his leadership on and off the court.

"Now that the season is over and I have the distinct honor of looking back on it, I can say that after having nine seniors leave, we exceeded our own expectations," said Kerr. "And now, with four more graduating, the players next season stand poised and ready with a lot of untapped younger talent. Even looking down to the JV team, I can promise that Schreiber volleyball isn't going anywhere in the near future."



Harry Paul

Kerr spikes the ball against Uniondale, en route to a 25-15 victory. Port won the match in three sets.

Michele Lammers

BY Seth Barshay

Contributing Writer

Speed, courage, agility, mental toughness, quick reflexes, and ball-handling skills are all important qualities for a successful soccer goalie. Junior Michele Lammers possesses them all. She has been on the varsity soccer team since her freshman year and has been the starting goalie since she was a sophomore.

Having a talented goalie on the field helps take pressure off of the rest of the defense. Lammers recognizes this and takes her role very seriously. This is reflected in her impressive season, in which she led the AA-2 conference with 88 saves. She had a season-high of twelve saves, twice, in games against Syosset and Carey. Lammers' consistent play has helped propel her team to second place in their conference.

Lammers' success is not just due to her impressive skill, but to her team-first attitude as well.

"I try to be a leader in the back and inform the players of what is going on all over the field," said Lammers.

As a goalie, Lammers has an excellent view of the field and it is vital for her to communicate tactics and strategies to her teammates. As Peter Shilton, a successful former professional soccer goalie said, a goalkeeper must excel at organizing and motivating the players in front of him or her.

"She's an amazing goalie and her presence is very valuable to the team," said junior Alexandra Zweiner. "We wouldn't win any games without her."

Next season, the Vikings are poised

for success behind her tight defense.

Next season will be Lammers' third season as starting varsity goalie, a rare feat at any level, where it is rare for an underclassman to ever start, unless particularly talented.

Her role model is goalkeeper Petr Cech, who plays for Chelsea F.C. and the Czech Republic.

"He is an amazing goalkeeper and directs his defense so well," said Lammers.

It appears that Lammers is following in his footsteps.



Courtesy of MSG Varsity

Lammers prepares to save the ball against Plainview-JFK. Lammers made five saves in the Vikings' 3-0 win.

Captain's Corner: Drew Feldman and Robert Gray

BY Jake Eisenberg

Sports Editor

Jake Eisenberg: Hello Drew, Robby. How are you guys today?

Robert Gray: Pretty good.

Drew Feldman: Great, great.

JE: How did you two get involved with Quiz Bowl?

RG: Mr. Klaff asked me one Wednesday afternoon in tenth grade. Swim season was over so I figured, "why not?"

JE: And you, Drew?

DF: Robby told me to do it. He was like, "Yo, do Quiz Bowl." And I was like, "OK."

JE: How many members are there on Quiz Bowl?

DF: Eight, and there are four that "start."

JE: Now at these competitions there are four of you on the stand and there are varied questions, in a Jeopardy-like format?

RG: That's only for *The Challenge*.

JE: What are the other kinds of things that the club participates in?

RG: It was previously a competition that was similar to *The Challenge*, for instance, we'd have buzzers and stuff like that and the format was the same. We would compete against other schools in a tournament format, but since budget cuts, there's

no longer the funding for buses to the hosts, like Great Neck South.

JE: So it's just *The Challenge* now?

RG: We also do an online trivia competition called Knowledge Master. Hopefully next year the team will be able to travel again.

JE: Let's talk more about *The Challenge*. I know you guys break off into your different categories—there are subjects that each panel member specializes in. How does that work?

DF: Mr. Gray here focuses on social studies, history, politics, economics, and all that stuff. I answer all the math questions. Elana (Galassi) is good with all of the cultural and literature type questions, and Miles (Kurtz) does everything else, like science stuff.

JE: When does it air on MSG Varsity?

DF: December 9, at 6:30 p.m.

JE: I heard that the team was "sworn to secrecy" about the show?

DF: No, not at all. We played Manhasset and won.

RG: Yeah, we beat them by one hundred something points.

DF: 140 points, which on the scale of the show, is pretty large.

JE: *The Challenge*, it's not just one competition, right? It's more like a tournament bracket?

DF: We go back in January for the

second round. We have the potential to become Nassau County champions if we win enough.

RG: After that, there's eventually a Tri-State Championship, and the winner of that I believe goes to some sort of national competition.

JE: So if you win, what's the ultimate prize? Is it just bragging rights, or money for the school?

DF: Tri-State Champion gets you \$10,000 to your school. You also get an awesomely huge trophy. We don't get digital camcorders anymore!

JE: Digital camcorders?

DF: There's a round with 180 points up for grabs and it used to be that if you swept the round, your team got individual prizes. Originally it was box tickets for the New York Knicks, but then they changed it to digital camcorders. Now, there's no prize at all.

JE: Now these questions range from "Who wrote *Charlotte's Web*" to—

DF: C.S. Lewis.

RG: No, it was E.B. White.

DF: Right, C.S. Lewis was the Narnia thing.

JE: Thanks, Drew. So they range from that to "political scandals of the 16th century in Prussia." I bet that's Mr. Sepulveda's favorite topic.

RG: It ranges all over. Even to the De-

fenestration of Prague.

DF: Despite the variety, none are so impossible. If you didn't prepare for it you'd still be able to answer them, just not as quickly, I guess. For instance, if they ask: "What story is the Big, Bad Wolf from?" and I say "Little Red Riding Hood," I certainly didn't learn that from taking AP Lit.

JE: Who's the host of the show?

DF: Jared Cotter. Funny enough, he was also a Top 20 finalist of *American Idol*, Season 6. But he lost. And that's his claim to fame. Now he hosts a high school game show, and writes songs.

JE: Anything I might've heard?

DF: He actually co-wrote that song by JaySean, "Down" I think?

JE: I know that song! Why is he hosting *The Challenge*?

RG: Who knows?

JE: What drives you participate, other than college and face-time on television?

RG: Well, Mr. Klaff annoys me when I don't. But also, when you're up there, it's actually a lot of fun. Like *Jeopardy*, but for younger, smarter people. It's legitimately fun, and I promise you, it's not social suicide. Just look at me!

JE: Alright guys, thanks for your time.

DF: No problem.

RG: Our pleasure.

Schreiber seniors sign their National Letters of Intent

With college on the horizon, student athletes commit to compete for different schools

BY **Jake Eisenberg and Dan Miranda**

Sports Editors

Within the coming years, athletes from Schreiber could be featured in the highlights of sports television and help to bring national championships to universities across the country.

On Nov. 19, seniors Brenna Betsch, John Crawley, and Maggie Nelson signed their official “National Letter of Intent” documents. The letter, a legally binding document, signifies that the students commit to their respective schools to play at the Division I level for scholastic sports.

The recruiting process is years in the making for most, months for some, and and just weeks for a few.

While the format differs depending on the school, most coaches will attend games played by teams not affiliated with the school, as the seasons for college and high school conflict. Additionally, the talent the coaches are usually searching for will be found at the higher level—“extra mile,” extracurricular teams.

Recruitment processes follow similar trends. First, a meeting or phone call with the coach or an admissions representative will take place, followed by an official, on-campus visit. Soon after, there is a review of the athlete in his or her sport during a competition, either by the coach or another scout. Finally, the school issues a scholarship offer and the student athlete makes a verbal commitment.

Betsch will play lacrosse for Sacred Heart University, Crawley will play lacrosse for Johns Hopkins University, and Nelson will row for Clemson University.

“I’m so proud of them for what they accomplished, and to be part of signing a letter of intent—we all know how

much work goes into this. To be able to give them their recognition on this day is just—I’m thrilled to do it,” said Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics Ms. Stephanie Joannon.

Betsch also plays soccer, and excelled in both soccer and lacrosse throughout high school. She pursued lacrosse outside of school, playing for Liberty Lacrosse to further her skills.

“I knew I wanted to play a sport in college,” said Betsch. “I came back to lacrosse when I realized I could go to the next level, and I fell in love with it again.”

Crawley committed to Johns Hopkins in the summer of 2011.

“Having the two years to kind of know what it feels like to be going to a school, it got me accustomed to the feeling. Signing the letter, it’s just another step now. It’s a reassuring thing, and puts me one step closer to going,” said Crawley.

Johns Hopkins is consistently ranked among the top collegiate lacrosse teams in the country, winning the most national championships out of any school (44). Crawley played outside of school with ‘For the Love of the Game,’ increasing his skills and his recruiting options.

“It’s an awesome feeling. When you’re being recruited, you look for the best school or the best fit, but when it turns out to be somewhere like Johns Hopkins—if you love the game that much that’s the place to go. I guess I’m just blessed to be able to go there. Now I just need to get ready for next fall,” said Crawley.

For Nelson, becoming a Clemson Tiger is a dream come true. She has a few connections to the school and

South Carolina; her cousin rowed crew for Clemson and her family will be moving to the state in the fall.

“I fell in love with crew when I went to my cousin’s regatta when I was 8 years old—she rowed at Clemson also,” said Nelson. “It’ll be great having my family close by—I’ll be able to see my parents and my sister more than I normally would.”

All three will need to uphold certain academic requirements, ranging from a GPA cutoff to fulfilling a certain number of study hours, or risk becoming academically ineli-

gible to compete in NCAA events.

The three athletes will not be the only seniors to compete at the collegiate level. Bryce Keller has committed to play baseball for Princeton University, Nick Duarte has committed to play baseball for Siena College, and Jesse Kaplan to play lacrosse for Tampa University. More student athletes are still weighing their decisions from Schreiber.

“It’s really cool,” said Ms. Joannon.



Harry Paul

Seniors Brenna Betsch, John Crawley, and Maggie Nelson, sign their National Letters of Intent, committing to compete for their respective schools in the 2013 collegiate season.

Calling the Shots

BY **Aaron Brezel**

Assistant Sports Editor

September 11. You do not need to attach a year; all minds point to the destruction of the World Trade Center. In those somber moments, people’s lives were turned upside down and the greatest city in the world was left in shock.

I was too young to remember what was happening as the situation developed. I was just starting kindergarten and I am sure I simply thought we were going home from school early. One memory I do have, though, is watching the New York Mets face off against their longtime rivals, the Atlanta Braves, ten days after the attack. It was the first sporting event in the New York area since the tragedy. While nothing could fix the pain caused by the events, the game, which took place at Shea Stadium, was one of the first attempts to recover and return to normalcy.

For the opening ceremonies, bagpipes filled the air as dozens of first responders marched onto the field; two firefighters, an EMT, and a police officer threw out the “first pitches,” and every player wore hats honoring the selfless men and women who lost their lives trying to save others in the Towers.

Even with the sentimental value of the

Superstorm Sandy and the healing power of sports

game, the Mets found themselves down 2-1 going into the bottom of the eighth. With a runner on base, Mike Piazza—the face of the franchise at the time—launched a home run over the left centerfield wall, leading the Mets to victory.

This was much more than a late September win. Sports analysts have tried time and time again to describe what that home run meant for the city, each coming up with different explanations. Most conclude that it offered a distraction, a way for people to forget about the recent sadness. I disagree; no one can or should ever forget. Rather, it was a bandage—a way to alleviate the pain so that we can heal ourselves over time. Even watching the replays over a decade later, I can still feel the emotion coming from the people who had lost so much but, if only for a moment, finally had something to cheer about.

Fast forward to Aug. 29, 2005. Hurricane Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast with storm surges that reached a record 27.8 feet. Hit hardest was one of the most culturally rich cities in the world, New Orleans. The levee system broke and Lake Pontchartrain spilled into the city, costing thousands of lives and billions of dollars in damage.

One of the most iconic landmarks in sports, the Superdome, home of the New

Orleans Saints, did not come out unscathed. While it housed thousands of displaced residents, the stadium, and the Saints, became a beacon of hope for the city. Only one year and \$185 million in repairs later, the Superdome reopened to roaring crowds who flocked to the stadium to once again feel pride in their city. The Saints responded in 2010 when quarterback Drew Brees led the team to a Super Bowl victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

These great moments in sport cannot and should not take away from the significance of the context. Sports do not erase people’s problems. However, inning by inning, play by play, sports can help a person heal on his or her own.

And now, just a month ago, Superstorm Sandy ravaged the Northeast. This catastrophe affected all of us, but the damage that we experienced in Port Washington pales in comparison to the struggle of people living along the South Shore and Rockaways. Even with advanced warning, Long Island was unprepared, and entire towns were rendered uninhabitable.

The city of Long Beach experienced some of the most devastating damage. In the days following the storm, the city looked like a war zone, and it seemed it would take months to recover.

Things looked especially bleak for the beloved Long Beach High School Marines

football team. They had lost their field, their equipment, and could not track down many of their players. They were the fifth seed in the upcoming conference II playoffs, but it looked like they would have to forfeit the game. Despite their own personal struggles, the people of Long Beach rallied around their team as donations flowed in to provide new equipment.

Unfortunately, on Nov. 10, Long Beach fell to fourth seeded Carey, 35-13. However, this loss does not erase the significance of the accomplishment. The people of Long Beach united so that a bunch of kids could play an essentially meaningless game.

That is what makes sports so important in our society. The meaning a simple game can have, to a person, a city, or a country, is unrivaled. Sports can absorb us, for forty-eight minutes, four quarters, or nine innings, take away all of our cares and worries, and unite us under one logo. It is not New York against the world, New Orleans against Hurricane Katrina, or Long Island against Superstorm Sandy. It is your younger brother’s peewee team against his friend’s, coached by their parents as they simply de-stress from everyday life.

VIKING SPORTS

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

BY **Dan Miranda and Max Miranda**

Sports Editor and Staff Writer

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

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

Football

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

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

Boys Volleyball

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

Field Hockey

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



Elana Galassi

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

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

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

Boys Soccer

On Nov. 10, the boys soccer team fell in the conference semi-finals to Syosset by a score of 4-3. The Vikings were up 3-1 at halftime and the winning goal was scored on a penalty kick with seven minutes left. A little less than a third of the roster is composed of freshman. This inexperienced crew seems to have fared unexpectedly well when they ended the season with a conference record of 6-4-1, tacking on two more playoff wins to the record. The future looks bright for the boys soccer team in the future.

“It was really cool to see the team gel together throughout the season. Last year, we graduated 17 seniors. Not many people thought we would do well, but we built chemistry,” said senior Cameron Boroumand. “It was a great season.”

Girls Soccer

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

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

Girls Tennis

Led by Head Coach Mr. Stan Makover, the girls tennis team found themselves in the Nassau County championships in mid-October. Port Washington lost to Long Island champion and undefeated Syosset. Throughout the season, seniors Holly Hubsher and Emma Brezel led the squad, with juniors Lauren Livingston and Liz Kallenberg playing key roles as singles players. By season’s end, Port Washington finished 12-4 overall, second in the conference.

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

Boys Cross Country

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

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

team. Our 2-3-4-5 guys were all of equal talent, and were able to compete at such a high level because of the core five,” said senior Gallagher. “Chances looked pretty good to make it to the State meet. It was a shame Hurricane Sandy hit and cancelled counties.”

Girls Cross Country

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

Girls Swimming

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

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

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