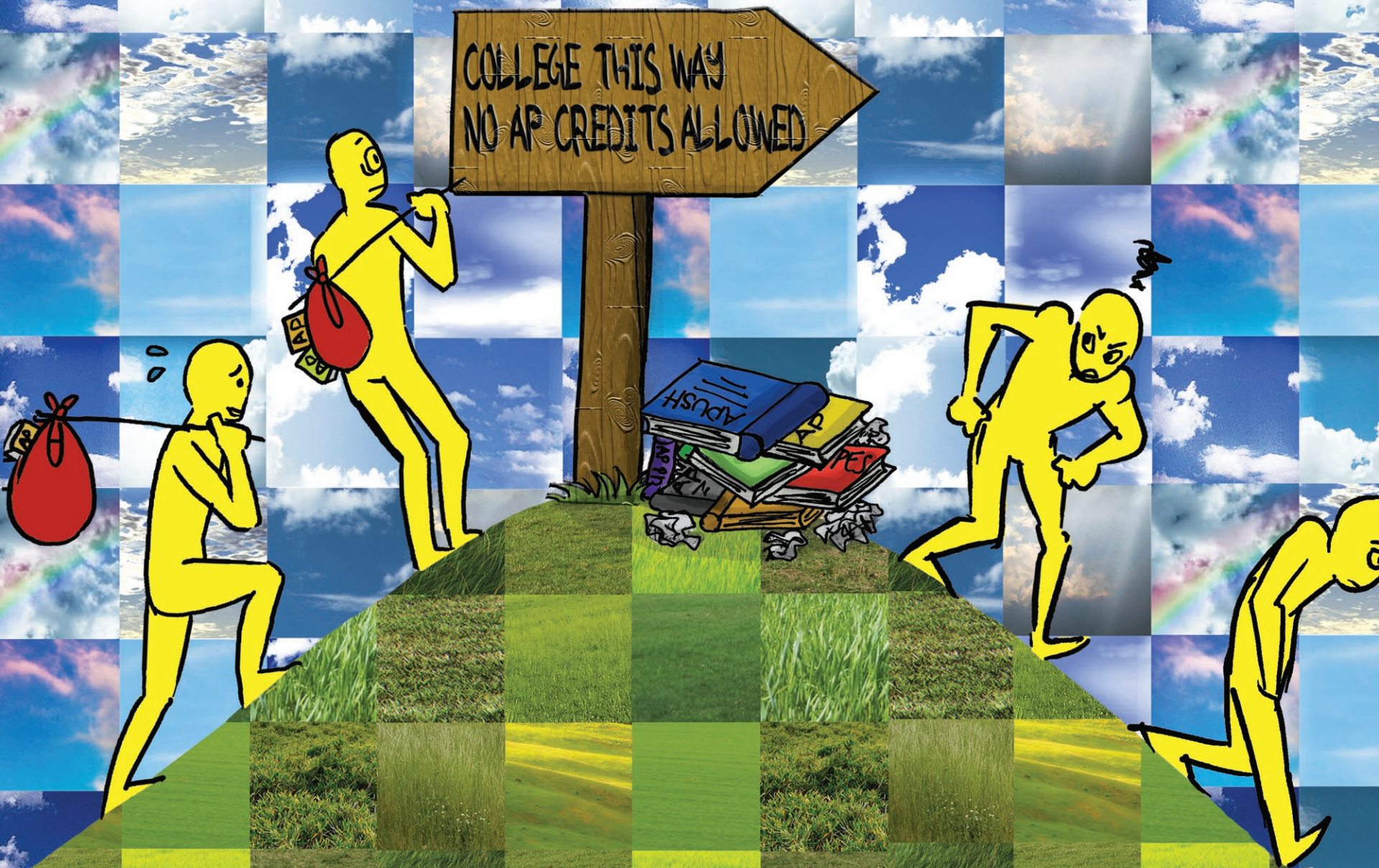


THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXIII No. 6 February 2013



IS THIS A MOUNTAIN WORTH CLIMBING?

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Senior Jelane DaSilva took this photograph for her AP Photography class. In this piece, she experimented with multiple photographic effects, including the overlay of multiple photographs, to create a single image.

NEWS BRIEFS

Candygrams

Valentine's Day got a little sweeter with Candygrams. Similar to the holiday candygram sale organized by the cheerleaders, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) sold chocolate roses in the two weeks before Feb. 14. One was able to send a treat to "your other half, crush, friends, or even a teacher," as stated on one flyer.

"This is a great fundraising idea and it's really fun for students to send candygrams to their friends," said senior Dana Mirro.

SADD sold these in the lobby during lunch periods. For \$2 students could send a Valentine's Day message with chocolate roses. All proceeds were donated to the Children's Brain Tumor Research Foundation.

"Don't feel bad about buying one for yourself!" said junior Kristen D' Agastino, a member of SADD.

~Zareen Johnson

Souper bowl

On Feb. 2, the United Methodist Church hosted Port Washington's sixth annual SOUPER Bowl. The Port Washington Chamber of Commerce sponsors the event every year close to Super Bowl Sunday. Before the event opened to the public, six judges were

invited to taste the soup samples. This year they sampled soups from sixteen Port restaurants, cafes, and markets. The event is also accompanied by a food drive.

The judges included Ms. Anne Arter, representative of Sotheby's International Realty; Mr. Joe Canigiani, representative of Joseph N. Canigiani Inc.; actor/artist Bob Young; Christine Sanchez, sous chef for Bobby Flay, Ms. Wendy Collett, the personal chef and owner of Dry Babe; and Ms. Teresa Milligan, a deaf-blind student from the Helen Keller National Center. Five hundred locals also voted for their favorite soups.

Sullivan's Quay's coconut and butternut squash soup won both the Judge's and Peoples' Choice Awards. The runners-up for the People's Choice were the potato and leek soup from Sweet Comfort Bakery & Café and the tortilla soup from the Main Street Bakery & Café. The runners-up for the Judge's Choice were the tortilla soup from Main Street Bakery & Cafe and the chicken noodle soup from Frank's Pizza.

Donations of non-perishable food and a portion of event proceeds were donated to the Twin Pines Food Pantry.

~Samantha Brooks and Ruthie Gottesman

AP test prices

"Every now and then the AP exam prices are raised. This year they went up again," said Assistant Principal Brad

Fitzgerald.

The College Board raised the already high testing price to \$89 per test, fostering concerns amongst students.

"I personally think that it's kind of ridiculous," said junior Dillion Drukker. "Some people may not be able to afford the test costs. I mean, doesn't the college board make enough money through the SAT fees already?"

"I personally am able to pay for the raise in prices but I feel as though increasing the prices makes something that is mandatory for part of the course to receive credit a bit unfair to those who are less fortunate," said senior Evan Kerr. Additionally as more and more people essentially 'buy' these AP credits through the exams they are accepted in fewer schools so it seems to be like we are paying more for less use."

If eligible, students can receive the exam for \$53.

"I think the raised price is negligible when compared to the advantages come with the test, such as getting into a better college," said sophomore Noah Hirsch.

~Madeline Fagen

Erratum:

In the Jan. issue, a headline incorrectly stated, "After displacement caused by Hurricane Sandy, Frippery moves from Long Beach to Port" Both the Long Beach and Port Washington stores are up and running.

The Schreiber Times

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Minah Kim
Poet Mason Granger speaks to the audience alone. His performance group addressed social issues like racial stereotypes and social media through poetry.

Spoken word performance celebrates Black History Month

BY Minah Kim
News Editor

“Different cultures, many customs, delicious foods to taste. Don’t run away from, who. They. You. From. Who we are. Stick together in this human race.”

The messages relayed by The Mayhem Poets resounded throughout the packed auditorium on Feb. 13. Through their spoken word poetry interlaced with rapping, beatboxing, and motions, the poets covered topics ranging from first loves to environmental preservation to multi-racial identities.

The Schreiber Cultural Arts Committee invited the group to commemorate Black History Month. The performers’ experiences as a multi-racial group were a focal point of the presentation.

“I wanted to bring a program to Schreiber to honor Black History Month,” said Ms. Lee Anne Vetrone-Timothy,

co-chair of the Schreiber Cultural Arts Committee. “The objective of the Schreiber Cultural Arts Committee is to supplement the school curriculum with cultural experiences to expand and enrich perspective and horizons in regards to the arts.”

“There was definitely something for everyone to relate to,” said senior Ali Peltz.

The group consists of three poets: Kyle Rapps, Scott Raven, and Mason Granger. Since forming the group at Rutgers University, the three men now tour the country and world with their hip-hop-influenced spoken word performances. Each of their performances included social commentary, addressing the destruction of the environment, social media, racial stereotypes, and gender roles. However, they conveyed each of the messages through various types of poetry. Their opening piece, “My name is…” addressed how they identify themselves and how others identify them by their race, skin color, and stereotypes.



Minah Kim
Poets Kyle Rapps, Scott Raven, and Mason Granger perform for Schreiber students. Known as the Mayhem Poets, they were invited by the Schreiber Cultural Arts Committee to commemorate Black History Month.

“That performance was fantastic. 409 Windex. Chemicals polluting the Earth. Race. My name is Mike Berry. Strawberries? Blueberries? It doesn’t matter because my name doesn’t represent me,” said Mike Berry.

Scott Raven expressed his struggles as a white rapper performing in rap battles and hip-hop venues. Kyle Rapps shared his experience balancing his two identities as a multi-racial child and the ultimate conjoining of the two to form his current self, who can relate to a breadth of people. He called himself “chocolate milk,” “a full-blooded half-breed” with an “addiction to diversity.”

The group also shared their experiences outside the performance world. Both individually and as a group, they have traveled all over the world, reaching Africa, Thailand, Norway, and the Dominican Republic. Kyle Rapps recounted a specific time when he worked with child soldiers in Africa and received rice as pay.

After their individual performances, they joined together at the front of the stage again for a one-word game. They created poetry by each saying one word that came to mind. Addressing insecurities with humor and rhyme, the group was able to reach out to students and at times, literally join the students in the audience.

Their last poem was a shoutout to the “Martin Luther Queens,” all the women throughout history and now who deserved the same attention as men.

“These programs have the potential to open up new ways of thinking, offer solutions to challenges, jump start ideas and introduce new perspectives on a whole host of topics,” said Ms. Vetrone Timothy.

“I laughed, I cried, it was better than *Cats*,” said assistant principal Mr. Craig Weiss. “I thought it was a fantastic program. Everyone there seemed to enjoy it, connect with it and really get a fantastic experience out of it. I was very pleased with the performance.”

Seniors again permitted to leave AP classes after testing

BY Lena Kogan
Staff Writer

There has been disagreement about the policy of seniors leaving AP classes after AP exams since the beginning of this year. Three years ago senior experience became a mandatory program for all seniors, but this year the policy changed, requiring classes to continue to meet after the completion of the AP class curriculum. However, after much opposition and debate, the policy was overturned and now seniors are exempt from attending AP classes after the AP exam.

The senior experience program became an optional part of the senior

curriculum over 25 years ago, but only six years ago was it expanded to apply to non-AP classes. Students have been permitted to leave their classes after the AP exams for the past several years if they were working on a project outside of the school or community until this year.

“We did it in the hope of improving the program and simplifying it,” said Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss.

After administration announced that students would be required to attend AP classes for the entire year, many seniors felt that this was counterproductive to the plans they had for their project, and senior Elana Galassi drew up a petition to revise this policy.

Galassi discussed this with Principal

Ira Pernick and Board of Education members.

“A number of factors prompted revision,” said Mr. Weiss.

Mr. Weiss is the coordinator of the program and oversees the major elements of its organization and execution, as well as converses with AP students about their planned endeavors.

“I think it’s really important to seniors: the unique experience they create, it’s a non-traditional way to end senior year,” said Mr. Weiss. “They’re ready for something different.”

Some faculty members still disagree about the details and various policy revisions regarding the senior experience issue.

“The initial idea behind the senior experience was to give kids who have become disenfranchised with school a chance to do something meaningful for their career path,” said Biology teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty. “Students should choose how they want to enjoy the last half of their senior year, and making this mandatory is doing them a disservice as well as to teachers.”

Additionally, many teachers planned activities for their AP classes after the exams, and extended projects that will appeal to their interests in the subject. However, this change guarantees students ample time to complete their senior experience projects and frees up mentoring time for faculty.

“This is the best solution we can have. Right now this works,” said Mr. Weiss.



Hannah Fagen

Orchestra students from the elementary, middle, and high school came together to perform in the auditorium. Night of 1,000 Strings was intended to inspire orchestra students to continue their music careers. It required extensive preparation by district music teachers.

The sound of “1,000 Strings” fills the auditorium

BY Rachel Cho

Assistant News Editor

Night of 1,000 Strings made its debut on Schreiber’s stage on Feb. 13. The night included pieces performed by Port Washington orchestra students from grades 4-12. The audience heard performances from the fourth and fifth grade ensemble, middle school students, the freshman orchestra, the string orchestra, and the symphony orchestra. The grand finale featured all 273 participating students performing at once.

“Practicing was hard, but I am so excited to play with the older kids, and I can’t wait to hear their music too,” said fifth grader Dara Foley.

The performance received much feedback from both students who participated and from the audience members.

“I think it’s a good opportunity to unify district string students,” said sophomore Illiana Ioannides.

Many students also welcomed the opportunity to play with elementary and middle school students.

“It’s very nice that all the students in the district get to play with one another, regardless of age or skill level,” said freshman Nuran Mirdha.

This performance required extensive planning and consisted of multiple meetings, after school and during school. Director of Creative Arts Ms. Sherri Suzzan and department secretary Ms.

Angela McGrade organized the event. Ms. McGrade ordered matching t-shirts for students.

“It’s crazy and hectic so I don’t like it,” said seventh grader Solbi Oh.

Before school ended, Schreiber students were excused from their sixth period classes to help bring all the chairs to the auditorium. The elementary and Weber students had to remain at Schreiber until the concert began at 7 p.m. They were required to bring dinner to eat in between the practices. Schreiber students had the option to go home and come back before the concert or stay and help out.

“I feel very happy and excited and I am enjoying myself,” said fourth grader Yuuki Huang.

This event required much preparation

on behalf of the music teachers.

“The district string faculty developed the idea for this performance,” said Mr. Pinelli. “The idea came to be so that the young kids and the parents would get to see what they get to turn into if they stick with the orchestra program through twelfth grade. Basically, so they would see the gradual, natural development of musicianship through the orchestra program, all in one night.”

“It’s very good because it allows you to work on your instrument more than you usually do,” said fifth grader John Paul Pearson. “First you have a little part you have to work on at school, but when you get homework from an entire orchestra, you think, ‘Oh boy, I really need to practice this.’”

Brown University singers harmonize for Schreiber students

BY Ana Espinoza

Assistant News Editor

This year, the music department has a lineup of guest musicians as enrichment for students in music ensembles. Ranging

from professional musicians to college ensembles, these groups present an opportunity for students to see live performances and interact with higher-level musicians.

In December, The Jabberwocks made

an appearance at Schreiber. They are the oldest all-male acappella group at Brown University, originally founded in 1949.

Jesse Weil (‘12) is a member of the group, and arranged for a performance in the auditorium.

“Jesse contacted us because the group was performing at the Brown alumni club in Manhattan,” said Mr. Pinelli.

“He asked if it would be cool if we performed for the kids, both as practice for their performance that night and as an opportunity for us to hear college acappella.”

The music department sent an email to music teachers to inform them of the performance and invite them to bring their classes. The performance was generally well-received by the students who attended.

“It was pretty interesting, because we never had an acappella group come and I bet a lot of people enjoyed it,” said sophomore Denise Hidalgo.

The Jabberwocks performed popular contemporary pieces as well as classics including, “Somebody that I Used to

Know,” “Set Fire to the Rain,” and multiple Boyz II Men songs.

Band teacher Mr. Mark Brenner and Suffolk Community College clarinet professor Dr. Levana Cohen, are arranging for Dr. Richard Faria to speak with band students. He will be in Port Washington in early March to participate in a day of workshops and rehearsals with music students.

“It is beneficial for the students to hear from professional level musicians and those who are teaching at a college level because if students aspire to be musicians at college, they need to interact with the professors with whom they are going to work,” said Mr. Brenner.

“This way they have a better idea of colleges’ expectations for musicianship and preparation prior to auditioning for music schools or college music ensembles.”

In early April, choir and orchestra ensembles will work with Ithaca College Orchestra and Choir to prepare a performance at school. Additionally, students will go to Manhattan to attend the Ithaca College concert located at Lincoln Center.



Minah Kim

Brown University’s acappella group, The Jabberwocks, perform in the Schreiber auditorium. Schreiber graduate Jesse Weil arranged for the all-male acappella group to come and sing for students.

Art club installs mural in AP Psych classroom

by Crystal Ren
Staff Writer

Students recently gave the AP Psychology room a much-needed splash of color. During midterms week, the Art Honors Society painted a mural in room B20. The mural spans the majority of the back wall, and its focal point is a multi-colored brain.

Members of the Art Honor Society submitted designs for the mural and then voted on a final plan, which was then painted on the wall.

“The mural took a total of two days with the help of the club,” said junior Carolyn Rybecky, who led the mural project with junior Alexandra Zweiner.

“Mrs. Byrne and I were given a room especially for AP Psychology this year...However, all the walls were white and it, ironically, resembled a mental institution, so we thought we would dazzle it up a bit,” said Mr. Schultz.

“I am really pleased with how the mural turned out. We wanted to create a mural that not only was visually appealing but also useful for the classes.”

Psychology teachers Mrs. Sara Byrne and Mr. Larry Schultz approached art teacher Mrs. Miranda Best with the idea for a mural.

“Mrs. Byrne and I were given a room especially for AP Psych this year, and we were really excited about it,” said Mr. Schultz. “However, all the walls were white and it, ironically, resembled a mental institution, so we thought we would dazzle it up a bit. The results were outstanding. Carrie Rybecky and Alexandra Zweiner did an absolutely beautiful job. The wall is informative and accurate, it’s relevant,

and it adds to the class environment and to the students’ experience. Students refer to the wall, and even I occasionally refer to the wall. It has an official name now: the Psychology Wall of Fame.”

Also, there is now a bulletin board accompanying the mural, with the names of the students who score a five on their AP Psychology test.

“I think it’s really well done. I’m part of a psych class and I think it makes the classroom look a lot nicer,” said sophomore Ashley Meyer. “I love it, and I think it does benefit the classes in that room. It makes me want to work harder.”

Mr. Schultz and Mrs. Byrne also sent out a picture of the mural to several eminent psychologists.

“Out of the seven top researchers in their psychological fields, three are still alive. And we sent a picture of this mural to all three of them, and two responded: Dr. Philip Zimbardo and Dr. Albert Bandura. So we thought that was really cool,” said Mr. Schultz

The Art Honor Society strives to paint a new mural each year. Last year, the group painted the mural in the cafeteria. Each mural comes with its own challenges.

“The Art Honors Society tries to beautify our school with art murals at least once a year,” said Mrs. Best. “Last year it was the mural in the cafeteria and



Ana Espinoza

Sophomores Lena Kogan and Ashley Meyer paint the walls of the AP Psychology classroom. The mural features a colorful brain and neurons that students study as part of the AP Psychology curriculum.

this year we hope to do more than just this one. The club members were very willing to help. I think the most difficult part of the mural was planning the colors that we would paint the image with. It’s great, and it’s colorful, which is lovely, because this way it can be a visual form to the concepts

and ideas in psychology. This mural is instructional.”

“Spending time with the club members and leaving our mark on the school was a great experience. It’s fun to think that after I graduate I have something left behind for others to enjoy,” said Rybecky.

Pride in Port Committee begins brainstorming for Spirit Week

by Sally Kuan
Staff Writer

Every year, the student body joins together in a competitive show of school spirit. However, the pep and spirit that descend upon classrooms and hallways require months of planning in advance. As winter comes to an end, the Pride in Port Committee has started to plan the events of Spirit Week to take place from March 11 to 15.

The Pride in Port Committee holds a pep rally in the fall as a part of Pride in Port, and since 2008, the Spirit Week Committee has organized Spirit Week in late winter, which culminates with a second pep rally. This new tradition began when two senior girls proposed the idea, in an effort to bolster school spirit, which often lags halfway through the year.

The different class clubs have organized the whole event. If students wish to get involved, propose ideas, or help out in any way, they can speak to their class club advisors. The advisors are math teacher Mr. Joseph Lederer for the freshman class,

technology teacher Mr. Neil Miller for the sophomore class, business teacher Ms. Deborah Servat for the junior class, and health teacher Ms. Janine Kalinowski for the senior class. Most of the decisions concerning Spirit Week are made through the class clubs.

“The student council is also very excited and involved with the whole event this year,” said assistant principal Ms. Julie Torres.

As the date of the event approaches, class club members will form a larger group that meets frequently to prepare and organize Spirit Week. They also hold joint class club meetings to plan the events. The class clubs meet every Wednesday morning to brainstorm ideas and discuss plans. So far, the committee has decided on the week and have listed ideas for the day themes. Students can expect new themes for each day including Throwback Thursday.

“We really have no idea what we’re doing with the Pep Rally, but there were a few classics that I want to bring back,” said senior Elana Galassi.

Even if they are unable to contribute



Elana Galassi

Students stack cups as a competition of the Spirit Week Pep Rally in 2012. The Pride in Port Committee will plan events such as this in the coming weeks.

to the planning of the event, students can still participate and show off school spirit. They can wear the colors or dress up according to the given themes throughout the week and join in on the activities that will be held every day of the week during the 4.1 and 4.2 lunch periods.

The committee meets every other Wednesday at 7:30 AM in the Writing Center and all students are welcome to attend.

“We would like to see people getting more involved with the class clubs,” said health teacher Ms. Kalinowski.

WDOT to host first-ever Schreiber Slam variety show

by Minah Kim

Senior News Editor

WDOT is hosting a Radiothon for the first time in four years. The 24-hour broadcast will include the first ever variety show at Schreiber, featuring battles between teachers and students, dunk tanks, White Castle, and even a celebrity guest.

The 24 -hour-long broadcast will start at 9 a.m. on Feb. 24. Throughout the school day, WDOT student DJs will host shows. From 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. on Mar. 1, seniors Debbie Oyarzun and Benny Scheckner will anchor the broadcast.

“People should expect to be surprised. Nobody but a couple of people know how this whole thing is going to play out,” said senior Benny Scheckner, DJ and host of The Schreiber Slam.

“I’m excited to see DJs express themselves in creative ways and entertain the masses. I’m excited for students who don’t know much about radio to learn more about it,” said Mr. Jeremy Klaff.

The centerpiece of the whole event, the “Schreiber Slam,” will take place in the gym starting at 7 p.m. The Slam will be a variety show hosted by “Radio King” Scheckner and “Radio Queen” Oyarzun with events featuring teachers, students, and a celebrity guest. The event will also have music, food, and the element of surprise. Because nothing like this has ever happened at Schreiber before, many students do not know what to expect.

“I’m really excited to see what’s going to happen. We’re probably in for a lot of surprises,” said senior Emily Lipstein, who has bought a ticket to The Schreiber Slam.

“We’ve never had an event like this in Schreiber’s history and I know for a fact if people don’t go, they’re going to regret it. I’m positive this event will go down in Schreiber history,” said Oyarzun.

The show will include the Schreiber Eating Championship, which will be between professional competitive eater



Minah Kim



Minah Kim

Top: Seniors Nicholas Schwartz, William Jack Dalessandro, and Jack Rucigay sell tickets for the Radiothon in the lobby. Proceeds from tickets to The Schreiber Slam will go to WDOT and Piano for Patients. Bottom: Senior Salia Hovanec films senior Benny Scheckner eating ice cream off the ground. This clip was part of the preview posted on YouTube.

Crazy Legs Conti, health teacher Ms. Jeanine Kalinowski and social studies teacher Mr. Petro Macrigiane; a fight between senior Nathan Lefcowitz and Mr. Macrigiane; and a fight between Mr. Matina and Scheckner. The show will also feature a rap battle with rapper N3ffkiid (senior Antonio Cox), a dunk tank with Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss, music, cookies, and cake.

“I promise there will be no vegetables,” said Scheckner.

The station has held this event in the past, though not on this scale.

“The idea of doing the 24-hour broadcast is a WDOT tradition that just

sort of fell off the grid for some reason. I’ve been committed to the station for a long time now, and if I’m going out, I want to go out with a bang,” said Scheckner.

Mr. Klaff and Scheckner conceived

the idea for the show a few months ago. Oyarzun and Scheckner have led the planning efforts with help from Mr. Klaff and other DJs.

“A lot of other people have been truly incredible in the planning of this thing. Not Mr. Matina. I’ll say that,” said Scheckner.

WDOT has filmed and released several preview videos on the WDOT Schreiber YouTube channel in the past few weeks, which have already received hundreds of views each.

“People should expect to be surprised. Nobody but a couple of people know how this whole thing is going to play out. We’ve given out a little bit of information, and made it seem like a lot. People are going to be walking in knowing less of what’s going to happen than they think,” said Scheckner.

With the element of surprise still on their side, WDOT will continue to prep and plan down to every detail of that day.

“I don’t want to give too much away. The element of surprise is our greatest ally, but trust me when I say that you’ll see the work we put into the show immediately when you arrive,” said Scheckner. “I’ve been telling people that Justin Bieber will be at the show, which is a lie.”

WDOT plans to split proceeds between Piano for Patients, a non-profit organization founded by senior Nikki Egna, and the radio station.

“We’re not doing this for any other reason than to entertain people,” said Scheckner. “It’s nice to be raising the money for charity, and for the station, but what we really want is to see a huge crowd of people react to the absurdity that we present to them. I’m excited to see the school loosen up for one night of pure, unadulterated insanity. I think that’s something that we all need more than we think we do.”

Chinese classes experience authentic food and culture in Flushing

by Ana Espinoza

Assistant News Editor

Students in Ms. Tiffany Fan’s Chinese classes recently went on a field trip, a first for students studying the language at Schreiber. On Feb. 7, 19 of the 22 students in the Chinese 2 class visited Flushing to add an element of culture to their study of the language.

The students visited a bookstore and a tea store offering both bubble tea and traditional hot tea, a Chinese staple. They also visited a bakery, a food court, and a market in the area. At the market, they encountered interesting Chinese specialty items.

“It was enjoyable,” said senior Andrew Kim, “It was something that you don’t do on a regular field trip. I got to see many different things about Chinese culture

that I wouldn’t have experienced going to Flushing myself.”

The opportunity to speak to native Chinese speakers in Chinese while making purchases was a novel experience for many students of the class.

“I believe they gained from the experience because it’s very difficult and it takes some confidence to actually talk to a Chinese person,” said Ms. Fan. “All my students had the courage to actually say something in Chinese to a native speaker, so I think it’s very important for them to take the first step and break the ice this way.

This trip was also a first for Ms. Fan, who is a recent addition to the Languages Other Than English department.

“I was a little nervous, but my class behaved wonderfully and they tried to speak and practice their Chinese,” said Ms. Fan.

Schreiber class of 2010 alum in running for trip to space



Minah Kim

Schreiber alum Dan Cottitta entered the Axe Apollo Space Academy competition, which will send the two people with the most votes to space. The winners will have the chance to fly 103km up to space with the space tourism company SPACEXC. Cottitta earned his pilot license in high school and graduated as valedictorian of BOCES aviation school. He entered this competition to get closer to achieve his dream of becoming an astronaut. Currently he is in 20th place in the United States competition. People can vote for Cottitta at www2.axeapollo.com/en_US/20642

Point

Counterpoint

Should students say the Pledge of Allegiance in school?

BY Shari Meltzer

Staff Writer

How many times have you heard “please stand for the pledge” in your lifetime? Probably thousands.

Now how many times have you actually stood up to recite the words? Probably a lot fewer.

The Pledge of Allegiance stands as a representation of all that our country has experienced throughout the years.

It stands as a reminder of what our founding fathers bore witness to when fighting for our independence as a nation.

When Francis Bellamy wrote the pledge in 1892, it was for a children’s magazine as part of the National Public School Celebration of Columbus Day, and it was meant to be recited on a daily basis.

At that time, the spirit of patriotism and nationalism was wavering in Americans’ hearts.

It was written in order to reawaken Americanism, and what better place to start than in public schools around the country?

Thus, it is perfectly appropriate that we recite the Pledge of Allegiance in public school, and there is no reason why American students shouldn’t have to say it daily.

The Pledge is still relevant today as a powerful force for unity, and it continues to represent patriotism and pride in our country.

“I believe that saying the Pledge of Allegiance daily allows for the entirety of the country to feel united as a whole,” said junior Karen Yeh.

Some oppose saying the Pledge in public schools, mainly because of the phrase “Under God,” which opponents feel threaten freedom of religion.

However, we are not forcing people to convert to a specific religion or believe in God by saying the Pledge.

The Pledge does not intend to discriminate against or offend believers of any one religion. Therefore, the argument against the Pledge in terms of religion is invalid.

In fact, in 2010 the United States

Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the words are of a “ceremonial and patriotic nature,” and had nothing to do with established religion.

The Pledge still provides the same connotation that it previously had before “under God” was added. It is a positive way to remind us of our nation’s rich history and of the struggles that allowed us to get to where we are today and live the lives that we have in twenty first century America.

While pledging to the Flag is, in fact, voluntary, that does not mean that stating it is any less important.

By standing up, every single day and saying the Pledge, we are not only taking pride in our country, but also are thanking past and present generations for their sacrifices.

We are honoring the humble service that our armed forces and

our political leaders provide for the United States.

It shows respect and honor to rise to say the pledge, and only takes a total of twenty seconds.

Students and teachers alike should continue to say the Pledge daily, and as they do, should consider its true significance as an honorable symbol of the American people.

BY Aaron Bialer

Staff Assistant

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

We recite these words every single day, yet few think about what it is that we are saying.

Every single day, we are supposed to offer our loyalty to not only our country, but also to its flag.

“We have to pledge to a flag that we are allowed to burn without punishment, so why should anyone care?” said junior Kahaf Bhuiyan.

method.

Additionally, if the Pledge of Allegiance is intended to keep citizens loyal, it fails to do so.

When something becomes part of a daily routine in the way that the Pledge has, it loses all meaning. The words are spurted out mechanically, barely affecting anyone. So why should we bother to say them if they essentially represent nothing to us?

“A pledge is a pledge,” said junior Lauren Livingston. “You’re only supposed to have to say it once for it to take effect. Once we’ve said it at an age that we comprehend what we’re saying, we should never have to say it again. In repeating it every day, we make it lose meaning until it just becomes monotonous.”

This brings up the additional point that we are supposed to say the pledge in elementary school before we are able to fully understand what it is that we are saying.

If anything the Pledge has more of a negative effect on students than a positive one.

Atheists, agnostics, and others with similar views obviously feel that we are pledging our loyalty to an imaginary being in the line “under God.” Thus, they find the pledge a waste of time.

“I understand, during the Cold War, America needed to add that line to show the Soviet Union that God was on its side, but it is no longer relevant,” said junior Eric Rosenblatt. “We should change it to ‘under science.’”

Very religious people also find the pledge oppressive. Many feel that pledging allegiance to a flag is idolatry.

We may not be directly worshipping the flag, but we are, in fact, offering our loyalty to an inanimate object.

“The Pledge of Allegiance is just a way for one to express enthusiasm for America,” said junior Ben Pan. “The issue with the Pledge is that its wording is misleading causing many to interpret it incorrectly.”

If the Pledge is intended to promote nationalism, then perhaps the pledge should be reworded.

The original intention of the Pledge of Allegiance is fairly difficult to discern.

However, based on the fact that Francis Bellamy, the Pledge’s original writer, was a socialist, it would seem that the pledge is intended to solidify loyalty to American beliefs of liberty, not to promote nationalism.

The United States of America, and thus, our school, should not require its young citizens to go through such a pointless act on a daily basis.



Zareen Johnson

Does it not seem paranoid on the part of our leaders to impose such a measure on us?

It seems a contradiction to call our country a Republic in reciting what appears to be a totalitarian citizen control method.

It seems a contradiction to call our country a Republic in reciting what appears to be a totalitarian citizen control

Putting group examinations to the test

BY Ali Peltz
Staff Writer

To test or not to test? That is the question. Sadly, “not to test,” is not really an option, but what about group tests?

Some teachers use group tests as an alternative to traditional exams, often due to time constraints or because a subject matter is particularly difficult.

In most cases, it would not be beneficial to students if they were always allowed to work in groups during exams.

One student or a few strong students would end up doing all of the work. Group tests would allow lazy students to slack off and get higher grades than they deserve.

There are some situations where a group test could be beneficial.

In an ideal situation, every student would prepare for the test and groups would divide the work evenly.

But what if there were a few kids who provide nothing to the team? This would be unfair to the people who actually prepped for the exam.

If a teacher announces that an exam

will be a group test in advance, it is possible that students would not bother studying thinking that someone else in the class will be prepared.

Then, on testing day, no one is ready to pass the exam.

“If the work is shared equally and everyone contributes, it would be beneficial,” said foreign language teacher Cherie Delio. “But if one person ends up doing all the work, it is not fair.”

Overall, there is no way to guarantee that all group members will be ready for the test. There will always be one person who gets a higher grade than they deserve.

In some very difficult courses, a teacher may surprise the students by telling them the day of the exam that

they can work as a class.

This may be because the teacher knows that the test is exceptionally difficult and wants everyone to do well by collaborating with his or her classmates.

“Group tests are only fair if the whole class is struggling or if it is a very difficult unit,” said senior Summer Jiries.

The benefits of group testing differ among the various departments.

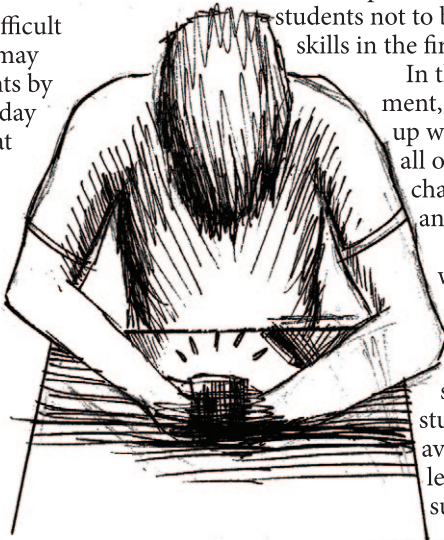
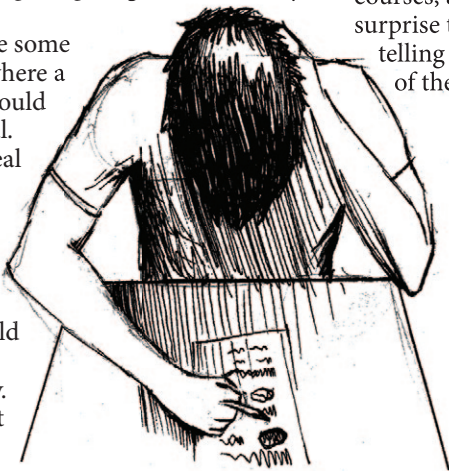
In a math class, a partner test with someone at your level could be helpful because the two can work together to figure out the answers and, in the process, learn from one another rather than completely give up on questions that stump them.

Yet a group test in this situation would likely leave the top kids in the class doing all of the work and all of the hard problems, allowing the lower students not to bother with learning the skills in the first place.

In the social studies department, a group test would end up with one kid memorizing all of the relevant textbook chapter providing all of the answers.

The rest of the class would not bother even doing their reading on the unit. It would not be beneficial to the students because it gives students the opportunity to avoid work and not have to learn as much in order to succeed.

Despite the fact that group tests can sometimes be effective, they are generally unfair because students do not accurately learn the entirety of the material.



Diego Espinoza

Finding, shoveling, and salting Nemo

BY Will Berger
Staff Writer

Unless you have been living underground, devoid of television, radio, and artsy Instagram pictures, you probably noticed the snowstorm that blew through the entire Northeast.

The storm blasted through the region with up to three feet of snow in the Northeast and Canada, and left some of the highest accumulations ever recorded. Still, coastal areas were largely spared serious damage despite being lashed by strong waves and hurricane-force wind gusts.

Hundreds of thousands of families lost power in a range of states, most notably Connecticut and Massachusetts. Fortunately, hurricane-torn New Jersey was spared from the worst of the storm, probably because the Garden State, ironically, is covered in blacktop.

It was dubbed Nemo, as a shameless bid by the Weather Channel to take over the storm-naming job from the World Meteorological Organization (the U.N. of weather geeks). You’d think that Nemo was the storm’s official name, but you’d be wrong. Other unusual and irritating storm name ideas included: Mick Jagger, Gandolf, or whatever else happens when your cat steps on your keyboard.

Like any other disaster, people naturally look for something or someone to blame. The easiest target for a natural disaster is global warming, or its politically correct twin: climate change. Climatologists were in general agreement that climate change laid the groundwork for Superstorm Sandy, with higher sea levels, warmer ocean temperatures, and more energy in the storm system.

Nemo is a similar story. Climatologists say that there’s evidence that climate change made Nemo stronger and “snowier.” Kenneth Trenberth, the senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, told the Cape Cod Times that “global warming doesn’t cause these storms, but it does add to their intensity. Sea temperatures are higher, and there is more moisture over the ocean as a result, waiting to be sucked up by the storm.”

In addition, large snowstorms must be at the perfect temperature; they won’t hold enough moisture if they’re too cold, so temperatures that are warmer-than-average can actually make a blizzard “blizzardier,” which, I believe, is the technical term for it.

And in the most ironic twist, climate change may also be the cause of deafness in clownfish, the fish popularized by Pixar’s *Finding Nemo*. If you didn’t hate global warming already, this should push you over the edge. The Earth’s oceans take in large amounts of CO2 from the atmosphere, slowly making them more acidic.

This can be a big problem for many underwater species that are not accustomed to these conditions, including the species found in coral reefs.

So while global warming may have strengthened Nemo (the storm), it may have weakened the lovable orange fish from the animated movie. This stuff writes itself.

School should require flu shots for all students

BY Priyanka Ninan and Ali Verdi
Staff Writers

Winter 2012 brought one of the worst flu seasons in years, and many students were out of school for weeks at a time with the virus.

One of the most obvious ways to prevent yourself from coming down with the flu is to get the flu shot, either through injection or nasal spray.

Considering that all students spend up to seven hours in school with over one thousand other people, it is always better to be safe than sorry.

Between handing in papers and sharing pencils and other supplies, there is an unlimited amount of ways for germs to spread.

Some students believe, often incorrectly, that they do not need to worry about catching the flu.

“I never get sick when other kids do, and I have never been someone who has had to worry about catching colds from my friends,” said junior Kim Byrne. “But this winter, there were a couple of times when I got really sick and thought that it actually might have been the flu. I learned the hard way that it is always a bad idea to assume that you are above getting sick.”

Even if you are not normally affected by viruses such as the flu, it is important not to take chances and to ensure that you do whatever you can to avoid getting sick. The shot protects not only you, but also the people around you.

Since influenza is a highly contagious virus, schools and other public facilities are prime areas for the flu to spread. Spending half of every weekday in school

assures each student their fair opportunity to come down with a virus.

Thus, students should take any measures they can to avoid getting sick. Yet, many resist getting flu shots, which would otherwise allow them to avoid one of the most contagious illnesses in the northeast.

Perhaps the school should go so far as to require the flu shot.

If every person in the school was vaccinated, it would benefit our school community as a whole, assuring fewer

as I had it this year,” said junior Chrystalla Neocleous. “I was out of school for a while, and I missed so much work. Catching up on basically a week of school while also learning new material was really hard.”

Had the school required flu shots, these students would never have missed so many days of school and would not need to stress themselves out by making up work.

Everyone should be required to get the flu shot because it prevents illnesses

The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the three influenza viruses that research suggests will be most common.

Most of the time seasonal flu activity peaks in January, February, or later.

Over a period of 31 seasons between 1976 and 2007, estimates of flu-associated deaths in the United States range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people.

A flu vaccine is needed every year because flu viruses are constantly changing.

If you get sick with flu-like illness, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities.

Findings from early data suggest that this season’s vaccine so far is reducing the risk of having to go to the doctor for influenza by about 60% for vaccinated people. - Study posted in January

The 2012-2013 influenza vaccine is made to protect against an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like virus, and the B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like virus (from the B/Yamagata lineage of viruses).

~Information from www.cdc.gov, compiled by Aaron Bialer

absences and healthier students.

Absences in school were at a peak this winter. With a large amount of work missed, many students did not have a smooth return back to school.

“I have never really had the flu as bad

and the unwanted burden of catching up in and out of school.

It is very important to do everything you can to stay healthy during the winter season and getting the flu shot is an effective way of ensuring this.

SchreiberSpeaks What's on your bucket list?



"I want to go to Israel, go to every major theme park on the East Coast, and get married!"

~Nate Krantz, junior



"I would want to travel to Australia! I also want to be in a musical."

~Becca Schaub, junior



"I would want to meet the voice actor who plays Spongebob."

~William Day, freshman



"I want to meet the President and the First Lady, go hike Masada in Israel, travel to France, and write my own novel. "

~Leah Weingast, senior



"One thing on my bucket list is to go to a Washington Redskins game. I was born in D.C., and I've never been to a sporting event there."

~Peter Kirgis, freshman



"I would want to go skydiving! I would also want to go to Thailand because I've heard how beautiful it is and how great the food and culture are."

~Arielle Waller, sophomore

Reporting and photos by Hallie Whitman, Erin Choe, and Natasha Talukdar, Opinions Editors

Teacher-student relationships generate improved classroom atmospheres

BY Jessica Commisso and Julia Deriu
Staff Writers

Ever wonder what it would be like to know your teachers on a personal level? A small class field trip would be the perfect opportunity for teachers to get to know their students better.

Most teachers are unaware of their students' interests, family situations, and events.

Teachers can only become aware of these situations if students reach out to them.

The problem is that not everyone is comfortable doing this.

A field trip would provide an easy-going environment in which students can become more comfortable and willing to share information about their lives outside of school.

Field trips can also be a fun means

through which teachers and students can build memories while experiencing educational material in a meaningful and exciting way.

This can be true from the teacher's perspective as well.

Lunch meetings and field trips, which could be organized by either party, are examples of ways in which teachers and students could spend time together while remaining professional.

One-on-one or group meetings with any teacher can also be extremely beneficial.

Students and teachers can exchange advice and discuss engaging material that they may not have time to cover in the classroom.

"I would definitely be open to spending extra time with my teachers," said junior Jordan Cohen. "I think that it would be beneficial to some of the

kids who feel insecure in their classes. It would also be cool if a couple of kids from a certain class and their teacher went on an outing together. I think it would benefit the class as a whole because people who may not know each other would be able to connect."

Many times, student-teacher relationships are strictly professional. However, some teachers are willing to connect with their students on a personal level.

This is highly beneficial in creating an effective educational environment.

When a teacher is willing to connect with their students on a personal level, it creates an instant bond.

"The fact that Mr. Fallon took out an entire day of gym class to tell us about his life experiences helped the class connect with him," said senior Emily Schmidt. "Normally, you don't

know that much about your teachers but I enjoyed getting advice from someone who I respect."

Teachers who make a concerted effort to relay personal anecdotes and life advice create a more friendly and approachable learning environment.

"My chemistry teacher Ms. Krebs related her lessons to real life," said senior Julian Faccibene. "She always emphasized the fact that she was there whenever you needed help. She was like a mentor to me. I could go to her whenever I needed help and her enthusiasm made learning a lot of fun. Ms. Krebs made the classroom a place where I wanted to be."

Whether students need teachers to further discuss course information or just need someone to talk to, closer student-teacher relationships are perfectly acceptable.

Editorials

No early dismissal leads to dangerous conditions for commutes during blizzard

As Nemo’s fierce winds blanketed Port Washington with heavy layers of snow, sleet, and ice, the world seemed to have stopped.

On Feb. 8, businesses shut down early, roads were barely visible, and most schools sent their students and teachers home to escape danger.

Despite having had sent a Connect ED message to all district families the day before warning of a highly likely early dismissal, the Port school district chose to remain open until the usual closing time, and keep students and staff in the building amidst the storm.

Students, who had hoped to be let out of school early, were forced to remain on campus, only to find that their classes were not even meeting.

While school was technically in session, some classes were cancelled because teachers had gone home early, either to ensure that they made their trips safely, or because their children’s schools had let out early.

Additionally, the storm was so violent that the security team was not able to guard the campus, and had to, instead, take shelter in the lobby.

Students and teachers found it difficult to get home safely and quickly, as the roads quickly became icy, and visibility was low.

The Schreiber Times believes that, although it may have seemed easier to keep the building open and not interrupt the usual schedule, the school district should have opted for an early dismissal on Feb. 8.

Doing so would have prevented hazardous situations and inconveniences. Although everyone is eager to make up lost time from Superstorm Sandy this fall, keeping students and teachers in school during a blizzard is not the answer.

The Schreiber Times understands that it may have been difficult for the district to foresee the severity of the storm, but urges the schools to err on the side of caution for the remainder of the winter season.

Lockdown drills should be taken seriously

On, Feb. 12, Schreiber was the last building in the district to hold a school-wide lockdown drill.

The Schreiber Times commends the administration for planning and executing the drill, which, in light of recent shootings across the country, is clearly a necessary safety measure.

The administration had informed and prepared the staff for the drill, during which Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller instructed all teachers over the PA system to lock their classroom doors and move their students to the safest sections of their classrooms.

The custodial staff locked all unlocked doors, including bathrooms, and students were prohibited from using their cell phones.

While the drill was well executed, Schreiber’s lockdown plan proved to have some flaws.

Since all classrooms and bathrooms are locked, the administration should devise a safety plan for students who may not be in class during an emergency.

Students roaming the halls on an off-period, using the bathroom, or returning to campus after a casual trip to Main Street are potentially put in harms way and need protection in the event of an emergency.

Students and teachers not in school during the time of a lockdown would be unaware of the current danger that may be present inside the classrooms and on campus.

There should be a way where those who are not on campus during a lockdown can be notified and take the right precautions to protect themselves and others.

The Schreiber Times would also like to remind students and faculty alike that their attitudes towards the drill are just as important as the drill itself. Students should not fool around and should take lockdown drills seriously.

While the majority of students and staff members took the lockdown seriously, it is still necessary to remind others of the drill’s importance.

Although AP and Honors classes are rushing to finish their curriculums on time, taking out five minutes of class time to focus on school safety is not exactly too much to ask.

Sledding safety

After a big winter storm, children everywhere delight in piling on heavy layers of outerwear, grabbing their favorite sleds, and heading to the biggest local hills for a thrilling sledding session with their friends. Such a simple pleasure is seemingly harmless, and most

of us partake in it without any fear or hesitation.

However, recent events remind us that sledding can be extremely dangerous. Two local children were severely injured while sledding post-Nemo.

The Schreiber Times urges students to exercise caution when sledding after future storms. Although it can be fun, sledding is an extremely hazardous activity, and all sledders should be careful while out on a hill. You should never sled alone, and sled only down hills where the entire path is clear

The Schreiber Times hopes that members of the Schreiber community continue to safely enjoy the winter weather.

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on February 28! All new writers are welcome!

Times Policy Statement

The SchreiberTimes’ 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.

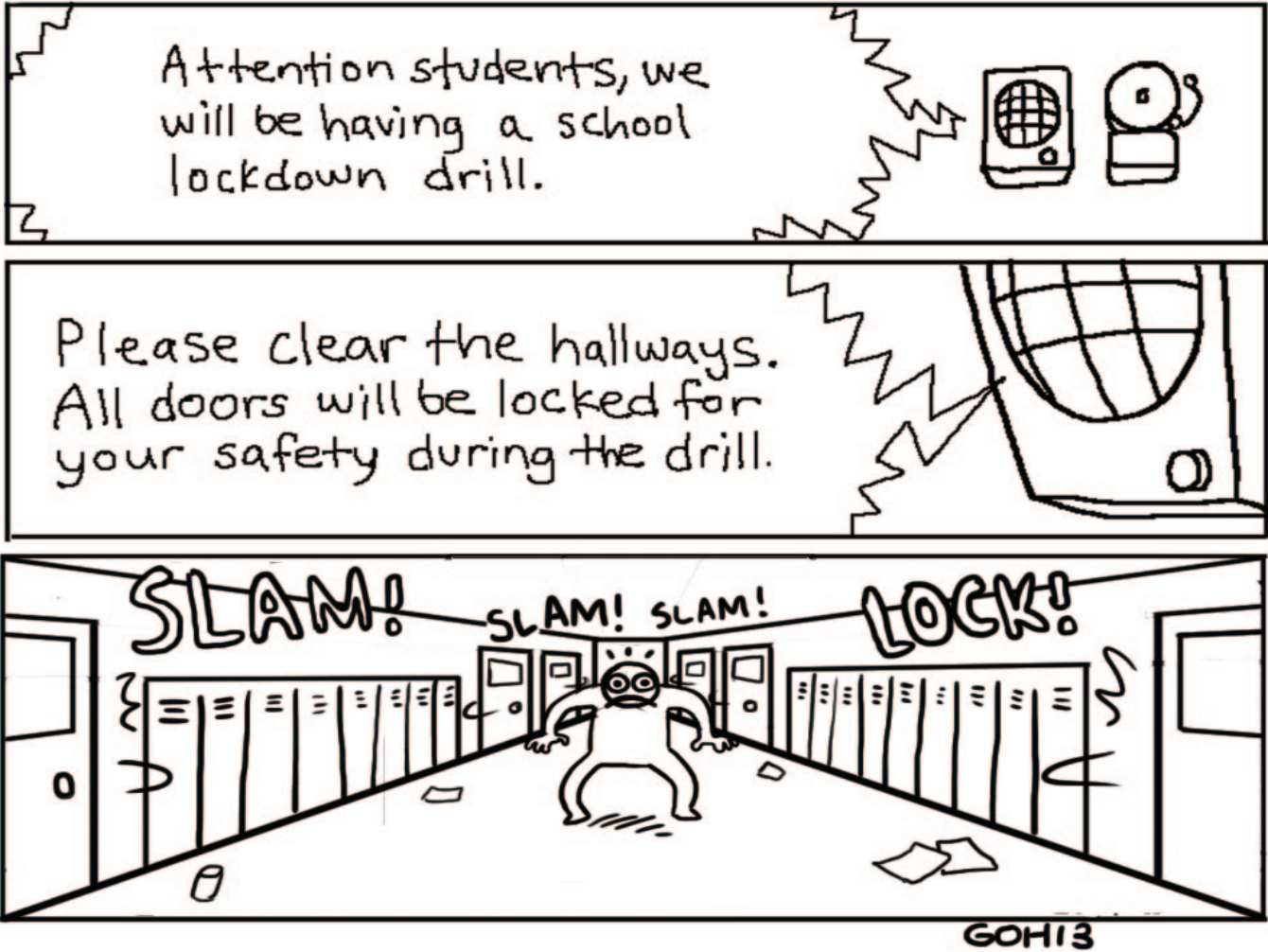
We will print letters to the editors if judged to be of sufficient quality and importance on a space-available basis. We will not print letters that are obscene, libelous, or contain unfounded charges. The Times reserves the right to shorten letters if doing so does not alter their meaning, and to choose 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, TheTimes will follow the policy described in this space as well as the guidelines of common sense and reason.

Sigi Squad, by Chris



Community joins to support family after sledding accident

BY **Daniella Philipson**
Features Editor

On your way to school, you may have noticed the blue and purple ribbons that decorate the telephone poles and lampposts around town. The ribbons that run along Main Street are there to remind the community to think of Sydney, the third grader who was injured in a sledding accident on Feb. 10.

“I think in really trying situations such as these, it is critical for communities to come together and show their support. It is comforting to know that Port Washington is such a caring community and that we are all praying for Sydney and the family together,” said senior Leah Weingast.

This past school year has certainly seen its fair share of hardships. Time and time again, both the Schreiber and Port Washington communities are eager to lend a helping hand and this has certainly held true after the sledding accident at the Plandome Country Club.

In the past couple of days, many Schreiber students roamed the halls in their blue and purple garb to show their support for Sydney’s speedy recovery. On Valentine’s Day, community members were asked to say a prayer at noon for Sydney. Weber Middle School had a moment of silence at noon in Sydney’s honor. In addition, a number of prayer groups were held at Community Synagogue, Saint Peter’s, and Saint Stephen’s.

Ms. Beth Horn, a Schreiber parent, and friend of the family, was key in putting together a website to help them. Through LotsaHelpingHands.com, Ms. Horn and some otherw Port Washington families organized meals and transportation for



Daniella Philipson

Blue and purple ribbons donated by S.F. Falconer were hung along Main Street by friends, family, and community members in Sydney’s honor.

the family for the next month. The website already has 225 registered volunteers waiting for further instructions on how to assist Sydney’s family.

“The website is great in that it is allowing people to help in tangible ways,” said Jill Mindlin, a friend of the family.

“We set up the family website for friends who would like to receive messages with updates about Sydney’s progress, messages from friends who visited the hospital, and suggestions for ways to help the family through this time,”

said Ms. Horn.

LotsaHelpingHands.com is run by a company that aims to connect caregivers and volunteers to help those in need through online communities. The website makes it easy for people to organize and help families in crisis. Community members can log on to the website and see an interactive calendar, allowing them to register for a particular time to help. In the case of the family, community members have been signing up for meal times, offering to cook and serve dinner,

as well as driving times during school hours.

“The day after the accident happened, we set up the website at about 8:00 p.m., and, the following morning, less than twelve hours later, the entire schedule was filled with people from the community wanting to help out. The community responded so fast; everyone was ready to sign up and help,” said Ms. Horn.

“It is a combination of very close friends, some acquaintances, teachers, and even people who do not really know the family,” she said.

The website is also used to send updates to the entire email list and provide them with exact quotes from the family and provide suggestions and instructions for volunteers. It also has a message board where people can post messages and positive wishes for the family.

How To Help:

See TheSchreiberTimes.com for the link to Sydney’s LotsaHelpingHands page.

In addition, donations of gift certificates to restaurants, diners, delis, and pizzerias that can be used for breakfasts and lunches are needed. Monetary donations will be pooled to help cover various expenses such as groceries, housekeeping, and laundry.

Donations can also be dropped off at the Sands Point Preserve’s Gate House, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily at 127 Middle Neck Road in Sands Point. Please place donations in a sealed envelope with Sydney’s name on it as well as your own.

Senior Natasha Talukdar to perform at Carnegie Hall in March

BY **Maddie Cohen**
Staff Writer

Natasha Talukdar has dreamed about performing at Carnegie Hall since she was a little girl. On Mar. 9, all the hours of practicing and previous accomplishments will finally pay off when her dream comes true.

The journey to Carnegie Hall was certainly a long one, beginning on Jan. 26 in New Jersey. Talukdar competed against 400 other pianists, including her brother, freshman Prithviraj (Raj) Talukdar, for the American Asian Fine Arts Association. Out of these 400 contestants, ages 5-19, 80 were chosen to play at Carnegie Hall. A number of the contestants who fell short of Carnegie Hall were selected to play at an honors concert.

Natasha heard back on Jan. 28, and was thrilled to find out that all her hard work had paid off. In less than two months, she would play at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Playing strictly classical music, Talukdar was the chosen finalist at the New York International Competition and in December, she was also a chosen winner at the World Journal Competition.

Talukdar has studied piano since she was five years old. As a senior, Talukdar is looking ahead to college, where she hopes to minor in piano performance.

“I don’t want music to leave me. It has always been a part of my life and it is pretty much my sport. Just like people have their varsity sports, piano is my number one

priority,” said Talukdar.

In addition to practicing the first movement of Beethoven’s “Pathetique” Sonata in C minor for her upcoming performance, Talukdar will have to arrange tickets for her family, friends, and teachers. As a teenaged girl, her biggest concern is finding the perfect gown that is appropriate for the occasion.

Talukdar plays the piano for the mixed and concert choir and has been music teacher Mr. John Spiezio III’s accompanist for the past three years. Her brother is set to take over that role next year.

Talukdar will be performing at the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, where she will play one movement from a sonata, which is about six minutes long, for about 270 people. Now, Talukdar has to practice by herself.

“I remember in health class we were doing this thing where you had to write what you wanted to accomplish by you were 25 and I put performing in Carnegie Hall. The hours of practicing and finger pains never seemed worth

it. Being older now and having more experience performing has helped me love classical music more now than I ever have when I was five,” said Talukdar.

Talukdar’s childhood goals will come true on Mar. 9 and she also hopes to continue her practices by minoring in music performance next year.

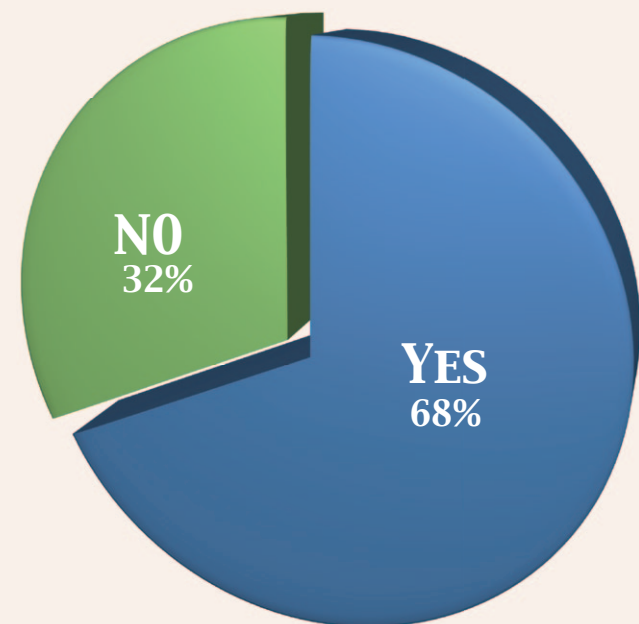


Courtesy of Natasha Talukdar

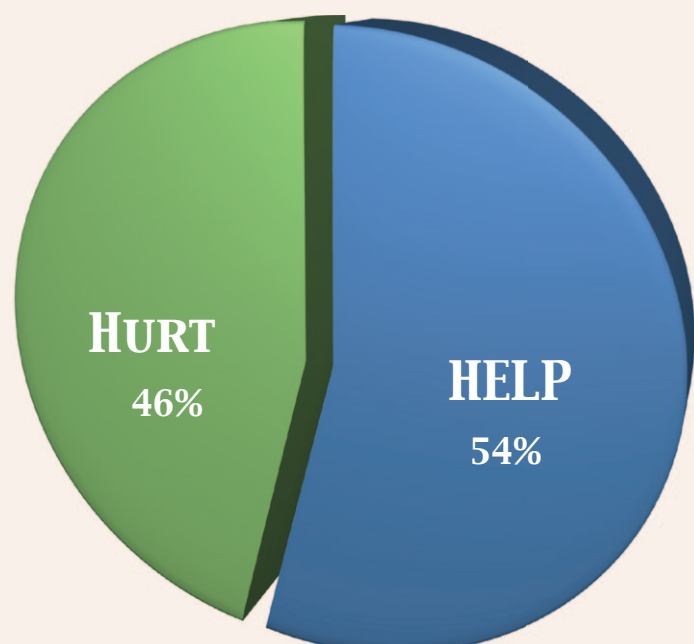
Senior Natasha Talukdar practices for her Carnegie Hall performance on March 9, when she will play Beethoven’s “Pathetique” Sonata in C minor in the Weill Recital Hall. Talukdar practices piano for two or three hours everyday.

STUDENTS SAID:

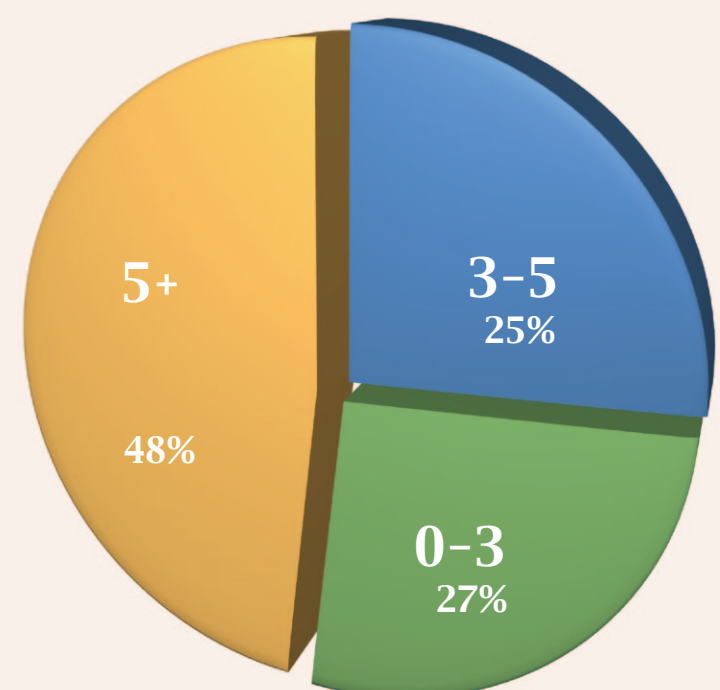
DO YOU PLAN ON USING AP CREDIT TO ADVANCE IN COLLEGE?



DO YOU THINK THAT PREPPING FOR AP TESTS HELPS OR HURTS THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE?



HOW MANY AP CLASSES DO YOU PLAN ON TAKING IN HIGH SCHOOL?



The AP program has been an integral part of Schreiber's good reputation for years. Opinions on it, however, are not unanimously positive, and its place in the school is currently under scrutiny.

Overview of the AP program

When the AP program was first created, it was designed for students to pursue a field that they were interested in by taking a class at an advanced level while gaining college credit. In 2009, close to three million high schoolers took one or more AP exams. This number continues to significantly increase every year, along with the number of schools that are providing AP courses to their students.

AP classes are becoming very common in high schools, with almost a third of public schools across the country offering Advanced Placement courses in a core subject.

Benefits of the AP Program

Schreiber students can choose from 24 AP courses. Students have the option to self study for an AP exam, which the school will order. While the course will not be on their transcript, it can still be beneficial for college admissions for the student to send the score.

This provides a great opportunity to students who wish to gain a deeper understanding of a certain field. It may even work in favor of those who already know what they want to major in by giving them a head start in college. For students who are unsure of the path they would like to pursue in college, AP courses gives them a chance to explore a variety of topics.

"They are definitely worth it. For example, AP Psych is one of my specialties because I absolutely love it and I'm majoring in it. It shows colleges that you have a background in your major and also shows

the initiative being taken," said junior Diego Hidalgo.

Schreiber alumni have commended the Advanced Placement program for its ability to prepare them for college.

"People should take AP classes to show colleges that they are ready to take intro classes in college," said Nina Devas ('12).

Despite the traditionally academic focus of the Advanced Placement program, it has not damaged the creative arts. The enrollment for AP Art has been massive, in and outside of Schreiber, and there has been increased turnout at cultural events such as the art shows.

"The only thing controlled by the AP art curriculum is time—and even that is pretty lenient and work can always be completed at home. Creating 24 works in two years can be an overwhelming task, but you have been paced and allowed the

"Nowadays, because competition is so fierce, every little thing matters when it comes to getting into colleges," said junior Annie Kim.

freedom to embark on as inspired and ambitious pieces as you please," said junior Joelle Feinberg.

Scoring well on several AP exams qualifies students for AP Scholar Awards. There are also other scholarship opportunities available for distinguished AP students, and the College Board reports that roughly 30% of colleges take a student's experience with Advanced Placement courses into account when assigning scholarships.

Within the top level of a class, grade-point averages and test scores tend to be similar, leaving college admission com-

mittees at a standstill. A student's score on the final AP exam differentiates one from another and creates an easier admission process. Though AP scores do not always determine acceptance or deferral from a university, a student's score on the AP exam is taken into account by admissions.

Drawbacks of the AP Program

The expansion of the AP Program has provided students with many more opportunities, but it has not benefited every student in the same way. While one student may pass an AP exam and use his or her score when applying to college, another student may struggle within an AP course and fail the exam.

AP courses are designed to be challenging, and an overwhelming amount of students who make it to the end of a course will fail the exam.

"Teachers are so terrified of having students do poorly on their tests that they are more worried about having us finish the curriculum and be able to do the right problems than actually understanding the concepts," said senior Ellie Zolotarev.

Recent polling showed that very few high school students who registered for AP courses did so because of intellectual interests. AP classes are frequently used by students to increase their GPAs and enhance their transcripts that are later sent to colleges.

Although many colleges do not accept AP credits, students still take these advanced classes because participation in AP classes can show colleges that students are prepared to take on more challenging courses.

While some students may excel in the numerous AP courses that they are taking, they are in the class not due to interest in the subject, but rather as a résumé boost. Often times, students wishing to major in literature are found in an AP Biology class and others who want to work in accounting are taking an AP class on American history.

"Nowadays, because competition is so fierce, every little thing matters when it comes to getting into colleges," said junior Annie Kim.

Schreiber has more regulations than other districts, but despite the necessity for prerequisite coursework and placement exams it is flexible with its AP program and permits students to enroll in almost any AP class that they wish. Qualifying tests admit students into such courses, but there is a waiver form that can be filled out if one is not recommended yet would still like to be enrolled in an AP course.

"I think the qualifying exam is fair because even if they do not get in, they can waiver in. So, the system practically gives everyone an equal chance," said junior Sophia Kim.

The flexibility and openness of the registration often results in overcrowding of courses. Class sizes are exploding in classes like AP Biology, which recently had to take on two sections worth of students due to the number of students selecting the course.

Potential for registration in AP courses has grown increasingly limited, but the administration has clarified that the same struggle to fit students into the courses of their choice occurs at all levels.

Whether AP courses compare to the same difficulty as college courses is often debated. Most teachers teach to the AP test, but the class dynamics vary between schools and classrooms.

"I personally think the teaching style depends on the teacher and how the student retains information. I'm both a visual and hands on learner. If the teacher brings both teaching methods to class, I feel like I will be set for the exam," said Hidalgo.

"The AP course is more in depth than a typical college Intro to Psych course. Ms. Byrne can back me up on this one," said Mr. Larry Schultz.

While almost 70% of 146 students surveyed hope to use the credit that they earn from high scores on their AP exams,

many of them will be disappointed to discover that the schools of their choice do not accept credit from Advanced Placement courses. Some schools—Northwestern and UPenn, for example—only offer credit to those who scored a 5.

Other schools, like Wesleyan University will not accept AP credit at all. Recently, schools like Dartmouth have been turning away from granting credit to AP students.

Students planning on applying to medical schools will be in a bind if they opt out of required science courses with AP credit.

"I think the 1-5 is a good scoring range, but getting a 5 on the AP test is not equivalent to doing well in an intro course. College courses involve a lot more reading, but AP courses did prepare me," said Devas.

Students often feel unprepared for AP exams as there is not ample time to cover all the material on the exams. Advanced Placement exams are scheduled for May every year, a month before Port Washington schools let out. This causes teachers to ramp up the pace.

However, there has been no widespread plan to start local schools earlier or push back exam dates. Schools throughout the Northeast are at the same disadvantage as Schreiber, yet there have not been any serious complaints to the school about the end of the exam period.

"In my class, AP Physics C, I make the curriculum specifically designed to the AP exam and I teach the course quick enough so that two weeks before the exam, there is time to review. I want everyone to be able to do well and get a 5," said physics teacher Mr. Thom Johnson.

Additionally, the growth of Advanced Placement programs has placed budgetary constraints on schools. The administration holds steady that an Advanced Placement course can not be cut because of scores, but only size. The strength of the AP program is limited by budget constraints. School administration frequent-

ly has to draw the line between funding more courses or supporting extra curricular activities.

"The administration is looking closely at what can be run," said assistant principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald.

Alternatives

Many students seek college credit as a reward from surviving their AP courses. Few know that there exist other options for college credit. Students enrolled in business courses can sit for the CLEP exam, and those registered for engineering have opportunities for college credit through Stony Brook University.

Alternatives to AP include the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, which some districts incorporate from the elementary school years. IB is a more personalized curriculum, as it involves personal projects and interdisciplinary themes that apply outside of the classroom.

Foreign language credit is offered through the College Advantage program at St. John's University. However, the credit can not effectively be transferred to other universities or programs.

Students enrolled in a research class can get credit for their efforts through the SUNY Albany University High School program. Research credit is not very versatile and most students will not be able to take advantage of it.

Syracuse University also grants college credit through a similar high school program. All of these AP alternatives suffer from the same issues—the credits are not easily transferrable and lack the variety of the AP program.

By Dan Bidikov, Minah Kim, Caroline Ogulnick, Kelly To

Photo by Hannah Fagen

A DAY IN MANHATTAN

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The Lincoln Center area is always busy. Go during fashion week or during the holiday season to catch a performance of *The Nutcracker* at the ballet. Lincoln Center Cinemas is a great New York City movie house. Grab a snack at Alice Tully Hall before your movie; the cafe has excellent freshly brewed iced teas, cookies, and sandwiches that are great for sneaking into the movie theater.



Columbus Circle (Corner of West 59th Street and Central Park West) is the permanent home to one of New York City's Waffles and Dingies Trucks. These doughy waffles go perfectly with Speculoos sauce and a rich Belgian hot cocoa.



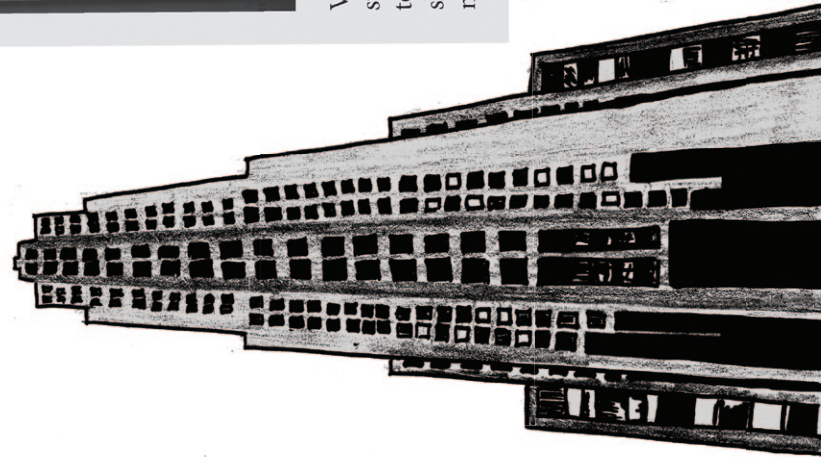
The Angelika Film Center on 18 West Houston Street is an art house, cafe, concession stand, and movie theater all in one. It plays a large number of independent films.



Balhazar (80 Spring Street) is a terrific French bakery in SoHo. Their scones are out of this world and the chocolate croissant is perfection. Pick up a loaf of their delicious walnut bread and if you finish it on the train back to Port Washington, don't worry; we've all been there.



Visit South Street Seaport and Pier 17 during the summer for the free Seaport Music Festival. Also, be sure to visit the TKTS ticket booth for discounted Broadway show tickets. The South Street Seaport ticket booth is much mellow than its Times Square counterpart.



The Plaza Food Hall in the basement of the Plaza Hotel (768 5th Avenue) is composed of different food themed stations. The prime rib sliders are incredible and should be supplemented by a plate of parmesan cheese french fries.



Katz's Deli on 205 East Houston Street is the place to go for delicious meat. Be prepared: the sandwiches are expensive but well worth the price. Sit down with a pastrami sandwich and a cold Dr. Brown's Cream Soda.



Washington Square Park frequently has a vacant piano stationed at a random location. Go to play or enjoy music or even to see if you can pass for an NYU student.



The Housing Works Bookstore on 126 Crosby Street is a nonprofit bookstore and cafe that donates all proceeds to fight homelessness and AIDS. The bookstore frequently hosts special events such as The Moth Story Slams.



Battery Park City is great for bike riding, roller blading, or simply taking a stroll. Battery Park is surrounded by plenty of cute cafes.

Photographs and writing by *Daniella Philipson*
Additional reporting by *Caroline Ogunick*
Design by *Harry Paul and Daniella Philipson*
Illustrations by *Ethan Bookstein*

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Yoga club offers instruction and relaxation on Friday afternoons

by Emma Brezel
Staff Writer

I was a little nervous the first time I walked into the yoga club. Just a couple of months prior, I had managed to get a negative six on my V-sit and reach so the thought of doing anything remotely related to flexibility terrified me. But as soon as I walked into the sunny commons on Feb. 7 for the yoga club's second meeting, my nerves eased. I was able to enjoy a relaxing yet challenging yoga class.

Senior Annie Rubin started the club as her senior experience project. Rubin became involved with yoga when she was in fourth grade, and, last summer, she decided to further her training by becoming a certified instructor in Vinyasa Yoga.

"I decided to become a yoga instructor because I wanted to share the amazing feeling that I got from practicing yoga with other people. I also wanted to deepen my own practice by learning all the aspects of yoga," said Rubin.

"It is clear to everyone how dedicated Annie is to teaching yoga," said senior Rebecca Herz. "She worked the entire summer for her teaching certification, and has not only learned the practice, but has incorporated yoga into her life off the mat."

The club meets every Friday at 3:15 in the Commons and runs for an hour. For those of you who are on a budget or can't make it to evening yoga classes at Yoga Life or Om Sweet Om, the yoga club is a great alternative. Wear your comfiest clothing, bring a yoga mat, and you're good to go!

"Yoga club offers free classes and practice time to both students and staff, and possibly in the future, guided meditations. A lot of people are turned



Hannah Fagen

Students get into the warrior pose in the Student Commons during the second meeting of the Yoga Club. Senior Annie Rubin (not pictured) instructs club members and math teacher Ms. Geralyn Ganzekauer is the faculty advisor.

off from yoga because of the high price of classes, so I feel that free classes are great—for me to practice teaching and for students to get free yoga," said Rubin.

The yoga club, which welcomes students and teachers of all skill levels, is also a great place to improve your overall health. Athletes, do not dismiss yoga—it is

great for strength-training and increasing flexibility.

"I had never really tried yoga before, but this class was perfect for a beginner. At some points it was challenging, but Annie encourages everyone to go at their own pace and do what is comfortable for them," said senior Dana Mirro.

"High school can be a particularly stressful time, especially for seniors who are applying to colleges. Yoga is a great stress reliever. It promotes confidence, calmness and helps to foster general healthy glowing feelings. It can even help you create better relationships," said Rubin.

Fashion! Find the perfect winter wear

by Caroline Ogulnick
Assistant Features Editor

When the cold winter hits, there is only one way to stay warm: bundling up! Now that temperatures are plummeting below freezing, wearing just a jacket will not suffice. Though it may keep you warm, walking around in your puffy coat is not ideal (especially when it's the same one you've had for the past three winter seasons). Adding winter accessories to your wardrobe will not only keep the chilly winds away, but it will allow you to follow this season's trends without splurging on a new coat.

This season, trapper hats are leaving the hunting grounds and making their way onto the runway. These furry hats will last you hours in the wilderness. With an insulated hood and oversized ear flaps, trapper hats will keep you both toasty and trendy.

The classic winter hat, the beanie, has made a large comeback. Though beanies are far from new, people are choosing them for more than just staying warm this season. Beanies are loved for their versatility. Wool beanies are perfect for the outdoors, but if you're looking to wear one with an everyday outfit, thin knit beanies are best. Scarves are another must-have. Infinity scarves are among the most popular, providing a stylish alternative to a typical accessory. Unlike traditional scarves, these are knit



www.bloomingdales.com

in one large loop. With a couple of wraps around your neck, your infinity scarf will sit flawlessly, without leaving two lengths of unwanted fabric. Similar to beanies, these scarves can be worn both inside and outside, so make sure to pick the material of your scarf accordingly.

When it comes to keeping cozy, gloves are the most aggravating accessory. Many people are faced with the decision of whether to keep their hands warm or keep in touch with their friends. With few people willing to surrender the ability to text, many opt for frostbit fingers rather than comfy phalanges. Texting gloves, which allow you to interact with modern touchscreens, are the perfect solution.

Make sure to stock up on winter accessories now before you're left to fight the wintry winds on your own!

Treehugger's PSAs warn of dangerous radiation

Perhaps you noticed the sheet of computer paper that was taped to the back of your bathroom stall door. Hopefully, you skimmed it. It's more likely that you did not read it at all. Schreiber's environmentally conscious friends, the Treehuggers Club, posted those fliers around the school to notify students of the potential dangers of cell phone radiation.

It is still uncertain whether prolonged exposure to cell phones and other wireless devices can result in serious health complications. It is certain, however, that these wireless devices give off a number of types of radiation. While these are not the same kinds of radiation that typically cause cancer (high-frequency ionizing radiation), it can still have detrimental effects.

"At Treehuggers, we think it is extremely important to make students aware of ways to make their cell phone usage safer. Cell phones are a major part of our lives, but it is important that we know how to lessen any potential dangers," said junior Michaela Gawley, president of the Treehuggers Club.

The results of various independent studies indicate that continued exposure to the microwave type of radiation coming from cell phones may alter DNA in addition to causing various other health problems. Certain cells may also be damaged by such radiation, including those in your salivary glands and connective tissue. In addition, there has been a recent increase in fatal brain tumors in excessive cell phone users. These brain tumors include acoustic neuromas, meningiomas, and gliomas. These serve as strong links to the fact that cell phones may cause long term damage to the brain, despite the fact that a definitive study tying microwave radiation to cell phone usage has yet to come out.

It is the cell phone's antenna that emits radiation. Most newer phones have the antenna within their bodies. It is for this reason that most phone manufacturers recommend not holding the phone against the head and instead to keep about one inch of distance between the phone and the ear. The same recommendation applies to cordless phones, which use similar technology.

The Treehuggers flyer, adapted from Grassroots.com, recommends:

Reduce your overall use as much as possible. Use the speakerphone function (or a corded headset with an air tube) whenever possible.

- Always use a land line instead of a cell phone if available.
- Limit children's use of cell phones.
- Unplug any domestic wireless transmitter when not in use. Avoid wireless baby monitors and cordless phones which use similar wireless technology.
- Use hard-wired internet connections instead of wireless transmitters when at home

~Jenny Barshay

arts & entertainment



imdb.com

R (Nicholas Hoult) and Julie (Teresa Palmer) bond while on their way to the green zone to let the surviving humans know that the zombies have the power to change back to their undead selves. *Warm Bodies* is a sweet romantic comedy that, unfortunately, does not take advantage of its interesting premise.

BY Victor Dos Santos

A&E Assistant Editor

The outstanding success of the *Twilight* films has inspired filmmakers to capitalize on the human qualities of fantasy monsters.

This time, the beast of choice is zombies, and they are the objects of sex appeal. This type of attractive undead are the subject of the new romantic comedy *Warm Bodies*.

Warm Bodies sports a diverse cast with a script that is less than hot. It is an interesting premise, but is not executed well and ends up feeling like a missed opportunity.

The film tells the story of protagonist R (Nicholas Hoult), a young-looking zombie who turns sour when he realizes his future as a re-animated corpse offers him little to look forward to. This changes when he encounters Julie (Teresa Palmer), a human, and saves her from being attacked by another zombie.

Warm Bodies is anything but hot

It is love at first sight for R, and his inexplicable affection for Julie starts to cure him. The effect somehow spreads to the other zombies, causing them to grow new hearts.

Zombies can only communicate in grunts and moans, which should make character development difficult. Writer-director Jonathan Levine circumvents this issue by having R narrate a good deal of the film. His narration is where the film shines, as Hoult delivers some of the more interesting, clever, and character-driven dialogue.

We immediately get the sense that,

as a zombie, R feels secluded and longs for human connection. The film initially takes the same route as *Shaun of the Dead*, where the characters are seen as reflections of zombies because of their mindless daily routines.

That idea is abandoned around the halfway point and *Warm Bodies* becomes the “love conquers all” movie that tween audiences beg for.

While the relationship between the two leads is genuine enough to warrant smiles, the film is overall a little too happy. Viewers never have a sense of danger or threat throughout *Warm Bodies*, least of all in

the bloodless climax that features zombies fighting skeletons.

The film did not take advantage of its premise, choosing to focus on the relationship between R and Julie, and of course the fact that this film is a twist on the classic tale of Romeo and Juliet.

It’s not all bad. The relationship between R and Julie is genuinely sweet to watch, even if it does become a bit much by the film’s final frame. The two have some great chemistry and Hoult’s narration is charismatic and funny enough to keep you consistently entertained.

If only Levine had chosen to “warm up” by watching a few zombie movies before hand, he’d have written an indie-zom-com as opposed to an indie-rom-com.

To sum up *Warm Bodies* one might consider it a hundred minute mindless popcorn flick like *Transformers*, but a thriller with heart, a hostage drama that wants to be both funny and poignant. For some, it might just manage to work.

Girls just wanna have fun... and sex... and drugs

BY **Sophia Kim**
Staff Writer

The widely acclaimed HBO comedy *Girls* entered a new season with a fresh start and the same humor that the fans fell in love with during the first season.

After winning the Golden Globe for lead actress in a TV comedy or musical, *Girls* returned with characters who were closer to finding and reaching who they were meant to be, but still needed to clean up the mess they left behind after the first season. In the meantime, the girls still make more wrong turns than right.

Lena Dunham keeps the show raw, hilarious, and uncensored as the characters attempt to reestablish themselves.

So far in the second season, the characters seem to have switched places with each other as they attempt to leave their old selves behind. Hannah (Lena Dunham) skirts outside of her comfort zone and more towards Jessa's (Jemima Kirke) neighborhood as she shuts her ex-boyfriend Adam (Adam Sackler) out of her life and hooks up with a different guy in just about each episode.

Viewers are glad to see Hannah taking control of her love life with Adam, though she's probably going to regret random hook-ups on a daily basis. Adam does evoke pity and sympathy as he finally reveals a desperate side, confessing his undying love and desire for Hannah. It's too bad she doesn't want him anymore.

The former playgirl, Jessa (Jemima Kirke), exchanges her position for that of a newlywed. She married Thomas (Chris O'Dowd) a week after their first encounter, and it's still unclear if she's ready for a permanent change of pace or just looking for another distraction.

It's a little hard to believe Jessa lost her promiscuous side, after all the men she went through in the first season, but maybe, just maybe, Thomas is her significant other who can keep her and her lust grounded. For now.

Marnie (Allison Williams) resembles Hannah from the previous season as her



screenrush.com

Marnie (Allison Williams) and Elijah (Andrew Rannels) drunkenly sing karaoke at a friend's housewarming party. *Girls* is consistently entertaining adult television that tells of the many struggles that twentysomething girls face.

life spirals out of control and she loses her job, her boyfriend, and allegedly, her best friend, Hannah. She used to be the most put-together out of all the girls combined, but feels herself losing her grip as she faces the harsh realities of adulthood.

To be honest, it's refreshing to see Marnie lose control and have to put the pieces of her life back together bit by bit, since she was always the one who advised or chastised her friends about their predicaments.

Besides, catfights are always fun to

watch, especially since Audrey (Audrey Gelman), with her spontaneity, is the total opposite of Marnie.

The romance between Shoshanna (Zosia Mamet) and Ray (Alex Karpovsky) is truly adorable and tear jerking, as corny as it may seem.

Actually, if it weren't for the actors' skills and intuition, their romantic scenes would be corny and embarrassing to watch (such as the scene in episode four when the train conveniently passes by as Shoshanna confesses she's falling in love

with Ray).

To be honest, I'm waiting for either Jessa or Marnie to find out she is a lesbian, since it wouldn't hurt to widen the sexual diversity of the show, although there is Elijah (Andrew Rannels), who is questioning the possibility of being bisexual after a sexual encounter with Marnie.

Lena Dunham continues to impress fans with incredibly funny and raw story lines, culminating in the characters' clarity about themselves as each episode airs.

Beautiful Creatures turned out a beautiful feature

BY **Lexy Cruz**
Contributing Writer

The end of the *Twilight* saga left many in need of a similar book-to-movie adaptation to fill the void. *Beautiful Creatures* is that adaptation.

Beautiful Creatures tells the gripping story of Lena Duchannes (Alice Englert) and her fight to stay with the boy she loves. When Lena first arrives in a small southern town, all but Ethan Wate (Alden Ehrenreich), a boy desperately looking for a way out of his dead end town, fear her. He gets way more than he bargained for when he discovers that Lena is a witch. Additional threats to their love arise when Lena turns 16 and must undergo her "claiming"—the life changing decision between good and evil that every witch must make.

It is surprising that both protagonists were not witches, because their performances were magical. Although they are not major film stars, they still manage to be a cute couple on screen. It was good to see two average, relatable people on screen together rather than two

extremely attractive celebrities. Their chemistry was flawless and better actors could not have been cast for the parts.

Emma Thompson brings a special flare to her spiteful character, Sarafine. She does a superb job bringing this evil character to life.

Emmy Rossum also did an exceptional job as Ridley Duchannes, Lena's cousin who has been claimed by the dark. Ridley is the ultimate bad girl and Rossum successfully portrays both her tough and fragile sides. She was not entirely one dimensional, and her character also played a comedic role, although it would've been nice to see a bit more of her, given the film's almost extraneously dark tone. Her presence, nonetheless, instills in viewers the fear that Lena could turn out exactly like her cousin, and makes the romance between the main characters even more precious.

The special effects and scenery for the film were unbelievable, bringing the movie to life and captivating viewers. *Beautiful Creatures* would not have the same effect on viewers without its groundbreaking visual work. There are no 3D gimmicks, and the visuals are still

completely engrossing.

Overall, *Beautiful Creatures* was a magical, heart wrenching movie that has

something for everyone to enjoy. Whether it's the love story or the extreme suspense, this movie will exceed your expectations.



blackfilm.com

Lena (Alice Englert) struggles with the prospect of being claimed by evil forces on her sixteenth birthday. *Beautiful Creatures* is a beautiful looking film with an amazing cast and story about love, supernatural forces and the difficulties that come with growing up.

If you like this then you'll probably like...

Angry Boys is likely to trigger mixed emotions in fans of Girls

BY Dan Bidikov
A&E Editor

Are you a male fan of HBO's hit series *Girls*? Upset that more of the content is not geared at your gender? Fortunately, there is a series that covers a similar variety of issues with more of a male angle. This hard-hitting, culturally innovative masterpiece is Australian series *Angry Boys*. Much like the group of young women featured in *Girls*, the cast of *Angry Boys* demonstrates the daily struggle involved in being an angry little boy.

The show's focus on such themes as the danger associated with being a professional child skater parallel *Girls'* exploration of the difficulty that goes along with getting a job.

Much of the themes and content of *Girls* is paralleled in *Angry Boys*, in more of a stereotypically male manner. The sexual themes prominent in *Girls* are covered in the form of raunchy jokes. The characters may be young, but the themes are very adult and the language is highly explicit.

The same failures to communicate are played on in both shows. In *Girls*, characters get into lengthy dialogues about their feelings. In *Angry Boys*- they stick up their middle fingers at each other.

The stories and characters may be completely different, but the same issues discussed in *Girls* ring through in *Angry Boys*, just with a little more edge.



The Australian television series *Angry Boys* is about just that. The series tackles difficult issues, but presents them in a manner that is accesible to even the least mature viewer. Humorous conflicts tell an emotional story.

Fans of Eastbound & Down will be Enlightened

BY Victor Dos Santos
Assistant A&E Editor

Eastbound and Down is a show on HBO about a delusional and retired professional baseball player named Kenny Powers (Danny McBride) who's dream is to make his way back into the majors.

Kenny Powers is a disgusting human being whose daily routine consists of snorting cocaine, riding on speedboats with prostitutes, and styling his mullet. Danny McBride stars as one of the most irritating, sympathetic, and entertaining losers on television whose arc is very similar to that of Amy Jellicoe on HBO's *Enlightened*.

Laura Dern plays Amy, a woman who has a spiritual awakening after having a mental breakdown in her office. She then feels determined to share her newfound enlightened lifestyle with her closest friends and family members. Amy is a very unlikable protagonist, much like Kenny Powers.

She's also self-indulgent and has several fits of rage, also like Kenny. Both characters are trying to

do great things with their lives and are delusional in doing so. They both have frequent violent outbursts, give ridiculous monologues and are ridiculously entertaining to watch. *Enlightened* tends to be a bit more serious than *Eastbound and Down*.

Amy's character is a lot more upsetting to watch as her breakdowns aren't played off for humor as often as they are for Kenny. Her sadness is genuinely discomforting and gives the show a bit of a darker tone. which helps *Enlightened* have a more distinct atmosphere.

At times her character can be a little bit irritating to watch. She frequently makes bad decisions in an attempt to make herself come across as a better person.

For instance, in one episode, she goes to a friend's baby shower to try and get others to join her in starting a "woman's group" at work.

Other than that, the two are very similar. They both focus on delusional losers trying to make a comeback. It's safe to say that if you like *Eastbound and Down*, you'll probably like *Enlightened*.



Laura Dern stars as a mentally-unstable office worker who, after having a breakdown, decides to share her newly discovered enlightened lifestyle with the world on HBO's *Enlightened*.

Reality TV Series: Vanderpump Rules

BY Katie Fishbin
A&E Editor

If *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* didn't have quite enough absurd drama for you, Bravo's new reality series *Vanderpump Rules* may be up your alley. The new hit series premiered Jan. 7 as a spin off of the life of Beverly Hills housewife, Lisa Vanderpump.

The reality show, set in Lisa's hot and up-and-coming restaurant SUR, stars six of the main waitresses and bartenders. Though this may seem uninteresting and even boring, I can assure you it is anything but.

The drama that ensues is primarily due to the nature of the characters. Because each worker at SUR is an aspiring actress, musician, or model, huge egos tend to come into play. Furthermore, their dating lives often overlap, and there is definitely no shortage of drama with this crazy bunch.

For example, as the season began, Stassi Schroeder was dating Jax Taylor, and was also best friends with Katie Maloney and Kristin Douet. All this has already changed. Evidently, things are continuously altering for the better or worse as the show progresses into a drama-filled series. Though very different from *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*, *Vanderpump Rules* is sure to appeal to fans of *Real Housewives*.

It is truly an entertaining transition into a younger scene within Beverly Hills; if reality TV's your thing, *Vanderpump Rules* is sure to entertain.

Homeland: best action packed series

BY Penina Remler
Assistant A&E Editor

Many people find themselves addicted to the long-lasting series, *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*. Whether it is the captivating cast or the multitude of addressed controversies, fans will definitely agree that *Law and Order* is one of the most suspenseful series on TV.

However, since the show has been running since 1999 (now in its 14th season), the episodes tend to become redundant and similar to those of the past.

For instance, it is common to mistake a new episode for a rerun since so many episodes are known to be based on rape.] If you are an avid fan of crimes and mysteries, *Homeland* is another innovative and intriguing series that you might enjoy. Having just recently completed its second season on Showtime, *Homeland* uncovers the life and investigation of terrorism.

Similar to *Law and Order*, *Homeland* entails the realism and manipulation that detectives and CIA agents face, but rather than ranging in conflict each week, *Homeland* is based on one extensive case. Just like people feel attached to the *Law and Order* series, viewers will definitely develop an addiction for the latest action packed phenomenon, *Homeland*.

Community addresses the clichés in college culture

by **Benjamin Lerner**
Staff Writer

Capgras syndrome is a disorder in which one believes a friend, spouse, parent, or other close family member has been replaced by an identical-looking imposter. Devoted fans of *Community* may have experienced a similar delusion during the premiere of the show's fourth season. They could recognize all the characters, the setting and the music, yet there was something off.

Those who had watched the season three finale would feel as if the show wasn't picking up where it left off; it felt as if I'd veered into a different, more generic direction. At its best, *Community* is able to break down a plotline that you've probably seen before and then put it back together in a wholly original way. The premiere was certainly as irreverent as it's always been, but it was lacking the heart, characterization, and clever pop-culture deconstruction that make it work.

This episode was "the Hunger Games episode," and it didn't do much with it. Jeff (Joel McHale) was simply a Katniss proxy for Dean Pelton (Academy Award winner Jim Rash) to toy with. There wasn't much to it besides the expected homoerotic undertones.

Throughout the episode, Jeff repeatedly says that he is now "new Jeff," the "new" being his determination to win the Dean's silly challenges so that he can graduate early. This kind of "new" pervades the entire episode. Troy (Donald Glover) and Britta (Gillian Jacobs) spend their time exploring their "new" relationship, which, between seasons, has morphed into a dysfunctional power play between the two. Abed has a "new" sense of panic that the study group will disband after

graduation, and plots ways to keep them all together indefinitely.

This sense of newness might be a result of series creator Dan Harmon's departure from the show last year. His vision is what made "old" *Community* work: his obsession with pop culture, his adherence to an eight-step storytelling formula he came up with himself, his off-beat sense of humor and the way he envisioned the characters.

The replacement showrunners might be able to recreate *Community* superficially with the kind of things they think ought to be in a *Community*

episode, but it feels like they've already lost touch with the soul of the show.

Community has certainly changed between seasons, from high-octane paintball episodes to weird, experimental Charlie Kaufman love letters, but each time it felt like the show had grown and become better-developed and more complex. This episode seemed more like a step back, with the characters acting a bit more one-dimensional than before.

That said, it wasn't all that bad. There were a few jokes here and there that were at least mildly amusing. Abed's subplot was certainly the most meta part of the

episode, in which he imagines that the show has become wholly transformed into a show akin to the Big Bang Theory (sycophantic characters, grating laugh track, awful jokes). His delusions become progressively more simplistic until he's imagining a Baby Looney Toons type of show.

If this was indeed self-referential, and the new showrunners know the direction that *Community* might be headed in, then I commend them for at least being self-aware. Perhaps they know that they simply aren't Dan Harmon, but they'll do the best job that they can anyway.



comicbook.com

Jeff (Joel McHale) competes in the Hunger Deans, a series of homoerotic challenges set up by Dean Pelton (Jim Rash) that would allow Jeff to graduate early. The new season of *Community* dumbs down its humor and loses its edge.

My Bloody Valentine: MBV

by **Dan Bidikov**
A&E Editor

While groups like Radiohead and Nine Inch Nails are (justifiably) lauded for innovation in the rock scene, one group in particular gets very little attention despite their enormous impact on modern music. Elegantly using distortion and pitch changing techniques, My Bloody Valentine changed the game for rock music with their 1991 album *Loveless*.

My Bloody Valentine finally released a full studio album, titled *m b v*, twelve years after *Loveless*. Many years later they are still revolutionary. *MBV* is ambient, and entrancing, and subtly emotional. The album builds worlds around its listeners. Tracks like "New You" are extremely engaging—it's not the kind of album to leave playing idly while you do yard work.

Feel free to use either headphones or speakers for *MBV*. The carefully placed vocals in "If I Am" will not soothe and calm, but completely subdue the listener.

It is immediately clear that My Bloody Valentine plays by its own rules. There is no immediately noticeable chord progression, and the album as a whole is unstructured. There were no digital aids used in the making of *MBV*—everything was painstakingly created manually. The effort involved in making the album is especially apparent in the track "Nothing Is," a piece of music that shows the power of non-digital production. A purposely repetitive, powerful rhythm blasts the ears



for a full three and a half minutes.

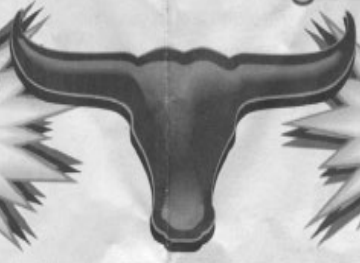
Initially, it is easy to dismiss the song as a loop lazily thrown together on software. Those that listen carefully are rewarded with tiny dynamic changes that shift the mood of the song throughout its run time.

The standout track on *MBV* is "Only Tomorrow," a lengthy and powerful piece where the raw sound of distorted guitars lays the foundation for high pitched vocals and altered instrumental layers. There is no clear buildup or climax, so instead of leading you and then taking you somewhere fast, it gradually puts you in a state of mind that no other music can.

Listeners are advised to experience the entire album in one shot. The individual songs do not lack identity, but they are still best when viewed as a group. The music is not catchy. You cannot dance to it, or sing along. Your only real option is to feel it.

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Athletes



f the



Month



Derek Caruso

BY **Eric Adsetts**

Contributing Writer

Senior Derek Caruso has hockey in his blood. His three brothers played hockey, and two of them are now assistant coaches. His father is a huge hockey fan, and his mother, Ms. Linda Caruso, is the school team's head coach.

When asked what it's like being coached by family, Caruso said, "It's truly an amazing experience, it can be fun at times, but it can also be frustrating, because when something doesn't go right they know they can scream at me because we are family."

As a sophomore, Caruso won the JV championship with a very inexperienced team, and qualified for states in Ithaca, where the team didn't make much noise.

"It was a long, fun season," said Caruso. "And to finish it off with a championship was something we never even thought could happen."

He has been a team captain for the last two years, and he prides himself on leading by example.

"I don't like telling kids what to do. I like to be more of a role model towards my teammates and help them whenever they're in trouble. I

like them to feel that I have their backs at all times," said Caruso.

"Derek is a leader to us both on and off the ice," said junior and fellow defender Mathew Mullins. "He sets the tone during practice and has a lot to teach all of us."

Caruso looks up to Lightning right winger Martin St. Louis. Although he's undersized, St. Louis was still able to distinguish himself as one of the best players in the league, and has represented Canada, widely considered the best hockey nation in the world, numerous times.

Despite being a defender, Caruso has an eye for the goal. This past season, he was fourth in the league in points.

Caruso has high hopes to play Division I hockey in college.



Courtesy of Frank Caruso

Caruso handles the puck up the ice during one of the team's games at the Port Washington Ice Rink.

Kate Andriola

BY **Hannah Zweig**

Managing Editor

Crowds roared at the Vikings game against the Hicksville Comets as the clock wound down to the final seconds. The tension was palpable, as Port's longtime rival held a slim lead of 29-27.

With less than one second left on the clock, senior Kate Andriola grabbed hold of the ball from four feet behind the three-point line and hit what will probably go down as the greatest shot of her high school basketball career.

The ball arced over the five shocked Hicksville players and made its way into the net. Andriola's shot won the game for the Vikings, 30-29.

"It was an incredibly exciting moment and a great experience for the team to come together," said Andriola.

Despite the exciting finish, her teammates weren't surprised. Andriola has always been the Vikings' secret weapon.

"Kate is a silent but deadly aspect of the team who leads more by example than vocally," said teammate and fellow captain, senior Ali Seltzer.

Andriola has become renowned for her impressive shooting skills.

"She has the most 'money' shot on the team," said head coach Mr. Dennis Trotter.

Andriola first began playing basketball at the age of five, playing on both PYA and CYO teams. She is a three year veteran on varsity.

"My favorite part of the game is

definitely the fourth quarter. Whether I'm in the game or cheering from the bench it's very fun to be a part of," said Andriola.

However, it's the girls sitting next to her on the bench, she says, who have really allowed for the team's unparalleled success this year.

"The team this year is definitely one of the best teams I have ever played on. The team chemistry is special, both on and off the court," said Andriola.



Elana Galassi

Andriola prepares a pass during the Lady Vikings emphatic win over the Hicksville Comets.

Swim team's performance at counties bodes well for the future

BY **Aaron Brezel**

Assistant Sports Editor

Junior Gavin Walsh climbs out of the pool after his 21st place finish in the 100-yard backstroke. His time will not net the joint Port Washington-Roslyn swim team any points, yet his demeanor conveys a more positive attitude.

Less focused on beating the competition and more on bettering himself, Walsh's philosophy reflects that of the Port Washington-Roslyn Swim team as they

competed in the 10 other events at the Nassau County Swimming Championships.

On Feb. 11, eight members of the Port Washington-Roslyn boys swim team took to the pool for the annual County Swimming Championships. The event, at the Nassau County Aquatic Center in Eisenhower Park, featured the best swimming talent in the county, including athletes looking to compete at the state level.

The meet began at 6 p.m., as swimmers took to the pool before an enthusi-

astic crowd.

The swimmers' speed was tested in the 200-meter medley relay. The four-man team consisted of Roslyn sophomores Reilly Beckstrand, Matt Terbanca, junior captain Will Smith and Roslyn's junior captain, Alex Vincent. As a beep signaled the start of the race, got off to a quick start, for which they earned eleventh place in the first length.

By the end of the third length, Port-Roslyn was in thirteenth place overall. A disqualification on the home stretch eliminated them from the race.

The team's fortune improved as the night wore on. Smith and Vincent redeemed themselves with the help of freshman Nathan Yang and junior Jerry Li, both from Roslyn, as they gave the team's best performance of the night in the 200-yard freestyle relay. A strong final length by Vincent allowed Port-Roslyn to capture 12th place and 18 points for the team. With many boys finishing in the lower quarter of the top twenty, the team was, at least, consistent.

"This is the most well balanced team that I have ever coached," said Coach Joe Lennon. "I think one of our biggest accomplishments was the fact that we qualified in 11 of the 12 events. While we didn't place in the top ten I'm glad that many of the swimmers are posting their best times of the year. With such a youthful team, just placing anywhere in the top twenty is a good sign as we continue to build the program."

Top twenty is the goal for many teams, as each race is tallied using a point system that grants the top twenty racers points for their team. If a racer's time is good enough, he qualifies for the New York State Championships in Webster, near Rochester.

Five days earlier, four members of the swim team participated in the Nassau County Diving Championships. To qualify, each participant must amass twelve dives during the regular season. Junior Derek Moss, sophomore Scott McCann, junior Gavin Walsh, and senior captain Andrew Cullen placed 26th, 28th, 29th, and 30th out of 30 divers. Unfortunately, each diver fell short of his personal record.

"We did as well as we could, and that's all we can ask of ourselves," said Cullen.

At the conclusion of both events, Port-Roslyn finished in the middle of the pack.

Despite the divers' lack of success, their performance must be put into perspective. Unlike many of the other teams, Port-Roslyn does not have an intensive diving program.

"We knew it was going to be tough to go in there and place well considering most of the guys we dove against are either professionally trained or been diving for a much longer time than we have," said Walsh.

Additionally, of the ten athletes who competed in the swimming and diving championships, only Cullen is graduating.

"I see good things for us next season. We have guys who do well in each event so all we need is to improve on what we already have," said Walsh.



Aaron Brezel

Roslyn's junior Riely Beckstrand (far left) dives off the platform during the 500-yard freestyle. He finished in 26th place.

Super Bowl XLVII lights up New Orleans

BY Max Miranda

Staff Writer

The Super Bowl, like the rest of football, is a cornerstone of American culture; it's something that means so much to so many different people. For some, it represents the time to sulk at the loss of your team while scarfing down buckets of chicken wings. For others, it brings a chance to enjoy commercials, and meticulously analyze them to the point where you dread the beginning of gameplay. Some are uninterested until Beyonce takes the stage. No matter who you are, the Super Bowl is a spectacle that had 108 million people figuratively glued to their television sets.

"This was honestly, one of the best games I've ever seen. I mean, there was a lot of entertainment both on and off the field," said freshman Josh White.

This Super Bowl brought an entirely new meaning to sibling rivalry. The game was a battle between two brothers, Jim (49ers Head Coach) and John (Ravens Head Coach) Harbaugh. Jack Harbaugh, their father, put it best prior to kickoff: "Who has it better than us? Nobody."

The stage was set, and the 60-plus minutes that followed certainly did not disappoint.

The first quarter proved uneventful as more people seemed to be tweeting about the game than watching it. However, it was not entirely without excitement.

Ravens wide receiver Anquan Boldin caught a 13-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Joe Flacco. The 49ers could only produce one field goal, putting the score at 7-3 in favor of the Ravens.

In the second quarter, the Ravens dominated as Flacco completed two touchdown passes, one each to tight end Dennis Pitta and wide receiver Jacoby Jones. Once again, San Francisco could only muster a field goal, and Baltimore took a 21-6 lead at the half.

Millions were a-buzz about Beyonce's performance at halftime. The 15-minute

long performance was nothing short of impressive. It featured optical illusions, a reunion of Destiny's Child, and incredible dancing and singing.

At the onset of the second half, Jacoby Jones returned a kick return 108 yards—a Super Bowl record. The touchdown put the Ravens up 28-6, a 22-point deficit.

"Honestly, when it was 28-6, I thought it was over. I was just watching sullenly—while my team got destroyed. Then the power outage happened," said freshman Louis Miscioscia.

With 13:28 left in the third quarter, half of the lights at the stadium went out. Some say that the blackout was due to an overload of the electrical system.

There was speculation that this 34-minute stoppage in play would affect the game, and it did. In fact, it was all the CBS crew could discuss during the prolonged absence of play. The 49ers returned with a vengeance as they proceeded to score 17 straight points.

The "Big Game" transformed from a blowout to a fierce battle on America's greatest stage in a matter of minutes. In the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Ravens added another field goal, putting them ahead by eight points.

49er quarterback Colin Kaepernick responded by leading his team down the field for another score, this time a 15-yard rushing touchdown. Yet another field goal was made by the Ravens' rookie kicker, Justin Tucker, and the 49ers started the most critical drive of the game.

It seemed as if the traditional Super Bowl comeback was once again going to come to fruition as the 49ers running back, Frank Gore, rushed for 33 yards before finally being brought down at the seven yard line. Time and time again, from inside the 10 yard line, the Ravens defense, led by linebacker Ray Lewis in his last game, came up with a goal line stand to all but seal the deal.

From then on, the most critical player on the field was Raven's punter Sam Koch, who purposely took a safety and then booted the ensuing kickoff far enough to deter any thoughts of a field goal attempt in the final seconds.

San Francisco was left empty-handed while the Ravens "booked their flights to Disney World."

With 11 touchdowns and zero interceptions in the postseason, Raven's quarterback Joe Flacco was named Super Bowl MVP.

"It was definitely an amazing game. It was an instant classic," said freshman John Scala.

Half of the lights went out during the Super Bowl at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Play was suspended for 34 minutes.

Calling the Shots

Just a quick “heads up”

BY Jake Eisenberg

Sports Editor

It's funny looking back on how athletic games have evolved from their roots in sandlots and local YMCAs to the fields and courts we know today. We see how the rules change, the uniforms change, the players change, and the strategy, too. In fact, the only thing constant about different sports over periods of time is change.

This is also true of player safety, which has improved through better medical technology and understanding of injuries.

In an interview with *The New Republic*, President Obama told reporters, "I'm a big football fan, but I have to tell you if I had a son, I'd have to think long and hard before I let him play football."

A lot of this uncertainty stems from the rise of concussions in the sport, and the recent reports of latent brain damage due to overexposure to the vicious hits taken repeatedly by some of today's players. The late Junior Seau committed suicide, and his brain showed the same chronic brain damage observed in dozens of other deceased former players. Seau also suffered from CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy), a neurodegenerative disease that can lead to dementia, memory loss and depression.

At the inception of the game, helmets and pads were seemingly nonexistent, and optional. Leather helmets then made the cut, followed by the helmets we know today, made with advanced materials and including facemasks. Some helmets today even have extra padding to prevent concussions. But it's not just the uniforms and the rules; the players have changed too. They are bigger, stronger, and faster, and, as a result, they hit harder.

It all boils down to the way that players tackle. They lead with their head (helmet), and collide with the other players, especially dangerous when the latter is defenseless. Now, youth coaches are told to teach tackling "Heads Up." This is similar to throwing simultaneous uppercut punches while running at punching bag, while trying to keep your chin parallel to the ground.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has taken a stand against these types of hits, increasing fines to levels that rival the mortgage of your house. Other politicians, such as New York State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, are beginning to propose legislation to prohibit kids under the age of 11 from playing tackle football, citing developmental complications.

However, these are the two solutions that won't solve anything. You can't just ask players to pay more and more; it's like asking Michael Jordan to give up a pair of shoes every time the Charlotte Bobcats lose. And you cannot tell kids not to play, plain and simple.

The real solution: make some changes to the rules that protect the players from the beginning—pee-wee to high school, college to the pros. Yes, it may reduce some of the hard hitting and some of the excitement, but it's a sacrifice that we, and hopefully the players, will have to live with a bit longer.

So, let's tackle player safety—the right way.

AP: Thanks for speaking with me!

Captain's Corner: Portettes Egna, Kosloff, Nahas, and Ostrove

BY Ali Peltz

Staff Writer

Ali Peltz: Hi guys, thanks for joining me today!

Arianna Kosloff, Dani Ostrove, Kimber Nahas, Nikki Egna: Hey Ali!

AP: You girls really are in sync, as usual! So to start off, what's a normal day at practice like?

NE: First we have the team warm up for about 20 minutes with laps, jumping jacks, and stretches. We do some practice kicks, and then run through the dance for the remainder of the time.

AP: Do you guys do the same routine at each sporting event?

AK: For the football season we do a kick line routine, and for basketball we change it up and do a hip-hop dance.

AP: I would like to compliment the hip-hop outfits! Who designed them?

NE: We mostly worked on it together.

KN: But I picked out the pinnies!

AK: Usually for basketball we go with the normal tank top and leggings, but this year we decided to switch it up. We have our sparkling high-top Converse and the basketball jerseys to match the team.

AP: Who comes up with the complicated routines? How long does it take?

DO: The four captains choreograph the dances together. We pick out the music and do the mixes all on our own.

AP: Wow, you put those mixes together on your own?

NE: Yeah we do, Ali! The football routine takes us about ten hours to choreograph, and the basketball routine takes about fifteen hours.

AP: Makes sense. What would you say your favorite part of being a Portette is?

KN: The sparkles!

NE: I would say my favorite part is seeing all the younger girls look up to us, and also speaking with the older women who were Portettes years ago.

DO: Yeah the Schreiber Portettes have been around for over sixty years.

VIKING SPORTS

Port athletics reaches out to the community *Basketball and Crew donate time, money, and shoes to organizations*

BY **Dan Miranda and Eric Fishbin**

Sports Editor and Staff Writer

Coaches vs. Cancer

One day before Pennsylvania's famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil told the world there would be an early spring, the Port Washington Vikings took on East Meadow in the Coaches vs. Cancer basketball game. The game raised money for the American Cancer Society with sales of t-shirts and paper cutouts. Monetary donations were also collected to support the cause. This is the second year that Port Washington has participated.

The Vikings got off to a rough start. East Meadow jumped out to an early lead in the first half. The team knew that it had to win the game if it wanted to have a good chance at the playoffs. The Vikings ended up winning 54-49 due to strong defense.

"We had a rough start but the team fought back to win. It was a lot of fun and we were able to raise a lot of money for

a really good cause. Getting this win was big for us in terms of playoffs. We are in a much better position than we were before," said Coach Sean Dooley.

Throughout the week, Schreiber was able to raise over \$2,000 to help those affected by cancer.

"It always feels great to raise money for cancer, but what made me feel especially good was raising awareness for such a widespread disease," said senior captain Ryan O'Donnell.

Coaches vs. Cancer is a collaboration between the American Cancer society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches. The event is held across nation and draws from the efforts of coaches, their teams, and their communities. Many of the NCAA basketball coaches are extremely active in the organization. In total the charity has raised over \$87 million toward the fight against cancer.

Last year, softball and baseball participated as well, featuring "Strike Out Cancer" fundraisers.



Elana Galassi

Last year, varsity baseball and softball teams established their own "Strike Out Cancer" fundraisers. Members of the softball team helped to sell snacks and wall placards, with all of the proceeds going toward cancer research.



Josh White

Freshman Max Miranda "dunks his kicks" in a designated bin during the varsity boy's basketball loss to the

"Dunk Your Kicks"

In a charitable night of basketball, the athletic department hosted the first ever "Dunk Your Kicks" event while the Vikings and Lady Vikings faced off in a double-header against division rival Hicksville Comets.

The event supported MaxCure, a public charity dedicated to advancing treatments for pediatric cancers and providing emotional and financial assistance to low-income families dealing with pediatric cancer. During the games, spectators deposited used sneakers into brown boxes in the front of the main gym. The sneakers are to be recycled by a company

that pays the school one dollar for every pound of sneaker material. The proceeds for this event will go to three families with children battling pediatric cancer at LIJ hospital.

"Our goal is to collect 2,500 pairs of sneakers. The people donating no longer have a use for them, but those receiving them have a great need. We are going to reach the goal, and we are going to help those families in need," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick.

Initial tallies indicate a good turnout.

"Our goal is to fill an entire Pod storage box with sneakers and as of right now I think we are well on our way," said Athletic director Stephanie Joannon

The first game of the double header featured the boys team (7-5). Consistent three-point shooting and solid defense helped number two ranked Hicksville (10-2) jump out to an early 16-11 lead.

Port was able to keep it close thanks to clutch shooting by 8th grader Jordan Walker. However, defense was lacking as the team struggled to box out on rebounds. By halftime, the Vikings trailed the Comets, 26-17, and subsequently lost 57-35.

The Lady Vikings also faced off against the Hicksville Comets. Both teams entered the game with similar records, and the score remained close for most of the first half. Momentum shifted in the Vikings' favor in the final seconds of the half as Port hit a three pointer at the buzzer to make it 16-14 going into half time. The Vikings closed out the game strong with a 15-6 run in the fourth quarter. Port won 39-29.

For every pair of sneakers (laces must be tied together), there will be an average donation of one dollar towards finding the cure to pediatric cancer.

Second annual ergathon

In December, Port Rowing competed in its second annual ergathon—this time to support Long Beach High School in its recovery from Hurricane Sandy. The district had lost equipment and the usage of several gymnasiums in the storm. In January, Coach Steve Panzik and some of those who helped row one million meters in December were there to present a \$10,000 check to Long Beach to help.

Athletic Director Ms. Stephanie Joannon approached Long Beach Athletic Director Mr. Arnold Epstein to discuss the losses sustained to the community. When Port rowers heard about the devastation, they decided to use the ergathon as a way to make the rebuilding process just a little bit easier.

"We've received many donations over the last few months, but the ones that mean so much to us are the ones that come from other students. We admire you for the work you do to help others," said Mr. Epstein.

Junior Joe Finkelstein was one of the

many rowers who competed in the December ergathon and found the process rewarding.

"It was definitely a demanding experience to erg one million meters as a team, and I'm glad we were able to raise so much for Long Beach athletics," said Finkelstein. "We were lucky we made it through Sandy relatively unscathed after it was all said and done. It's important to aid our neighbors when we can."

Head coach Steve Panzik understood the significance of the donation.

"As a coach, you want your athletes to learn life skills, ethics, teamwork and sportsmanship, and to extend a helping hand to teammates and opponents alike when they are down. How the Long Beach student-athletes have come together with their community to rebuild is inspiring. We hope that the money we raised will help them come back better than ever," said Panzik..

This was the single largest donation Long Beach High School received in wake of the storm.



Patch.com

Port Rowing teamed up with the Port Washington community to complete their second annual ergathon. Rowers raised money for Long Beach Athletics after they lost most of their equipment and usage of facilities due to Hurricane Sandy back in late October. The ergathon raised \$10,000.