

# Husky Herald

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Harrison High School

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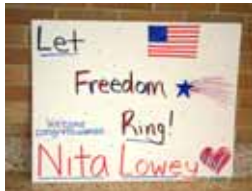
## HHS Welcomes Rep. Nita Lowey

Casey Rabin

Guest Writer

Congresswoman Nita Lowey, a Democrat representing parts of Westchester and Rockland counties, recently took time out from her busy tenth term in Congress to visit Harrison High School. She spoke to an assembly of juniors and seniors in the new Performing Arts Center. During her visit, she discussed many different and important issues facing our country and answered many questions.

Some of the issues discussed were the importance of education,



Michelle Henderson's welcoming poster.  
Courtesy JamiAnn Plekon

health care, homeland security preparedness and national security. Congresswoman Lowey also explained to students her role in Congress. She serves on the House Appropriations Committee. This committee wields great power through its ability to fund foreign aid. This committee also funds other causes, such as HIV/AIDS and malaria research, and the preservation of natural resources, such as water. She is well known as a very effective Congresswoman.

After she spoke about issues facing our society today and her role and accomplishments as Congresswoman (for instance, Congresswoman Lowey was responsible in part for better food labeling), she accepted questions from students. The students lined up at a microphone, one by one, to ask personal and political questions. Many questions involved the upcoming presiden-

tial election. Ms. Lowey, fresh off an appearance on *Meet The Press* the previous weekend, reiterated her support for her close friend of the past 16



Ms. Lowey answers student questions.  
Courtesy of JamiAnn Plekon

years, Senator Hillary Clinton. There were other questions asked that were not political, but personal. Junior Pat Stiso asked, "What is the day in the life of a Congresswoman like?" Representative Lowey was happy to describe her daily schedule, which involves getting up early to exercise and to read the paper and then, by eight in the morning, going off to work, which could involve

attending a hearing or meeting with a variety of political figures.

At the end of the assembly, students gave Congresswoman Lowey a standing ovation. Her visit proved informative and interesting. Many students with little prior knowledge of world politics and events were able to listen and gain a better understanding of some issues facing our nation today.

## HPAC: The New And Improved Auditorium

Taryn Brandes

Features Editor

While the revamped room doesn't look drastically different, several changes were made to the space now referred to as the Harrison Performing Arts Center (HPAC). As explained by Mr. Briem on a recent tour of the new space, it was apparent that the old auditorium had a number of problems. Mr. Briem also explained the incredible features of the new space, ones that have corrected the room's previous flaws and have shaped the auditorium into a truly high-functioning performance space.

"Before, we nicknamed the auditorium the 'one-size-fits-nobody' space," Mr. Briem said. While the original room was used for purposes as diverse as a place for music concerts, as an impromptu lecture hall, and even as a projection movie theatre, the space itself was far from versatile. The space had been compromised so greatly that the auditorium simply did not work properly.

Mr. Briem made it clear that the old auditorium's three major flaws were its close-to-invisible lighting system, the disastrous sound the room produced, and the inability for students to work with the theater's equipment. Before, there was almost nothing to illuminate the stage and the audience inside the auditorium. The one row of lights at the front of the stage made musical productions, as well as band and chorus performances, extremely ineffective. After the room's renovation, 96 new lamps of different styles and functions were placed all over the auditorium. For example, proper lighting, in the form of "suicide bars," was added to the front and sides

of the stage. These are long and intense beams of light that drastically amplify the stage's lighting. Additionally, a new lighting booth was created in the hidden upstairs portion in the back of the auditorium. The lighting inside the booth can be pre-cued or done manually, as it is connected to a PC system which controls the room's technology.

In the old auditorium, placement of certain objects was dangerous, and students were not able to use the equipment. In order to reach some of the old stage lights, people had to go up in power lifts, so students could not actively par-

ticipate in this activity. Now, everything in the auditorium is accessible to everyone. With the new control system and five new inches of control rigging, pipes are able to be lowered for students to put up stage sets and scenery for musical performances, and the lights and curtains can now be operated by the students. Even the new lighting booth in the back of the auditorium can be student run.

Mr. Briem talked about how the old auditorium had awful acoustics. The room's sound was extremely jumbled, and the singing and talking onstage could barely be heard because the two would

cancel each other out. To fix these major problems, there are now baffles on the air conditioner and heater to eliminate the extraneous noises coming from these systems, and two ceiling clouds were added as sound reflectors to break up the interference signals we had before. Additionally, wall treatment reflectors were added into the space. Mr. Briem explained, "These treatments are like speed bumps for sound. They disrupt the sound pattern to remove the speaking and singing cancellation, while enhancing the room's sound." The sound is so great in the new auditorium that in the school's latest musical, Miss

Saigon, the orchestra didn't use any microphones to help them out, and the orchestra's sound was the best it has ever been. On top of this, there are twelve new wireless microphones, and a new, wired-in-house soundboard which is invisible to the audience. The sound board addition makes it possible for recordings to be produced within the room. This is a dramatic improvement, considering the old room had hazardous cables running across the floor.

The new HPAC sports a variety of high-tech features that remain unassuming to the outside audience. For the first time in the high school's history, the auditorium's space is not compromised. It truly is now specifically a theater and a concert hall. This specialty room will guarantee a bright and shining future for the musical and instrumental life within Harrison High School.



Officially initiating the new HPAC: from left to right, Dr. Pasqua, Louis DiFazio, Natalie Yubas, Garis Duma, Dr. Ruck, Kristy Wallace, Bert Dickinson, Mr. Wool, and Mr. Briem.  
Courtesy of Michael Hauer

# Prom 2008:

# Location Location Location

Kelly Lavin

Features Editor

The definition is clear - *Prom*: a formal high school dance usually held at the end of an academic year. Prom can be the highlight of one's senior year at Harrison High. The class of 2008 has made great efforts to raise money in the hopes of making prom night spectacular, affordable, and an unforgettable experience. The senior class has earned an outstanding amount through various fundraisers. There were countless bake sales, two Powder Puff football games, and the annual junior auction, which was by far the greatest success, bringing in around \$28,000.

With such an astounding amount of money in the bank, it seemed inevitable that the class of 2008 was going to have a perfect prom. A class-wide vote was held in October to decide the location. The committee (lead by Senior Class President Pamela Yu) ultimately decided on The Tarrytown House, a beautiful estate and conference center located just about 25 minutes outside of Harrison.

After consulting representatives at The Tarrytown House, the prom committee was ready to draw up a contract and seal the deal for good.

"We had our foot in the door - no, our whole body was in the door. We were ready to make it official, but then we got a phone call," said

a frustrated senior class president, Pam Yu.

The phone call was from The Tarrytown House, finally returning the countless emails, voicemails and missed calls from members of the prom committee. A representative broke the news that The Tarrytown House would not want to host the Harrison High School Prom at their facility. Suddenly, the class of 2008 was left without a prom location.

Having been dropped by The Tarrytown House, it looked like there was little hope in finding a better location for prom - let alone any location at all. It was late in the year and every venue seemed to be booked. However, the prom committee then had a brilliant realization; the Ritz Carlton Hotel in White Plains had barely opened up, and if they made their proposition immediately, there was a good chance it would be available.

Luckily, the prom committee was right, and the senior class of 2008 now has what promises to be an amazing prom night. Yet, that doesn't make up for being wronged by The Tarrytown House- precisely why Harrison High School has discussed suing the facility. No one knows for sure how this lawsuit or prom will unravel; but come June, it will be safe to say that no senior will be able to forget a single detail.



HHS Students lining up in style at last year's prom.

## Harrison Seniors Choose Creatively, Get **WISE**

Arielle Lhotan

Graphics Editor

If you could study anything for six months, create your own program and get a good grade for it, would you sign up? Every year about ten students participate in the WISE Program, a senior internship/course in which students choose a topic of their choice and pursue a personal project based upon the topic. The WISE Student Government Program meets once a week with advisor Larry Gold, as students develop their projects and prepare for a presentation at the end of the year.

The students are given the freedom to choose any subject, from learning how to ballroom dance to getting an internship at an art gallery, or even working at a doctor's office, as long as they keep up with a weekly commitment to their program. At the beginning of the WISE Program in September, students are asked to find a personal advisor to assist them with their topics and ensure the student is working efficiently. The advisor can be a teacher, a staff member or even someone outside of Harrison High School that has prior knowledge about the student's topic.

Though the participants work with several advisors, the program is a very personal experience. The WISE Pro-

gram encourages students to pursue an area of interest that may also be a career possibility in order to better prepare them for the future. Many parents are also associated with the WISE Program and through these contacts, as well as Mr. Gold's, students are able to obtain a wide range of internships. This year students have internships at many unique places, such as the Brenda Taylor Art Gallery in New York City, and the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, NY.

The WISE Program is an all-around excellent senior experience. Students on the brink of graduation are about to embark on the best, yet most challenging experience of their life: college and the real world. Through WISE, seniors learn how to work more independently, taking it upon themselves to reach out to their community and work in a more professional environment. By the end of the program, seniors make important contacts, learn responsibility, and have a better idea of the direction they would follow in the future. Every participating student finds success in their own way through WISE and all upcoming seniors should consider being part of this exceptional program.

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Special Thanks to...Mr. Petrillo

Our mission is to be the voice of Harrison High School by professionally representing and informing our school with an accurate and entertaining newspaper.

*The Husky Herald* is published by the journalism classes at Harrison High School. Editorial content of *The Husky Herald* reflects the opinions of the editors and staff, not necessarily that of the Harrison High School faculty and administration. The staff of *The Husky Herald* encourages students to get involved and have their opinions heard. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to respond to an article, please write to us. Letters containing the writer's name (and that are in good taste) will be printed.



The Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville is hosting one of this year's WISE internships.

Courtesy of Fest21



# Petrocelli Delivers Important Message: 10 Seconds Will Change Your Life

Rebecca Wandel

Staff Writer

The talk that speaker Bobby Petrocelli gave over several hours that morning in April definitely proved to be "motivational." Most students were left with a lasting impression as they walked out of the auditorium that morning. According to several students, Mr. Petrocelli gave one of the most serious and influential speeches they have ever heard. He gave the students of Harrison High School a gift that day when he came to tell us that "10 seconds can change your life."

What made his talk so effective was that he delivered his important message in a non-patronizing way. He simply told his story, told us that it was okay to be ourselves and that we shouldn't worry what others think, and to do our best to enjoy life to its fullest. Petrocelli's own story reminds us that, at any moment, life can turn you around and take you to places you never thought you would go. His view was both refreshing and inspirational because it did not scare us into thinking "it's a jungle out there." Rather, it told us to live, and be happy and inspired.

He began his talk with us by cracking jokes, in a style similar to that of a stand-up comedy routine. By doing so, he effectively captured the audience's attention. He spoke about his being the true Swedish-meatball (being of Swedish and Italian descent). He then related tales of his Italian father, his cousin Vinny, and the fact that he was a proud man from Brooklyn. Within this whole speech, he cleverly added little thoughts and advice on how to handle high school, explaining that we probably wouldn't see the majority of the people we're going to high school with ever again in future years. He spoke of his true friends and how he cherished them.

One of his main points was the power of our decisions and why we



Bobby Petrocelli relaxing near his Florida home.

Courtesy of 10 seconds.org.

make them. He talked to us about drinking and driving and how it wasn't the fact that you drank and drove, but more importantly, the reasons behind why you did it. Mr. Petrocelli made it clear that he was not here to tell us that we couldn't do this and couldn't do that and certainly not to patronize us, but rather to inform us and show us how much our decisions truly mean.

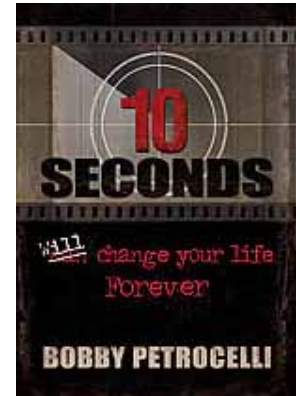
After this extremely eye-opening, captivating talk about life, he begins to tell the story of how one night, a seemingly normal night, he went to bed next to his wife Lisa, and when he woke up in a daze some hours later, a humongous truck had rammed through his bedroom wall, trapping his wife under it. He himself had been terribly hurt and suffered from broken bones and severe tire burns that scarred his legs and chest forever and other horrible injuries. The tragedy, however, was that his wife did not survive. She had suffocated within the bedding and mattress that was rolled beneath the car. In the span of 10 seconds, Bobby Petrocelli's life had been changed forever. The love of his life had been killed by a man who was more than twice the

legal limit of being drunk, driving a truck that had rammed through the bedroom wall. The decision this man had made to drive drunk had not only changed his own life, but had taken the life of another, and totally devastated the life of another man.

What had happened to Petrocelli might have destroyed a different person. But Petrocelli came to see that his life had a purpose. Next, he told the tale of how he came to find hope and reasons to live in the youth of the school where he taught and coached. Numerous students he knew and worked with had come to his wife's funeral in honor of him and that is what brought him back from the dead, he told us.

Now he says he is simply returning the favor by becoming a motivational speaker and sharing his riveting story with others. He also spoke of the faithfulness of his friends and how many of them were there to nurse him back to health when he truly needed them. Finally, he told us of how he came to love again and eventually got remarried. He now has two wonderful sons.

The message that resonated from him was that 10 seconds can change your life; it takes 10 seconds to make one decision that can turn it all around. To go from devastation to triumph only takes one decision that takes 10 seconds and that is all. His visit to Harrison High School was extremely inspiring and motivating. Many students now understand that each individual does matter, and that you can be 10 seconds away from happiness and goodness, that so much depends upon our decisions each and every day. A crowd of students stayed after the talk to purchase either inspirational wristbands or a copy of Bobby Petrocelli's inspiring book (which he kindly agreed to sell to HHS students and faculty at cost). If anyone wants to check him out further (or if you'd like to purchase his book entitled *10 Seconds Will Change Your Life Forever*) you can go to [www.10seconds.org](http://www.10seconds.org) and read more about his story and his inspiring words.



Book cover courtesy of 10 seconds.org.

## Guest Speaker Falciano Addresses Student Concerns Over Indian Point

Sarah Taub

Guest Writer

On Thursday, April 10, guest speaker Patrick Falciano visited the high school. The former Senior Instructor at the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in Buchanan, NY, came to visit Ms. Cain's A.P. Environmental Science classes. He set up a PowerPoint presentation and distributed informational packets to students containing materials for further discussion on how the nuclear power plant (located just south of Peekskill) is conducted and controlled.

The packets contained various diagrams of the power plant and clarifications about several things, from radiation exposure levels to how a reactor works, from the general operation of the power plant to emergency plans and much more. Mr. Falciano kindly answered several student questions regarding the plant at Indian Point, including major concerns about the possible disastrous effects any mishaps might have on surrounding communities.

Since Ms. Cain's students currently are studying about nuclear

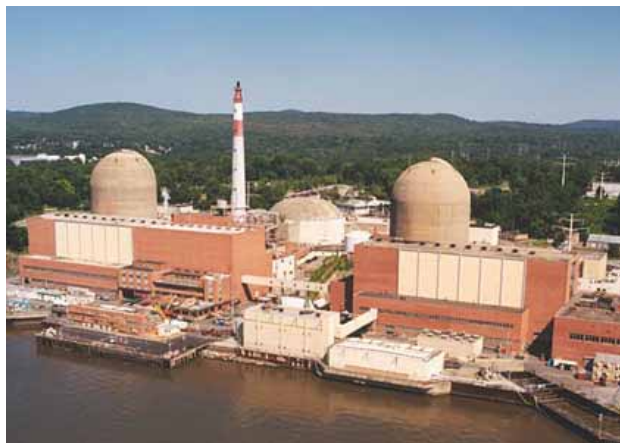
power plants, this was a powerful opportunity to connect real life to the text and turn it into a great learning experience. While school lessons often

seem unrealistic and distant, this was a reality check about our immediate environment, since the nuclear facility at Indian Point operates in close prox-

imity to Harrison.

Students were told that nuclear power plants such as Indian Point emit zero greenhouse gases. Replacing the power currently generated by Indian Point with equivalent electricity generated by fossil-fuel based plants would likely increase emissions in carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and sulfur dioxide. Mr. Falciano's visit really helped the teenagers to grasp the concept of nuclear power, and he tried to address many of the safety concerns expressed. For instance, he explained the many levels of security built into operations at the plant to prevent any dangers from a possible terrorist attack.

While Mr. Falciano presented a pro-nuclear power stance, not all students came away convinced. Several were concerned about the problems that have plagued the reactors at Indian Point, such as malfunctioning control rods and leakage of radioactive water. The safe disposal of toxic waste generated by nuclear power was another strong concern.



The Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in Buchanan, NY.

Courtesy of SMI Direct



# A Loving Tribute To Our

## Dr. Rosemary Barbato

After a long and productive time in the Math Department, Dr. Rosemary Barbato is opting for retirement. She kindly agreed to this early exit interview:

**HH:** How is it that you became a teacher?

**RB:** Teaching ran in my family, for both my mother and godmother were teachers. At an early age, I remember helping my mom grade test papers, easy questions like multiple choices. My mother taught Foreign Languages (Spanish and Italian). I also enjoyed visiting with her at her school. I loved going to school and was a motivated student so it seemed only natural to choose teaching as my career. Mathematics was my favorite subject so becoming a mathematics teacher was the perfect match for me.

**HH:** For how long have you been teaching?

**RB:** I have been a teacher for 37 years and I can honestly say that I have loved all of my time spent in the classroom. What is most gratifying about teaching are those moments when, as a teacher, you know from a certain look of a student or a gleam in his or her eye that they understand and have gotten it – the “aha” moment. What makes me the happiest is the achievement of each of my students, especially those who have struggled with mathematics but never give up and work with me to understand the material and find success at the end of the school year.

**HH:** Are you known for any special Dr. Barbato teaching “traditions”?

**RB:** At the beginning of each year, I announce to each of my classes that they are assigned homework every night except on three occasions – if the Rangers win the Stanley Cup, if the Yankees win the World Series, and on my birthday. Inevitably, a student will ask me the date of my birthday. I always respond July 32nd. Someone always complains that that date is in the summer so that they wouldn't be in school anyway. I guess my first math lesson every year is how many days there are in each month.

At times I quote Wayne Gretzky who said, “100% of the shots which you don't take, don't go in.” I always tell my students don't ever give up trying and keep at it to achieve success. And finally, as all good math teachers do, I lead my classes in the singing of the quadratic formula to the tune of “Pop Goes the Weasel.”

**HH:** What should we know about you outside of the classroom?

**RB:** I love Ranger hockey, especially attending games at Madison Square Gar-



den – being there to cheer with the crowd – dressed in my Ranger gear.

I have also enjoyed traveling throughout the U.S., Canada, England, and Italy. Recently, some of my favorite places to visit are the Amish country, Bar Harbor in Maine, the Newport area in Rhode Island, and of course, Toronto, Canada, home of the Hockey Hall of Fame. I also like to go to the movies as well as to Broadway shows and concerts.

**HH:** How do you feel about your approaching retirement?

**RB:** I feel incredibly lucky to have been able to do what I love dearly each and every day – teach. It's a remarkable feeling to find your niche in life on the first try.

**HH:** Why are you such a dedicated Rangers fan?

**RB:** The Rangers are the best team in the NHL because they play with the most “heart” of any team in the most famous arena in the world and they have the most loyal “true-blue” fan base. They were one of the original six teams in the National Hockey League and have given us many leaders and role models – Messier, my favorite player and truly an amazing captain; Graves, an unbelievable human being both on and off the ice; and Gretzky, the “greatest” player of all time. The present Ranger team has players who continue the Ranger tradition of giving back to its supporters through the Garden of Dreams Foundation and Hockey in Harlem just to name a few.

One of my fondest memories here at the high school was in 1994 at the awards assembly in June. I went to the microphone to introduce student recipients of mathematics awards when the entire student body began the chant, “Let's go Rangers!” It was unbelievable. I wish good luck to my favorite team in its run for the cup in 2008. Hopefully, we will have something to cheer about again.

- Andy Peng



## Mr. Bill Ucci

Many of us know Mr. Ucci as the Health teacher in room B107. Those of us grades 10 and above may have had him for Health or perhaps you have seen him in the hallway. Sadly, at the end of this year, Mr. Ucci will be retiring after 31 total years of working for Harrison High School.

Mr. Ucci began at Harrison High School teaching with Project Outreach. This program was a school within a school and a support program for teenagers grades nine through twelve. The program assisted students at risk of failure from school for a variety of different reasons such as nonattendance, behavioral problems, or the negative effects of outside situations. These limitations made it difficult for these students to excel in mainstream schooling. Mr. Ucci worked alongside many familiar teachers and faculty including Dr. Weinberg, Ms. DePaoli, Mr. Burak, Mr. DePrinzio, Mrs. DiFiore, Mr. Schapiro, Mrs. Sheffield, Mr. Ahearn, Mrs. O'Neill and Mr. Napolitano. After the program ended (because the school district felt it wasn't entirely necessary), Mr. Ucci began teaching Health at Harrison High School which he continued to do for five additional years.

After working here for so long, Mr. Ucci has become very familiar with Harrison High School. His favorite things about the high school include the students, whom he was able to spend a lot of time with and encourage. He also liked the ability to work with many of the teachers and members of the administration during his time in Project Outreach. The Project Outreach program has produced many success stories that illustrate its importance. Quite a few times a student has returned to the high school or recognized Mr. Ucci on the street to tell him that he or she has become successful or is

pursuing a particular career. One particular story involves a man who had graduated from Harrison High School and had come back to visit Mr. Ucci and thank him for his success in high school. When he had been in school, this student had been perilously close to dropping out. Later, dressed in a suit and tie, he told Mr. Ucci that his company was bidding for district contracts. For Mr. Ucci, this is a greatly inspiring story and one of the many highlights of his job.

When he isn't teaching, Mr. Ucci enjoys outdoor activities and spending time at his vacation home in



Vermont. On the weekends, he goes foxhunting at a club, which does not involve killing the fox, but is a high-speed chase after the fox on a horse.

Mr. Ucci has also owned horses for most of his adult life, and currently owns a horse name Quinn. He also enjoys kayaking and loves the outdoors. For 22 years, he has coached lacrosse at both Horace Greeley and Mamaroneck high schools.

After retirement, Mr. Ucci will continue to run a lacrosse recruiting camp for top lacrosse players that he has been managing for 27 years. He will also spend much of his time at his home in Vermont and plans to travel with his wife, who is also a teacher.

- Emma Glass

All Teacher Photos Courtesy of JamiAnn Plekon

## Mrs. JoAnn Fusco-Ciraco

In 1975, a game show called Wheel of Fortune premiered on television. That same year, a new teacher arrived at Harrison High School, Mrs. JoAnn Fusco-Ciraco. Now, even as Wheel of Fortune continues on for another season, Mrs. Fusco-Ciraco has decided that, after 33 years, her time at HHS will come to an end.

Mrs. Ciraco grew up in Thornwood and attended Westlake High School. She started college at Westchester Community College, and received her Bachelors Degree at Mercy College. She later received a Master's Degree from the College of New Rochelle.

At the age of 10, she decided she wanted to be a teacher. When she was younger, she always thought her older cousin's friends were so “cool.” These friends wore black leather jackets and were the type of guys who seemed really tough and popular. One day, as a young Mrs. Ciraco was sitting down, reading a comic, these guys came over and started reading it to her. She was mortified at how bad their reading ability was! “Ever since, my mission has been to educate teens with

learning difficulties. I have a soft spot for tough guys,” stated Mrs. Ciraco.

She is the sole remaining teacher of all those who entered Harrison High School back in 1975. Mrs. Ciraco has both Special Education and Regular Education certifications (primarily in English) and teaches small Special Ed classes, as well as co-teach English and Social Studies classes.

Mrs. Ciraco has always been big on school spirit. She used to coach cheerleading and, over the years at HHS, has participated in school spirit by watching students play sports, making posters, and playing an integral part of the booster club.

In the classroom, Mrs. Ciraco is very comfortable with her students, and has always been able to talk to them about her personal life and her past experiences. She often shares with them her enthusiasm over cars, something most people might not realize about her. When she was a kid, she wanted to be a car mechanic.

Looking far too young to retire, Mrs. Ciraco subscribes to the philosophy that she “should retire now, while she is still

young.” After retirement, she has a lot planned. She views it as an opportunity to learn new things.

She looks forward to watching her son play college baseball next year, and of course, the chance to go to the beach. She has a condo in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where she'll get the chance to do just that.

Before leaving her “home away from home” these past three decades, Mrs. Ciraco offers one last piece of advice: “Students and teachers need to work hard, but also need to enjoy the time, because you make the memories.”

- Marissa DeCarlo





# Soon-to-be Retiring Teachers

## Mrs. Rita Carbonelli-Delli Carpini

One of the great teachers leaving us this year is the Italian teacher Mrs. Rita Carbonelli-Delli Carpini otherwise known by those who know and love her as Ms. Carb. She has given so much to Harrison High School and I know many are sad to see her go. She has spent the past 22 years teaching Italian to the students here, and she has also had 12 years before that as an Italian teacher elsewhere. Her career as an educator spans over three decades. Below are some interesting facts about her, so that you may get to know her better as she heads toward a future beyond the high school.



Ms. Carb is married with two wonderful children who both attended the Harrison schools. Daniel is 26 and is a Marketing Director of Luggage Concierge. Christopher is presently a senior and will be attending the S.O.M. Business School at Binghamton University.

She has been to Italy over 50 times. She usually returns to her house in Tuscany, a place where she hopes to spend a great deal of time after retirement.

What many might not know is that Ms. Carbinelli-Delli Carpini has a love for classic rock music and has been to numerous concerts such as Black Sabbath, Moody Blues, Yes, Hall and Oates, and many others. She also goes to the New York Philharmonic and Opera once a month.

After having dedicated herself to teaching for all these years, she finally thought it was time for a change. She would love to spend more time with her family, playing tennis, reading a good book while sunning in the Hamptons, or catching all the sales at Neiman Marcus.

So what are her immediate plans after retirement? The first thing she is going to do is get rid of her 5:30 a.m. alarm clock. After spending time this summer in South Hampton, she most likely will go to Italy in the Fall (since Autumn is the best time to travel). There she will visit the museums and go to harvest festivals. Since she loves to cook, she is looking forward to bringing back special foods and ingredients!

Once school is over, Ms. Carbinelli will continue working as a Life Coach. A Life Coach is someone who helps others with organization and everything that has to do with daily life's questions or concerns. She also will be helping families who have children who

are beginning the college process. She still loves to teach Italian, so if a school is looking for her to teach AP Italian, she just might do it.

Thinking back on her teaching experience, Ms. Carb feels that Harrison is a wonderful school. She is going to miss the student and teachers very much. "Harrison High School offers so much to the students," she said. "We have terrific classes and opportunities for all. The students are so lucky to be learning in a beautiful building with wonderful facilities like the new auditorium."

Ms. Carbinelli-Delli Carpini loves seeing her students in town. It gives her great pleasure to see them run up to her and give her hugs. She also loves to hear students repeat her daily warnings (e.g., "I know Ms. Carb – if I don't do my work, I will feel your wrath").

With 34 years of memories, she admits there are too many good experiences to list. Still, she fondly remembers when some students lovingly made a cradle for her son Chris in wood shop.

She doesn't have any favorite students, as it would be like a mom having a favorite child. "All students are equal," she says, "However, when I do scold some of my students for not working, it's because I want the best for them. I want all my students to become wonderful young people who have received a terrific education in Italian and also some social graces."

The only possible negative is that she doesn't like seeing her former students who are now Harrison Police officers remind her that she should have given them better grades as they catch her speeding in Harrison.

The day that she told her students she was retiring was very emotional. Many of them said "No, you can't leave!" She admits this was probably the nicest thing she ever heard from her students.

- Rebecca Wandel



## Mr. Michael Fanelli

For students who have just moved to Harrison from non-English speaking countries, the transition can be very difficult. For the past 32 years, Michael Fanelli has been making it easier for immigrant students to adjust to life in America.

Born and raised in Port Chester, Mr. Fanelli grew up in a bilingual home, speaking both English and Italian. By his junior year at Fairfield University, he knew that he wanted to be an ESL/ELL teacher and reading specialist – his current position at HHS.

Aside from languages, Mr. Fanelli loves history. His interest in history as well as life in the U.S. was defined through coins, specifically numismatics (coin collecting) as well as reading about them. Several of Mr. Fanelli's other interests and hobbies include reading, Yankees baseball, educational research, his family, and his church.

For the first ten years of his career as a Harrison High School educator, Mr. Fanelli had to work two other jobs in order to maintain his teaching job. Two generations of Fanellis sacrificed time, effort, and their lives before a family member graduated from any sort of college or university. Mr. Fanelli and his brother were lucky enough to be the first to do so, reaching their family's goal.

At the end of the 2008 school year, Mr. Fanelli is retiring from teaching at Harrison High School, but first he agreed to answer our questions.

**HH:** How long have you been working at Harrison High School?

**MF:** 32 years.

**HH:** What did you do before working at HHS?

**MF:** I was a university student at Fairfield and I worked on weekends, both in retail operations and in painting houses.

**HH:** Using one word, describe your career as a teacher at HHS.

**MF:** My vocation

**HH:** What is your favorite part about being a teacher?

**MF:** The students' needs kept me at an edge that did not ever lapse into boredom, ever.

**HH:** What is your least favorite part about being a teacher?

**MF:** The few times I could not intervene to help some students from making bad choices.

**HH:** Why are you retiring?

**MF:** It is time to turn the page and move on.

**HH:** What plans do you have after leaving HHS? Will you go into retirement or will you find another job?

**MF:** I will be working and consulting in adult education and ESL for immigrants, so that I will be able to use my life's professional experience.

**HH:** If there was one thing you could change about HHS, what would it be?

**MF:** I wish I could make it easier for new students, foreign or otherwise, to make the transition to Harrison.

The end of this school year marks the end of the Michael Fanelli era at Harrison High School. He has worked so hard and helped so many, teaching new students the English language. As a teacher, coach, advocate, role model and especially as a bridge for so many to a new life here in the United States, he will surely be missed.

- Emily Singer



# Russia's Puppet Presidency

Tessa Ratner

Staff Writer

Political pundits are wondering if new Russian leader Dmitri A. Medvedev will ever be "his own man." This question arose after Vladimir V. Putin named Medvedev as his successor. Medvedev will be taking control of the Kremlin May 7; however, while Medvedev is in office, Putin will continue to assume control and power from his new post as Russia's Prime Minister.

Whether this will prove a proper and effective arrangement is yet to be discovered, but it appears to be a change much desired by Russians.

Mr. Putin, by his country's Constitution, is limited to serving only two terms, and so he endorsed Medvedev, who happened to be a first deputy prime minister and longtime aide. The Kremlin is championing his candidacy and squeezing out competition. On March 2, Mr. Medvedev officially won the Presidency, but has yet to make any major staff appointments, changes in governmental structure, or proposals.

He comes across as a "dutiful senior bureaucrat," having once been a law professor, who is at present more interested in following a line-by-line

budget analysis due in 2010 than in leading the nation forward.

Until now, he has given speeches calling for more housing and less corruption, faster internet connections and a number of other proposals not likely to draw objections. Yet none of these proposals seem to have national importance.

Danis Volkov, an analyst at the Levada Moscow Center, notes that, "Mr. Medvedev is taking office against the backdrop of a Russian resurgence that contrasts with the financial tumult in much of the world."

Consumer confidence has grown exponentially in Russia, making consumer business boom all over the country. Its economy grew by 8% last year and foreign investment has soared. Once a pauper,

Russia has squirreled away hundreds of billions of dollars in hard currency reserves. Currently a slew of new malls are being erected, and even Wal-Mart has announced its possibility to bring business to Russia. Consumer confidence has reached its highest level in Russia since the financial collapse in 1998.

What is most crucial to the public right now is that the government does not disrupt the stability achieved until now, even if it means Putin continues to dominate through a "puppet presidency."

Mr. Putin has recently announced his taking control of the ruling party, becoming its chairman and allowing him to have another base of power. Medvedev remains on the sidelines, having declared that Putin's leadership of the party will "serve to strengthen and develop the

main democratic institutions of our society."

Yet Mr. Putin sounded more like an opponent of democracy in Russia when he said, "We must reduce bureaucracy and eliminate from its ranks the random people who are simply there to pursue their selfish interests in our society." He vowed to bolster the party, which already dominates almost every lawmaking body in the land, and threatened a party purge, implying his power will not lessen because he is no longer the President.

Mr. Medvedev has yet to take on any of Russia's weighty topics, including rampant corruption. His claim that the legal system need to be strengthened has not been followed up by any actions that might help make that a reality. In fact, such attempts to shore up the independence of the courts to combat corruption would likely put an end to Putin's and Medvedev's centralized government and authority.

"They will be doing what people usually do in politics," notes analyst Danis Volkov, "that is, political maneuvering."



Dmitri Medvedev and Vladimir Putin discussing issues. Courtesy of Market Oracle

## Editorial: Is African Aid Helping?

Joseph Edin

Staff Writer

After decades of diluted progress, the United Nations (U.N.) aid system and other African aid organizations are still skewed by political bias rather than people's needs. It is still a post-colonial Western club with a couple of thousand members, and it hasn't done anything about the lessons learned 25 years ago.

For the past 40 years since Africa's independence, the world's richest governments have given the United Nations barely a quarter of the funds its agencies have asked for to deal with the expected humanitarian catastrophe. "We have been lobbying the European Union and the Americans for two months," said a U.N. spokesperson for the Council of African Aid. "We have asked for shelters, tents and medicines. They have promised us help, but we don't know whether we are going to get it in time. We are talking about a major crisis here."

While people point fingers at the governments of the West for their grasping intentions, experts believe that the West can't support Africa for very long. Evidence of human morals and monitoring of global events is positive news to today's society. People looking out for one another greatly reduces the chance of war. However, as people become more generous toward Africa's crumbling civilization, they may want to look back at past events. It has been 40 years since the first U.N. aid workers first arrived in Africa and from

then on, there has been little progress shown. People who organize aid and relief systems argue that there are not enough people and/or monies being utilized to produce successful results. The unstated reality is that even if U.N. and private aid organizations tripled their current workforce and budgets, it still would not be enough to raise the second most populated continent off its heels. The situation we are faced with today has been encountered before and historians know that societies can't support other societies. The West can no longer support Africa with its limited resources in this day and age.

Instead of raising money for medicines and food, the West should be investing money into educational facilities around Africa. Knowledge is the only thing that is going to actually matter in the long run. An educated population of Africans will relieve stress around the world, so that reform and repair grants that total in the billions will no longer be necessary.

Some people believe this can't be done, as Africa is living in a time where the present meets the past. While people still hunt with spears on the plains, there are roads filled with automobiles. However, because Africa is the continent with the most mineral and plant resources, it might only take a few educated African people to begin to utilize these resources, and to start the revolution to get Africa eventually to compete with Western standards of living.



Are we aiding African poverty? Courtesy WordPress

## China Increases Military Spending Again

Tessa Ratner

Staff Writer

In March, the Chinese government announced yet another increase in military spending. This occurred a day after the U.S. faced China's latest denial to be forthcoming as to the rapid enlargement of its military forces. Their choice to avoid real, hard facts poses a threat to stability in Asia. The rest of the world wants to know what China is planning – after all, China is home to just over 1.3 billion residents!

China's military budget will increase 17.6% in 2008, reaching \$58.8 billion dollars, according to the spokesman for the National People's Congress, Jiang Enzhu. Interestingly enough, this increase follows a 17.8% increase for 2007.

American military experts estimate that Beijing's military spending is at least double the announced figure. If this were true, China's yearly military budget would be about one-fourth the size of the Pentagon's, an alarming statistic.

This is no recent change for the country, however. China has increased its annual defense outlays by double digit percentages for the majority of years in the past two decades. With this budget, they equip the military with an array of modern weapons and better training conditions for their 2.3 million man military, the world's largest standing force.

Foreign security experts say these sustained changes over the past years have placed China on track to become a major military power that may soon rival the U.S.

There is speculation that the reason behind this excessive military increase is to provide a better chance at dominating Taiwan in the event of any possible conflict, while at the same time deterring any American forces sent to help defend the island. Some senior Chinese officials deny this theory, yet China will not peacefully permit Taiwan to move completely toward independence, because it sees it as a breakaway province.

Mr. Jiang assured that this year's spending is solely defensive and will allow for an upgrade of the system, providing better pay and benefits for the military. Even with the increases, China's military spending remains less than the U.S., Russia, India, and France.

China has yet to give a detailed report for its sudden modernization. In their annual report to Congress on the Chinese military, the Pentagon stated: "The lack of transparency in China's military and security affairs poses risk to stability by increasing the potential for misunderstanding and miscalculation." In Beijing, the Chinese government responded by saying that the Pentagon distorted the facts.



The Peoples Liberation Army soldiers on parade in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Courtesy Adrian Bradshaw/EPA



# Circus Animals Abused, Suffering

Judy Florio

Staff Writer

"Sink that hook into 'em. When you hear that screaming, then you know you got their attention."

An elephant trumpets in agony as Frisco's bullhook, a sharp metal hook with a spiked end, tears through its sensitive skin. As circuses boom throughout America, animal treatment becomes increasingly worse. Behind closed curtains, animals are physically and mentally abused in the name of entertainment. Animals have been taken out of their natural habitat, away from their families, and recruited into thousands of circus acts around the country.

Myths have generated that animals in circuses do not suffer from being locked in cages or shackled by chains. These beliefs however, are completely and utterly untrue. Such animals are unable to display their natural behavior, are made to travel long hours in horrific cages and chains, and made to perform acts in front of thousands of loud people daily. The fact is, animals do not naturally stand on their heads or jump through fire and hoops. Trainers use hooks, electric



Courtesy of Animal Friends Croatia

prods, and muzzles to force all of the exotic animals to do these tricks,

Elephants are known for getting the worst treatment at places such as circuses. Elephants are aggressively "hooked," stabbed, or beaten daily. It can reach a point where a four ton elephant cowers in fear next to humans less than ten times its size. Although most common, the madness does not stop with elephants. More than 75% of monkeys have their teeth ripped out before entering the circus business, eliminating the possibility of them "acting out" or turning on their merciless trainers. Tigers are often sedated before entering the arena so that they are sluggish and unable to move a fraction of their top speed if they try to escape.

More than 7,000 animals are used for entertainment throughout the country. These animals are being born into a world of animal abuse, never able to fend for themselves or to experience the joys of living a free life. Circus animals live in trailers or metal cages and have a lack of exercise that adds insult to the injury of an unhealthy diet.

After approximately four to ten years in the business, animals are forced to retire because they often "refuse to learn more" or "lose their stage presence." These unfortunate animals are either put into permanent cages, sold to carnivals, used for laboratory testing, or "put down" e.g., murdered.

This can be fixed. Many countries such as Sweden, Austria, Costa Rica, India, Finland, and Singapore have banned most or all of their animal entertainment. By signing a petition, or simply letting others know about the problem, we can make a difference in these animals' lives. Clearly the fools running the circus business have no sympathy for these animals' welfare. Please think twice before attending your next circus; stand up against animal abuse.



Courtesy of Animal Rights



Photos courtesy of Platon/Time Magazine

## Time Names Putin Person Of The Year

Emily Singer

Staff Writer

As each year comes to an end, TIME Magazine is faced with the difficult challenge of naming someone Person of the Year. Out of the hundreds of people across the world, editors and writers at TIME limited the contenders to Vladimir Putin (Russian president), Al Gore, J.K. Rowling, President Hu Jintao (of China), and General David Petraeus (commander of U.S. Army forces in Iraq). After weeks of debate, TIME named Vladimir Putin as Person of the Year.

Putin began his career in politics in 1991 as head of the Committee for External Relations for St. Petersburg. Several months after being appointed head of the committee, he was almost fired as a result of understating prices. No immediate consequences were issued, and Vladimir Putin remained head of the Committee for External Relations until 1996. Starting in 1994, Putin was assigned various other political positions in St. Petersburg. In 1994, he became First Deputy of the Head of Administration. Putin led the pro-government Our Home is Russia political party in St. Petersburg from 1995-1997. During that same time period, Vladimir Putin was named head of the Advisory Board of the JSC Newspaper Sankt-Petersburgskie Vedomosti, which was the first newspaper printed in Russia, back in the early 1700s. In 1996, Putin moved to Moscow and was appointed Deputy Chief of the Presidential Property Management Department. He assumed this position until March of 1997.



In 1997, Russian President Boris Yeltsin appointed Vladimir Putin as Deputy Chief of Presidential Staff, as well as chief of the Main Control Directorate of the Presidential Property Management Department. He held both positions until May and June of 1998 (respectively). In May 1998, Putin was promoted to First Deputy Chief of Presidential Staff. A month later, in June 1998, he was given the position of the Head of the Commission for the preparation of agreements on the delimitation of power of regions and the federal center attached to the President.

In 1998, Putin became Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian

Federation. By then, Vladimir Putin's political career was visibly snowballing and in 1999, he was named one of three First Deputy Prime Ministers. Later that day, Russian President Yeltsin chose Putin as Prime Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation. President Yeltsin also announced that he wanted Putin to be his successor as President. Soon after, Putin made a decision to run for president.

In December 1999, President Yeltsin unexpectedly resigned from his position, and according to Russian Law, Vladimir Putin became acting president. The upcoming presidential elections which had been scheduled for the summer of 2000 were changed to March 2000 as a result of President Yeltsin's resignation. Vladimir Putin won the election and went on to serve as Russia's President for two terms.

TIME Magazine named Vladimir Putin as Person of the Year because of his incredible feat of transforming Russia from a nearly-failed state to a stable and powerful nation. Under Putin's rule, Russia's economy has grown 7% in the past five years, and

the country itself has paid off a \$200 billion debt. Russia's wealthy have become wealthier and the worker's salaries have more than doubled since 2003. President Putin and his advisors have helped to offer alternatives to America's vanishing influence on the world as well as overlook deals in North Korea, the Middle East, and Iran. In an article regarding Putin's recognition from TIME Magazine's website, Christopher Morris writes, "He stands, above all, for stability—stability before freedom, stability before choice, stability in a country that has hardly seen it for a hundred years." In order to achieve the stability necessary to revive Russia, Putin and his advisors had to drastically limit the freedom of citizens. Television stations were shut down, opposing political figures were arrested, and Putin's popularity rating among the people remains at approximately 70%.

TIME's Person of the Year is someone who has had an impact on the world, positive or negative. President Vladimir Putin has clearly had a positive impact on Russian life.

# Anesthesia Awareness: When Waking Becomes A Conscious Nightmare

Joni Cooper

Staff Writer

Surgery can be a scary experience. Whether it's adjusting a tooth or undergoing heart surgery, procedures always have a slight chance of going wrong. Patients are usually given anesthesia to dull the pain and relax their muscles. It enables them to fall asleep during surgery without feeling the pain throughout it. But what would happen if you suddenly awakened during a surgery?

Approximately 20,000 to 40,000 patients a year undergo anesthesia awareness; recalling events or stress against the body during a general anesthesia surgery. Anesthesia awareness is infrequent during a surgical procedure, yet has occurred in some cases.

During a surgical procedure, the patient is given anesthesia, putting them to sleep. During anesthesia awareness, the patient's brain remains awake while the body is paralyzed and unable to function. A tube is usually placed down the patient's throat, preventing them from communicating with anyone in the room. In this nightmare scenario, sometimes a nurse real-



Courtesy of NBC4

izes that the patient is not completely asleep. As a result, more doses of the paralytic drug are administered, paralyzing the patient's body further (but not altering the fact of consciousness).

Cases of anesthesia awareness vary in severity. Some of the most traumatic situations deal with the patient having full consciousness during surgery, feeling explicit pain and recalling specific events. The majority of cases are far less severe, leaving patients with poor recollection of events such as conversations, and pain and trouble breathing.

To bring attention to anesthesia awareness, a website was created that collects information about such situations. It also allows patients who have undergone anesthesia awareness to post their personal experiences or opinions about it. One patient reports that she had recollection of her surgery when undergoing the removal of her eye. During an interview she states, "Neither anesthesiologist nor nursing staff acknowledged my (loud) reports of the incident upon being awakened in the operating room — screaming at the top of my lungs that I was awake." After the incident, she claims that no counseling was offered through the hospital, and that her records were denied for a long period time. She now suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which is a common side effect of anesthesia



Surgery in progress. Courtesy of CTV.ca.

awareness.

The recently released movie "Awake" based its plotline around anesthesia awareness. "Awake" is about a man (Hayden Christensen) lucky enough to receive a heart transplant. While undergoing the surgery, he suffers a severe case of anesthesia awareness. Lacking a sufficient amount of anesthesia, he remains awake but paralyzed during the procedure. With no forms of communication, he must suffer the reality of recalling events from his surgery. His wife (Jessica Alba) is forced to make life-changing decisions, mixed in with her own personal drama.

There are several other effects of the awareness aside from PTSD. Psychiatric care is usually needed after it occurs, and it can affect sleeping patterns of the victims, bringing nightmares and flashbacks into their heads. Most victims are urged to avoid large crowds, as specific noises can be troublesome. In some cases, whole personality changes can occur. "Awake" and [anesthesiaawareness.com](http://anesthesiaawareness.com) are constantly making the effort to raise awareness of this traumatizing experience. Although procedures for these patients are in the past, the horrifying memories from anesthesia awareness will remain in their minds forever.



A Yellowfin Tuna Courtesy of UCLA

## Catch Less, Increase Profits

Joseph Edin

Staff Writer

Conservation techniques can promote larger fish stocks and higher profits for fishermen, reports a study published in the journal *Science*. This research suggests that industry opposition to lower catches in the short term may be misguided.

Australian National University economists examined catches of four species: big eye tuna and yellowfin tuna of the western and central Pacific Ocean, northern tiger prawn, and orange found near Australia. The research showed that fishermen can maximize profits by catching fewer fish and leaving more in the ocean to replenish depleted stocks.

"It has always been assumed that maximizing fishing profits will lead to stock depletion and possibly even extinction of some commercial species," said co-author of the study Quentin Grafton, research director at the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University (ANU). "But our results prove that the highest profits are made when fish numbers are allowed to rise beyond levels traditionally considered optimal. In other words, bigger stocks mean bigger bucks."

The research found that when fish are more plentiful and therefore easier to catch, fishermen spend less on fuel and other costs. This results in higher profits. As such, research suggests that laws based on fishing at the "maximum sustainable biomass level" do not yield the best results for fishermen or fish stocks. Instead, the authors say, "fishing at the level of maximum economic yield minimally affects the amount of fish for sale and also cuts costs, allowing fishers to make more money and to maintain sustainable levels of fish."

A major international scientific study released in November 2006 in the journal *Science* found that about one-third of all fishing stocks worldwide have collapsed and that if current trends continue, all fish stocks worldwide will collapse within the next 50 years.

The threat of overfishing is not limited to the target species only. As trawlers resort to deeper waters to fill their nets, they have begun to threaten delicate deep-sea ecosystems and the fish that inhabit them, such as the coelacanth. A 2003 study in the journal *Nature* indicates that 10% of large predatory fish remain, compared to levels before commercial fishing. Many fisheries experts, however, consider this claim to be exaggerated with respect to tuna populations.

Examples of outcomes of overfishing exist in areas such as the North Sea of Europe and the Grand Banks off the east coast of North America. In these locations, overfishing has not only proved disastrous to fish stocks, but also to the fishing communities relying on the harvest.

## From The 'Strange But True' Files: Man Kills, Then Cooks Girlfriend

Nicole Pastor

Staff Writer

Bon appetit! On tonight's menu: former girlfriend. The things people do these days are downright crazy and creepy.

A Tyler Texas man, Christopher Lee McCuin, 25, allegedly killed his girlfriend, Jana Shearer, 21. Shortly after the act, he called police and confessed what he had done to his girlfriend and her body parts. Police officers probably thought it some kind of prank, someone

calling and admitting that they had not only murdered someone, but also cooked them.

When authorities arrived at the home, they found Jana's mutilated body and one of her ears in a pot of boiling water. They also found a dinner fork embedded within a small scrap of human flesh upon a dinner plate. Authorities said it was unclear whether McCuin actually had eaten part of his

former girlfriend, but the possibility is more than disgusting. Before he killed Jana, neighbors said they heard the couple arguing. In fact, they were known to argue constantly. Apparently, it proved too much for Christopher Lee McCuin.

The mother of the murderer confessed to authorities that her son brought her into the garage to "see what he had done." His mother was in shock. She knew her son required professional help, and that he needed to be turned in immediately. Even though McCuin turned himself in, when police arrived, he was barricaded in the home for a short time before coming out.

It was difficult for detectives to investigate this horrible recipe for murder. They were disgusted and horrified by the half-cooked corpse and body parts. It was a very disturbing situation overall. McCuin was charged with murder and will be put away for a very long time.



Christopher Lee McCuin, 25, and Jana Shearer, 21.

Courtesy of the Dallas Morning News



# Teen Pregnancies On The Rise Again

Melissa Delia

Staff Writer

After a decline in the earlier part of the decade, teen pregnancy rates are on the rise among 15-to-19-year old girls in the lower Hudson Valley, according to statistics gathered in 2005. For the first time in 14 years, the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have also reported a rise in 2006 for teen pregnancies.

More than half of teen pregnancies in Westchester and Putnam counties in 2005 ended in abortions. This number is higher than it was five years ago. In Westchester and Putnam, 58% and 56% of teen pregnancies, respectively, ended in abortions. This number is slightly above the state average for 2005. In Rockland County, only one in three impregnated teen girls had an abortion, which is a lower rate than had been reported in 2000.

Some national reports are saying that teens are having less sex, but others show an increase in teenage sexual activity, and at younger ages. Angela McNaughton, an executive director of the Pregnancy Care Center in Westchester, feels that too much attention and funding has been put into abstinence-only education and not enough into sex education. "Teens are not taught about birth control methods and the correct ways to use them," contends McNaughton, "So they often use them inconsistently, and more often than not, teens do not associate sex with pregnancy."

More than one billion dollars have been spent on abstinence-only educational programs and not enough time and money have been put into sex and contraception education. Health officials have also spoken out about the ineffectiveness of abstinence education programs in preventing pregnancy and spreading sexually transmitted diseases.

In October, New York joined more than a dozen other states in announcing there would be no reapplying for federal funding, cancelling all existing abstinence-only education contracts. New York State is now redirecting money to fund sex education that teaches about birth control.

At Port Chester High School, a health clinic called "The Open Door Family Medical Center" has opened. It has been providing pregnancy tests and other medical services – even routine vaccinations. Some girls at Port Chester High School first discovered that they were pregnant during routine examinations. Although "Open Door" is not allowed to distribute birth control, the center does counsel girls and redirect them to prenatal clinics.

A support group has also been started at Port Chester High School, which helps to support the girls through their pregnancies and stress the importance of staying in school. A 17-year-old student at Port Chester High School, who had a child two years ago, said the support group helped her to get through her pregnancy. She is now a senior and is expected to graduate in a few months and go onto college, where she has already been accepted. Although she had planned to go away for college, she said having a baby changed all that. "I just come to school, do my work and leave," she said. "It's not like I look forward to hanging out with my friends, not like before. I don't think you want this responsibility this fast."

Another area that requires attention is bilingual counseling. Hispanic girls have the highest rate of teen births in the state, as well as in the nation. Statistics indicate that approximately half of all Hispanic teenage girls are likely to become pregnant before the age of 20, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Birthright Israel Foundation Provides Free Trips To Israel For Jewish Teens

Alex Chill

Staff Writer

It is hard to believe, but there really is an all-inclusive, no strings attached, free trip to Israel! The trip is a special opportunity given to any and every Jewish boy or girl between the ages of 18-26, who has never been on a peer trip to Israel. Birthright Israel allows these individuals to travel on a 10-day adventure to the beautiful land of Israel, homeland of the Jewish religion.

The founders of Birthright Israel truly believe that each member of the Jewish community should travel on a peer trip to Israel at some point in his or her life. What better time to do so than in one's college years? Many people take advantage of this great opportunity, and others make contributions to the Birthright foundation. Thanks to the Government of Israel, United Jewish Communities (UJC), and private philanthropists, this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has been made a reality.

The program got its name from the strong, widely-held belief that every Jewish person is



There are more teen pregnancies now. Courtesy Blogspot



Courtesy of Philadelphia Reflections

## How To Ace The SAT

Jenn Martins

Staff Writer

Just hearing "S.A.T." is enough to make any high school student cringe. But the S.A.T. is an inevitable part of your education, so why not make the best of it? Chances are, your S.A.T. scores won't be the deciding factor when colleges are considering your application, but a good score can't hurt. The truth is, the S.A.T. is pretty predictable, which means it is simple to prepare for.

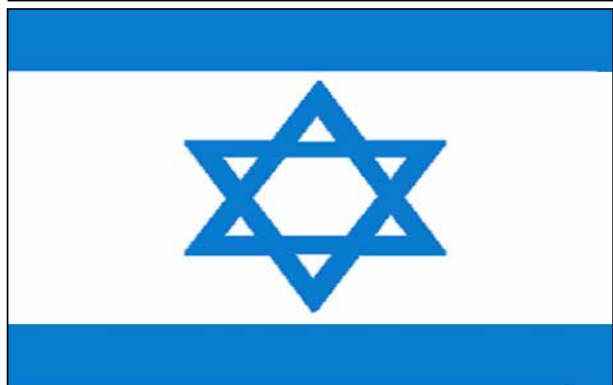
The first step in studying for the S.A.T. is to become familiar with the test. This means you should know the format: the different sections, the timing of these sections, and what kind of questions to expect. These answers can easily be answered with a visit to a guidance counselor or to The College Board's website. But the best way to prepare is first to take the P.S.A.T., which allows you to sample the real thing and not have to worry about a bad score. What you really need to know about the S.A.T. is that there are three subjects tested, which are comprised of ten testing sections: a 25-minute essay, six 25-minute sections, two 20-minute sections and one 10-minute section. These sections contain one subject each: math, writing or critical reading, in any order. After familiarizing yourself with the format of the test, it is time to really study.

There are dozens of ways to study for the S.A.T., and hundreds of books and activities that claim to help. The one book every S.A.T.-taker should have is *The Official S.A.T. Study Guide*, created by The College Board. This study guide comes from the test maker, and includes several practice tests and inside information about what to know. There is no need to buy every study supplement about the S.A.T. The true trick is to find a way to

incorporate your hobbies into studying. For avid readers, several companies like Kaplan and SparkNotes publish novels that include S.A.T. vocabulary words, with those words defined right within the book. For music lovers, there is *Rock the S.A.T.*, which feature musicians-turned-teachers who got together and recorded songs that include vocabulary words in the lyrics. If you feel you need the extra push, you can also try an S.A.T. prep course or get one-on-one tutoring through local learning centers. Find a way to prepare that best suits you and your studying style, whether it be with flash cards, videos, books, or tutors.

The biggest mistake a person can make is cramming the week before, or even the night before the actual test. Preparing for something that involves several subjects and types of questions requires time. Rather than spending eight hours preparing the night before, take a little bit out of each day or every few days to study. Take a few timed practice tests and review vocabulary words, grammar, and math problems in the weeks leading up to the S.A.T. and you should be fine.

One of the most important things to keep in mind when preparing for the S.A.T. is not to over think things. The S.A.T. is a test, not a life-altering event. Getting too caught up in the S.A.T. will set you up for disaster. If you just relax and realize that a bad score is not the end of the world, you will not be as nervous on the day of the test. There is always a way to redeem yourself from a not-so-amazing score, and that is to re-take the S.A.T. As long as you keep your priorities in order and prepare ahead of time, there really is nothing to worry about.

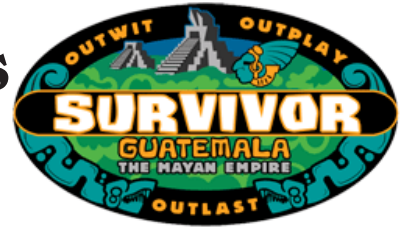


The Israeli Flag.

Courtesy of the BBC

# Husky Herald Interviews

## A Survivor Contestant



Dominique Cuce

Staff Writer

For the past eight years, millions of people have tuned into the popular reality show, "Survivor," every Thursday night. Much of society wonders who these people are who actually make it on the show? How do they get on? Is everything we see real? Brian Corridan, a 25-year old from Connecticut, was able to experience his dream of being on the show. The valedictorian of his high school, and a graduate of Columbia University (with a psychology degree), Brian added "survivor contestant" to his list of achievements on Season 11 of "Survivor: Guatemala, The Mayan Empire." Now, Brian continues his job as a teacher for an SAT prep class, Test Takers. He didn't win the million dollar "Survivor" grand prize, but his experience, however, was worth much more.

**HH:** Why did you apply to get on Survivor? Were you an avid fan of the show?

**BC:** I was a HUGE fan of the show ever since it premiered. I loved the fact that it was a physical, mental, and social challenge all in one. You had to be 21 to apply, though, and I was only 17 at the time, so I had to wait four years before I could apply. I finally got on after I graduated college.

**HH:** How did you end up on Survivor? Did you do anything special in your audition video?

**BC:** I applied three times before I eventually made it onto Season 11. I was a semi-finalist twice (for Seasons 9 and 10), but the rejection just made me want it even more. I finally made finalist status on my third try. Each time, I had to fill out a 14-page application, film a 3-minute video, and then hope I was one of the 16 people they picked out of 60,000 applicants. My video was mostly just me talking directly into the camera about who I was and why I should be on the show. I was pretty intense and excited.

**HH:** What was your personal item you brought to the island?



Survivor Guatemala Castaways.

Courtesy of People Magazine

**BC:** We weren't allowed any personal items on my season, so all I had was the clothing I wore. (You wear the same clothes the whole time you're out there... one pair of pants, one shirt, one pair of underwear, one bathing suit... it's pretty gross.)

**HH:** How was Jeff Probst?

**BC:** Jeff is a cool guy, and a fantastic host. It was great meeting him



Brian Corridan in SAT prep mode. Courtesy of Dominique Cuce

in person, and he really knows what he's doing. The show wouldn't be the same without him. He's like the extra contestant who you can't vote out.

**HH:** On Survivor, what things or events did you experience that you didn't think you would?

**BC:** I mean, the entire thing, really! I never thought I'd be sleeping in the dirt in the Guatemalan jungle with tarantulas and scorpions, fashioning a bed out of sticks and palm fronds, drinking water from a crocodile-infested lake, and competing in huge obstacle courses in 118-degree heat. It was all totally crazy. In the game itself, though, the biggest surprise was probably the boredom factor, to be honest.

You have no TV, no phone, no computer, no books, no music, nothing. You're with total strangers with whom you may or may not get along, and you have no contact with anyone back home at all. You're up with the sun in the morning, and asleep when it sets. So you have to pass the whole day doing not too much... you learn to get creative pretty fast. We'd make up games a whole lot.

**HH:** How was it with not eating much?

**BC:** My stomach adjusted to the lack of food pretty quickly, so I wasn't that hungry. My teammates got so hungry, though, that they started eating ants, termites, and live minnows. I didn't feel that desperate, since we had a supply of corn to grind and fry. I was fine with that. I did lose 20 pounds in 15 days, though, which isn't really all that healthy.

**HH:** How did you get along with the fact that there were no bathroom facilities or toilet trees?

**BC:** Haha, how do you think? It was not fun. Not at all. That might have been the worst thing about being out there... no toilet paper, no soap, no toiletries of any kind whatsoever. We'd have to use leaves as toilet paper, and you had to make sure you weren't using a poisonous leaf that would cause a rash. I had one tribemate who chose to use a stick instead of a leaf...which was kind of weird.

**HH:** Who did you connect with?

**BC:** My favorite person in the game was Lydia, a 44-year-old, 4'11" fishmonger from Tacoma, Washington. She was such a sweet, motherly, caring woman, and she worked so hard around camp. I really wanted to see her do well. She ended up coming in fourth place, which was great to see. I never would have had the chance to meet her without Survivor.

**HH:** Who didn't you connect with?

**BC:** At the time, I didn't get along with Amy, a policewoman from Boston, because she was loud, blunt, and crass. The funny thing is, though, once we were both voted off, we became really close, and I probably stay in closest touch with her these days. Funny how those things happen. I love her now; she's awesome and hilarious.

**HH:** Are the camera crew intrusive? Are the segments edited in a fair way?

**BC:** A lot of people feel that controversies are "created" in the way segments are edited.

The camera crew is SO amazing. You really start to forget they're there. They don't speak, they don't get in your way, and they just start to blend into the background. They're not intrusive at all. It's very impressive, actually. As far as editing is concerned, I thought I was edited pretty fairly. The producers of Survivor take editing very seriously, so they really work hard to make sure they're doing a great job. Of course, they obviously choose what gets on TV and what gets left on the cutting room floor, so viewers will only ever really know about 10% of what goes on out there, but I had no problems with what ended up on TV during my season.

**HH:** Were the tribal councils as scary as they seem? Did you ever feel completely secure that you weren't going home?

**BC:** Tribal Councils take FOREVER. You're there for like an hour, but it feels like an eternity, and it only gets on TV for about five minutes. Jeff asks everyone a bunch of questions and all you want to do is get it over with and go back to camp. I felt pretty safe during my first two trips to Tribal Council, but once the tribes were shuffled, I lost my alliance mates and felt pretty vulnerable.

**HH:** Any events that the audience didn't see that you would like to share?

**BC:** Haha, there's too much to tell! Each episode is only about 44 minutes long (after commercials) and that's supposed to cover 3 days of time. So much gets left out, but a lot of it is just small talk and fighting off boredom. Nothing major was left off of TV, though... just the little things that make up cool memories, like waking up to the sound of howler monkeys in the morning and stumbling around the jungle in the pitch black trying to find a canteen.

**HH:** What was the first thing you ate after getting voted off?

**BC:** They had a pizza waiting for me, and it was the best pizza I've ever eaten. I threw it all up later that night, though, because my stomach wasn't ready for real food yet.

**HH:** Where did you stay afterwards and what did you do with your time?

**BC:** You don't get to go home after you get voted off because everyone has to arrive home on the same day (to keep the secret of who lasted the longest). So when I was voted off, I joined the other bootied contestants and we went on a vacation to Costa Rica!

**HH:** Overall, were you glad you got to experience it?

**BC:** It was one of the highlights of my life so far, a total dream come true. I loved every dirty, smelly, starving, stressed, hot, muggy, mosquito-bitten minute of it, and I'd do it again in a heartbeat.



Survivor host Jeff Probst.

Courtesy of CBS



# Summer Music Preview 2008

Christopher Vaughan

Music Editor

With the music of 2007 still vibrating in your ear, it's difficult to discover what 2008 has to offer; but with summer soon approaching, it's time to change that iTunes playlist and make room on your iPod for many new upcoming releases. From more established bands like Weezer and Death Cab for Cutie to fresh new faces like No Age and Jaguar Love, each band is putting forth new albums sure to please old fans as well as grab new ones.

This year already has been scattered with musical gems, like the tingling psych-pop of Atlas Sounds, "Let the blind lead those who can see but cannot feel," the hardcore/dance infused mismatch of Genghis Tron's,



Weezer's Rivers Cuomo.  
Courtesy of Engagements

"Board up the Houses," and from the soundtrack of Juno, Adam Green's, "Sixes and Sevens." It seems that 2008 has spawned albums in various genres, which only adds to the anticipation of the summer crop.

It's been three years since Death Cab for Cutie released their major label debut, "Plans," and fans have been eagerly awaiting new material. The new single, "I Will Possess Your Heart," from their upcoming album, "Narrow

Stairs," leads them into new territory. This slow-burning nine minute track begins with a galloping bass and bits of piano scorching like rindrops on a windshield, as Ben Gibbard's introspective lyrics ascend into the band's blissful state.

One of the most exciting bands of 2007, No Age, is ready to release their sophomore album on the famous Sub Pop label. Their brand of fuzzy, punk-induced noise-rock received much attention last year when their album, "Weirdo Ripped" got attention from critics and the music blog scene alike. From touring with their dance-punk counter parts, Liars, to being featured on about every year-end list, this upcoming album from No Age is the buzz of the music world.

Another on the rise, Jaguar Love, already holds an initial fan base because they formed from the ashes of the prolific hardcore band, the Blood Brothers (Editor's Note: see related article). They kept their hardcore roots, but have incorporated more of a melodic sound that is similar to The Pixies with a classic rock flare, making "Take Me To The Sea" a melting pot of styles. There is nothing more exciting than watching a new talented band making their way through the music world.

Many bands that have been in hibernation have gotten enough rest in the past couple of years to progress their sound. Coming off the heels of an ambient side project, Anthony Gonzalez released the fourth M83 record, entitled "Saturday=Youth" in mid-April. It's an album heavily influenced by bands like The Cure and The Smiths, yet it still maintains its electronics focus. Gonzalez had this to say about it: "It's different, but it's from the same mold." It features the single "Couleurs" which, true to its name, includes a vibrant and pulsing instrumental piece which brings to mind '80s dance music.

One of the biggest recent disap-

pointments in the music world was the rumor that juggernaut math-rock band Weezer was breaking up. After releasing his home-recordings, "Alone -The Home Recordings of Rivers Cuomo" and graduating Harvard, most fans thought that was the last they would hear from "the little man in glasses," but word of this new album is confirmed. The new one, entitled "The Red Album," (sound familiar?) drops on June 17 on Interscope Records. You can sample the first single "Pork and Beans" on [www.weezer.com](http://www.weezer.com) and some other song titles are "Automatic" and "Everybody Get Dangerous." The legendary producer Rick Rubin is working with them again after helping out on their last album, "Make Believe." Currently Rivers is holding a songwriting contest, and will let fans craft his next latest tune. The new single sounds promising, as the music world waits patiently for its nerdy heroes to save them once more.

Even if it's not quite summer yet, those chilly evenings require no coat for true music fans, who already feel a little warmer from thoughts of all these promising new albums.



Randy Randall of No Age.  
Courtesy of Wired

## Rising From Blood Brother's Musical Ashes

Christopher Vaughan

Music Editor

One of the biggest blows of the music community this year came with the news of the disbandment of the prolific hardcore band, The Blood Brothers. Playing almost ten years together, the band has created such an influential ethic, that dozens of new bands have emerged following its footsteps. The band has a certain brand of art-infused hardcore that is as danceable as it is powerful. Over the span of five albums the band hopped from genre to genre like bandits: taking whatever they want and leaving everything else in ruins. On November 8th, the group put a message on its MySpace that shocked the hardcore

scene, which read, "After ten years of making music as The Blood Brothers, we have made the collective decision that our time together has come to an end." Even though it seems that this is the end for this collective group of musicians, it's only the beginning for new projects and endeavors.

Just because The Blood Brothers have broken up, does not mean their days of creating music are over. Each member is involved with promising new bands. These boys have never been shy of side projects: the electronic-ting of Neon Blonde, the break beat playing of Head Wound City, and even the Post-punk edginess of Soiled Doves, each member has had other outlets to express their music. Now, a crop of new bands have emerged in the wake of the Blood Brothers. The most promising is the group Jaguar Love, led by Johnny Whitney (ex

singer,) Cody Votolato (ex guitar), and ex Pretty Girls Make Graves member, Jay Clark. They have already posted a few songs on their MySpace which are swirling art-Punk pieces mixed with Johnny's hardcore aesthetic. Additionally, they have just been signed to Matador records, home to bands like Interpol, Cat Power, and Pretty Girls Make Graves. Their already energetic live show is giving way to a June release of their album. In these short months they have played together, they have already accomplished more than any aspiring band could.

Jaguar Love is not the only band that has risen from the Blood brothers; the groups The Past Lives and Champagne Champagne also feature members of the band. Past lives is composed of Jordan Billie (ex singer,) Mark Gajadhar (ex drummer,) and Morghan Henderson (ex bass, keyboards.) No songs have been posted yet, but they did say they are in the studio working on an album. The new band has been invited to play with the art-noise band Liars in its upcoming show in Seattle. On the other hand, a project completely different from the heaviness of the Blood Brothers, Champagne Champagne, is a hip-hop group composed of Gajamagic (ex drummer,) and Pearl Dragon. Another project Johnny Whit-



The Blood Brothers in a photo opportunity.  
Courtesy of Scenester



## The Christian YouTube

Joni Cooper and Lindsey Tannenbaum  
Staff Writers

YouTube is a very popular and well known website that has videos and slideshows about everything from The Civil Rights Movement to Rihanna's latest music video. Because Youtube has become such a success, in January of 2007, Chris Wyatt (a former CBS-TV producer and a recently converted Christian) founded GodTube.

Wyatt set up GodTube in an attempt to change the findings of recent polls regarding the church. The polls revealed that about 70% of Christians attend church today, and by 2025, only an estimated 35% will attend. Wyatt feels that if people are exposed to a creative website about Christianity, the website will become a success and Christianity will experience a revival.

GodTube has broadcast several videos dealing with religion and God. Some videos are serious, expressing several ideas of Christianity in a clear, factual way. GodTube also has a fun side to the site, creating several parodies to attract the younger audiences of Christianity. One popular parody that spread across the site is "Baby Got Book." The parody was inspired by the hip-hop hit "Baby Got Back" by Sir Mix-A-Lot. The video includes phrases and beliefs from the Bible, sending out the message of Christianity in a unique and entertaining way.

Over 10,000 churches have already registered for the GodTube site. GodTube has also accumulated over three million views since its creation in 2007. Although the site is successful, it has been competing with other websites for popularity. Such websites have also maintained the idea of spreading religion through the internet. Some of those competitive religious sites include: MyChurch.com, MyPraise.com, and Muxlim.com. GodTube has become a popular resource for Christianity and stories of the Bible. The website has been a huge success so far, and is continuing to grow.

ney is involved in is an underground clothing company that is gaining much popularity. Johnny and Amy Whitney mostly design t-shirts and hoodies, with the images on the apparel very similar to Blood Brothers' album and t-shirt designs. Another obscure task that has emerged is Mark Gajadhar is giving drums lessons to anyone lucky enough to be in the Seattle area. All of these endeavors seem to be occupying the free time these boys have now.

Even though the Blood Brothers are a thought of the past, their albums are still a testament to their intensity and versatility. If this is not enough for their hungry fans, the public still has a plethora of music to look forward to in the future from each member.

# RENT

## Last Season of Love

Emma Glass

Staff Writer

June 1, 2008, will be a sad day for many theatre-goers as it marks the end of a 12-year run on Broadway for the musical *RENT*. Many of us are familiar with this play, having viewed performances on Broadway, seen the movie, or hummed along to the first chords of "Seasons of Love" in concert. Its 12-year reign makes it the seventh longest running play in Broadway history, following the popular Disney-themed musical, "Beauty and the Beast".

*RENT*, which was suggested by playwright Billy Aronson as a new take on the famous opera *La Bohème*, was written by Jonathan Larson, who incidentally grew up in Westchester. Larson asked Aronson if he could make the play his own, promising that if it ever made it to Broadway, he would share the profits. Much of the play is based on Larson's own life, such as the fact that he and his roommates kept an illegal wood-burning stove in their apartment in order to stay warm, a fact that is echoed in the play and movie versions. Maureen, a character in the play, was based loosely on a girlfriend of Larson's who kept leaving him for other men, and later a woman. Larson and Aronson also decided to move the setting of the play from the Upper West Side of Manhattan to the East Village (specifically Alphabet City), where Larson lived at the time.

The play began with a performance at the New York City Workshop in 1993. It first appeared on Broadway at the Nederlander Theatre on April 16, 1996. Tragically, on the night of the final off-Broadway dress rehearsal, Larson died of an aortic aneurysm. He had been working on the musical for seven years. But the show was a hit, the critics loved it, and celebrities like Anna Wintour and Steven Spielberg soon were struggling for tickets. Many relatively unknown members of the cast reached super-stardom, including Idina Menzel (Maureen) and Taye Diggs (Benjamin "Benny" Coffin III).

At the end of its long run, *RENT*, which cost some \$240,000 production dollars initially, wound up reaping more than \$280 million dollars on Broadway and another \$330 million on the road. A movie version of the show included most of the original cast, with Rosario Dawson playing Mimi Marquez instead of Daphne Rubin-Vega. During its impressive dozen-year run, *RENT* was performed in 49 cities across the globe, including Hong Kong and Buenos Aires. The beloved songs and recognizable dialogue were also translated into 20 different languages.

By the time the final curtain call comes along, *RENT* will have been performed for 930,180 minutes. The play was one of the most popular on Broadway and many are sad to see it go. If you haven't yet seen the play, buy tickets soon – performances go only up until the first of June.



The Broadway cast of *RENT*.

Courtesy Theater Dogs

## TV Going Digital : Analog Out

Amanda Corrado

Staff Writer

On February 17, 2009 all full-power broadcast television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. Digital broadcasting will allow stations to offer improved picture and sound quality and additional channels.

Digital Television (DTV) is an advanced broadcasting technology that will transform your television viewing experience. DTV enables broadcasters to offer television with better picture and sound quality. It can also offer multiple programming choices, called multicasting, and interactive abilities. TV stations serving all markets in the United States are airing digital television programming today, although most will continue to provide analog programming through February 17, 2009. At that point, full-power TV stations will stop broadcasting on analog channels, and the spectrum they use for analog broadcasting will be put to other uses.

Converting to DTV also will free up parts of the scarce and valuable broadcast spectrum for other important services, such as public and safety services (police and fire departments, emergency rescue), and wireless services.

The Commission's digital tuner rule

states that as of March 1, 2007, all new televisions must include digital tuners. This rule forbids the manufacture or shipment of any device containing an analog tuner, unless it also contains a digital tuner. Despite this ban on manufacture and shipment, retailers may continue to sell analog-only devices from existing inventory. As a result, at the point of sale, many consumers may not be aware that this equipment will not be able to receive over-the-air-television signals after February 17, 2009.

Analog televisions will need additional equipment to receive over-the-air television when the DTV transition ends.

Consumers who depend on antennas (including outside antennas) to receive over-the-air broadcast signals on TV sets having only analog tuners will need to acquire separate digital-to-analog set-top converter boxes to watch over-the-air TV. Analog sets connected to such converter boxes will display digital broadcasts, but not necessarily in the full, original digital quality.

For more information, call the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-225-5322 (TTY: 1-888-835-5322) or visit the Commission's digital television website at [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov).

## Doubt at HHS: Theatrical Genius

Andy Peng

News Editor

On the opening day of *Doubt: A Parable*, by John Patrick Shanley, scores of uniform computer papers were found hanging from the walls of our beloved high school, eclipsing every vacant square inch in a ubiquitous whiteness. Across each rectangle of deceased tree read "DOUBT" in bold capital letters. The invasion of pro-Doubt propaganda was met with a hurricane of mild controversy. An anonymous syndicate of Harrison environmental activists launched a series of anti-Doubt posters, criticizing the production for its reckless disregard for paper conservation. However, the rogue dissident movement was quickly dispatched without severe disciplinary repercussions.

That night, a modest crowd of about 50 gathered in Harrison High School's newly dubbed "Performing Arts Center" (cough... auditorium... cough) to witness the brainchild behind the bubonic paper plague. A collection of Harrison celebrity icons graced the presence of *Doubt*, including all-star Physics teacher Mr. McRae, part-time rocker Mr. Glauber, and the all-powerful Mrs. DiFazio. The audience gazed in awe upon the formidable wooden cross that stood upon the stage, illuminated by surreal blue candlelight. A melodic musical introduction erupted from Ms. Fusco's organ, and the play was underway.

The spotlight ignited to reveal Louis DiFazio, Harrison's multi-talented prodigy, playing the role of Father Flynn, gowned in a full-blown preacher's robe. A few immature giggles leaked from the audience, but were immediately silenced by the booming rhetorical question, "What do you do when you're not sure?"

From that point on, every mind in the audience was enraptured in the provocative ideological battle between Father Flynn and Sister Aloysius, played by *Miss Saigon* sensation Judy Florio. *Doubt* takes place in 1964, and is the story of a perverse scandal surrounding the progressive character of Father Flynn, who is suspected of molesting a black altar boy named Donald Muller. Flynn defends his relationship with Donald, claiming that Donald's identity as the only black student in the school made it necessary to provide him with an accessible role model. Beneath the turmoil of Flynn's child

molestation investigation, a raging battle between traditionalism and secular reform ensues. Flynn represents the innovative new wave of religious education that violently clashes with Aloysius' stubborn philosophy of strict disciplinary obedience.

Sister James, played by the artistic phenom Kathryn Recchia, serves as an extended symbol of this prevailing theme. Her loyalty to Aloysius' teachings keeps her rooted in traditional practices, but her intrinsic philosophies drive her to sympathize with Flynn's cause. Donald Muller's mother, played by theatrical sorceress Marissa Urgo, is called into a meeting with Aloysius to help validate the case against Flynn, but instead proceeds to endorse Flynn's paternal approach toward guiding her son through racial adversity.



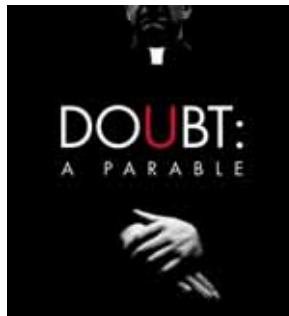
Playwright John Patrick Shanley.

Courtesy Vassar.edu

Tom Blake's freakishly talented cast delivered a heart-stopping performance that kept the audience on the brink of cardiac arrest all night. Louis DiFazio, who made his acting debut as Thuy in Harrison's dazzling performance of *Miss Saigon*, established himself as one of Harrison's premier performers with his charismatic stage presence and his signature vein-bursting episodes of emotional fury. Judy Florio perfectly encapsulated the cold-hearted part of Sister Aloysius, whose condescending rigidity was fierce enough to make grown men cower in fear. Kathryn Recchia did an excellent job of exhibiting Sister James' youthfully innocent and ideologically driven character traits, making her a dynamic character of interest. Marissa Urgo was seemingly created for the tough love character of Mrs. Muller, whose dialogue with Aloysius was both volatile and extremely entertaining.

Tom Blake has once again blessed (pun intended) our school with a veritable slice of theatrical genius. Many can recall last year's powerhouse production of *The Laramie Project*, another triumphant Tom Blake success. Based on the legacy of these two memorable shows, we can arrive at a finite conclusion: Tom Blake has got mad theater game.

(This parenthetical note is dedicated to all the valiant sheets of computer paper that selflessly gave their lives in the promotion of *Doubt*. May their souls rest peacefully at the bottom of a blue recycling bin.)



Play poster courtesy of Olney Theatre

### Write An Article For The Husky Herald!





Baseball is big in Japan's Tokyo Dome. Courtesy of Seattle Mariners

## MLB In Asia

Joey Loreti

Staff Writer

Following the NFL, Major League Baseball has recently taken our national pastime outside the U.S., in hopes of expanding interest in the game. They first took flight to China, where the San Diego Padres faced the Los Angeles Dodgers in a two-game exhibition series. The series was a great success, expanding the American game to parts of the world that are not yet accustomed to the sport. Players thought it cool to play in front of people who had never viewed the game before, as newly converted Chinese fans cheered foul balls and routine outs. This is a first step toward baseball in China, and MLB officials are already scheduling a 2009 return trip there, hoping to keep up interest.

The next move for the MLB was a mini-series opener in Japan, which has hosted the MLB opener in their Tokyo Dome three out of the last nine years. This year's series featured the defending World Series champion Boston Red Sox against the Oakland Athletics. The added media attention was brought by Red Sox ace starting pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka and setup man Hideki Okajima returning to their native country. The opener took extra innings to finish, with the Red Sox eventually coming out victorious on a walk-off double by star Manny Ramirez, who struck his famous pose for the Japanese crowd, thinking he had just hit a three run home run. Oakland was successful in the second game, and the MLB had finished another successful trip to the great country.

Ideas are being thrown around about the possibility of a true "World Series," pitting the American Major League champions against the champions of the Nippon Professional Baseball league in Japan, to see which team should truly be called World Champs. Although this idea has recently been shut down by the MLB, many people would love to see this happen.

Former MLB player and manager Bobby Valentine, who now manages the Pacific League's Chiba Lotte Marines in the NPB, believes that Japanese Baseball is at least equal to MLB baseball, if not superior. On October 27, 2005, Valentine issued a dare to the World Series Champions, proposing a seven-game World Series to be played between the American and Japanese championship teams. The idea was considered, but quickly thrown out by MLB officials who did not feel that there would be ample time for such a World Series to be scheduled and played, and that it would have to compete with the beginning of the NFL season. Many see this as a cowardly move by the MLB, as Americans don't want to risk potentially getting beaten by the NPB champions, which could seriously hurt the integrity of the American World Series championship title.

The NFL originally planned to play a "China Bowl" in Beijing this past August, but decided instead to fund the regular season contest in London between the New York Giants and Miami Dolphins. The China Bowl has been re-scheduled for an August 2009 game. It seems American sports are beginning to expand globally. Perhaps one day we will see all countries compete in order to determine a true world champion.

# 2008 NFL Mock Draft Top 10

Chris Cassavecca

Staff Writer

**Editor's Note:** The following predictions were written several weeks prior to the actual NFL Draft, which took place at Radio City Music Hall on Saturday, April 28, 2008. Amazingly, many of these picks were right on target. Picks 7-10 were affected by trades, as the New Orleans Saints and the Jacksonville Jaguars traded up to 7th and 8th respectively, while New England traded down to the 10 slot.

**1) Dolphins:** Chris Long- DE/OLB Virginia: With Miami having the worst defense in the NFL, giving up an average 27.3 points per game, they would have to go with the need pick here rather than value. Long had an outstanding combine, even though he was frustrated with some of his stellar numbers because he knew he could do even better. Long is a perfect fit for Miami's dreadful defense, and seems like a Bill Parcells guy. There were rumors Miami would draft Matt Ryan, but it looks like its not going to happen. Parcells has faith in Long and you can be more then certain Long will be his choice. (Note: Long was his choice, but it was Jake Long.)

**2) Rams:** Jake Long- OT Michigan: Face it, the Rams need to protect both Marc Bulger and Steven Jackson. More than likely, the Rams would take Jake Long at this pick. They were 28th in points last year, averaging just over 16 points a game. The Rams need some good offensive linemen. They did pick up Jacob Bell from the Titans, but failed to get Alan Faneca. Jake Long would just make their O-Line that much better. (They couldn't get Jake Long, so they took Chris Long instead.)

**3) Falcons:** Matt Ryan- QB Boston College: Everyone knows that, even when Mike Vick does get out of jail, he still won't be the same. Matt Ryan is the common sense choice here. Harrington and Leftwich just couldn't help them out, and I think Joe Horn would say the same. The Falcons need someone who can throw under pressure in the pocket and Ryan would be their guy. The Falcons were 29th overall in points per game last year with 16.2. Ryan would surely help them boost that average up next year. (Ryan was the choice.)

**4) Raiders:** Darren McFadden- RB Arkansas: Even though the Raiders did just re-sign Justin Fargas, McFadden could be the future of this franchise. The Raiders were sixth last year in rushing yards, but McFadden could make them first. The Raiders don't have that strong of an O-Line, but McFadden knows his way around that. The Raiders could compare to the Vikings by taking McFadden at this pick, which is saying a lot, and if the Raiders don't take him, the Chiefs or the Jets will. (McFadden was selected.)

**5) Chiefs:** Glenn Dorsey- DT LSU: With the best Defensive Lineman out, Dorsey would be the next best thing. The Chiefs' rush defense was horrific this past year and this pick would be Herm's man. Herman Edwards, a much better defensive coach than offensive, would want Dorsey at this pick. Even with that concern of his injury this season. Dorsey is the no-brainer choice at this spot. They gave up an average of 20.9 points per game last year, along with 130 rushing yards per game. Dorsey should be able to shut that run down. (True to form, the Chiefs chose Dorsey.)

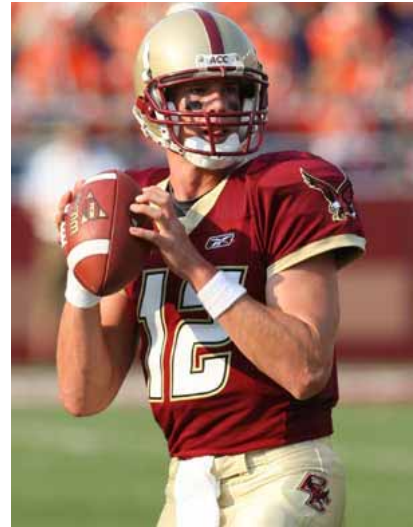
**6) Jets:** Vernon Gholston- DE/OLB Ohio State: The Jets had the worst of all defenses last year. Even though the Jets had a tremendous off-season so far, signing Calvin Pace and Kris Jenkins through trade, they are already that much better, but Gholston would seal the deal. Gholston put up the best combine numbers, with 37 reps and clocking in a 4.6 second 40. Gholston was the tackling machine over at OSU and I could only imagine what he could do for the Jets. David Harris had a very successful season last year and with Gholston stopping the outside run and the combination of blitz packages with these two together, the Jets defense could be explosive. The Jets would be stupid not to pick up Gholston, although it wouldn't be a surprise if they didn't. (Surprise, they did.)

**7) Patriots Via San Francisco:** Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie- CB Tennessee State: It's pretty sad to see an 18-1 team get the seventh pick overall, but because of a trade last year from San Fran the Patriots get this opportunity. As most people know, the Patriots lost two of their valuable corners to free agency, Randall Gay to New Orleans and Asante Samuel to the Eagles. They are going to have to fill some pretty big shoes at this spot. They might also want to trade down, as Cromartie might last till the 14th or 15th pick, along with Leodis McKelvin and Aquib Talib, who also are high potential corners. I can see the Pats picking any of these three at this spot, but my money's on Rodgers-Cromartie. (The Pats traded down. New Orleans selected Sedrick Ellis here. Rodgers-Cromartie was selected by Arizona in the 16th pick.)

**8) Ravens:** Ryan Clady- OT Boise State: Although they have Jonathan Ogden on the offensive line, the addition of Clady would just make it that much better. He had a great combine and has showed great strength in his past college games with Boise State. Since the Ravens will most likely use Troy Smith as their starting QB, they may want to be able to provide more protection for him, especially since he is a young quarterback. The Ravens would be happy with this pick as long as Matt Ryan is off the board. They would have to go with the "need" pick in this situation. (Jacksonville traded up and selected DE Derrick Harvey out of Florida here. Ryan Clady was selected in the 12th pick by Denver.)

**9) Bengals:** Sedrick Ellis- DT USC: The Bengals, no questions asked, need a defensive lineman. Their offense is good enough as long as Palmer stays healthy and Chad Johnson doesn't run his mouth. Defensive weakness was a key factor last year, with the Bengals winding up 27th overall in total defense. They gave up an average 118.3 rushing yards per game and they could definitely decrease that number with Ellis on the line. Last year the Bengals had an overall bad year, but they will turn it around this year. You will see the Bengals on top of the AFC North this next season. (With Ellis already off the board, the Bengals selected LB Keith Rivers out of Southern Cal.)

**10) Saints:** Leodis McKelvin- CB Troy State: The New Orleans Saints' defense was almost as bad as Cincinnati's last year, except they gave up less rushing yards per game. They did have a problem defending the pass and Leodis McKelvin will be their guy at this pick. McKelvin will be a starter as soon as he gets drafted. The Saints don't have a true starting cornerback besides McKenzie and he only had three interceptions last year and has lost some of his speed. McKelvin is fast, he has good instincts as to where the quarterback is looking to throw, and he has great hands. He can immediately make an impact on this struggling defense. I see a bright future for McKelvin. (The New England Patriots selected OLB Jerod Mayo from Tennessee at this slot. Leodis McKelvin wound up being selected the very next pick, at 11, by the Buffalo Bills.)



Matt Ryan was the first QB selected in this year's draft. Courtesy of Athlon Sports



Offensive tackle Jake Long of Michigan was the first player selected in this year's NFL College Draft. Courtesy of Michigan Football

# Huskies Tee It Up For A Four-Peat

Hank Rubenstein

Sports Editor

Rarely is it seen in high school sports that one of the most successful teams also produces one of the highest overall grade point averages. Usually, teams that play in back-to-back Section Championships are the kind of teams that struggle to keep everyone academically eligible. But not Harrison's golf team -- a team that consistently, year after year, produces low scores on the golf course and high scores in the classroom. Last season almost the entire team went to the sectional tournament and several kids went on to States. "We've got a well rounded



Andrew Lichtenauer sizes up a putt.  
Courtesy of Matthew Brown/The Journal News

group of kids," says Coach Bob Borgia. "Their motivation to get better as players obviously carries over into the classroom."

While not necessarily the toughest guys in the school, last season they made their mark in the school history books by completing the team's first three-peat of league titles. The 2005 Huskies turned heads and produced one of the best squads in Section 1. That season Harrison made their name known at the Sectional Tournament when Coach Borgia brought five top-flight golfers to compete for the honor of Section 1's best golfer. When the 2006 season came around, it was all business for the HHS golf team, who were bringing back a solid six strong golfers, four of whom had qualified for the sectional tournament the year prior. As 2007 came and went, Harrison produced six golfers in the Sectional Tournament, and qualified to play in the team Sectional championship.

Now, on the verge of the 2008 season, the team hopes to make history by becoming the first Harrison team ever to win four back-to-back league titles. "It's not going to be easy to win the fourth," notes senior Robbie Williams. "We graduated some great players last season. It'll be interesting to see if we can fill up the lost space."

This year's roster only returns three starters from last year, leaving slots open for three new starters. "We've got a few good underclassmen that might be able to help us out," says Coach Borgia. In the first match of the season Harrison set out against league rival Nyack. In recent years, it's not unusual for some



Chris Malfitano eyes a long drive.

Courtesy of Matthew Brown/The Journal News

of the golf team's players to post high scores in the first match because, as Coach Borgia terms it, "they're getting the bugs out of their system early."

As expected the roster looked a little different than last year: Andrew Lichtenauer moved up from 4 seed to 2, Chris Malfitano moved from 6 to 3, while Robbie Williams stayed put in the one hole. Coach Borgia is looking to underclassman Michael DiTursi, Nathaniel Burmen and junior Steven "Stevey D" Dimilia to fill the remaining spots.

"So they weren't exactly our best scores ever, we'll just have to live with what we shot," says Steven Dimilia. The Huskies posted an overall 229, which wasn't quite good enough to take down Nyack, who shot a 227. "It's a rough loss, it would have been nice to start the season off with a win," says junior Chris Malfitano, "but what you've got to tell yourself in golf is you're only

as good as your next shot."

Eager to atone for that loss and prove worthy of obtaining another league title and beyond, the Huskies next headed to Westchester Country Club to take on the Quakers of Horace Greeley. With the adrenaline flowing, Harrison shaved 13 strokes off their previous score to a shoot an impressive 216 to beat the Quakers. The team was lead by senior Andrew Lichtenauer, who shot a remarkable 39. "The team played better today, everyone shot a little lower," notes Lichtenauer, "Hopefully now things will start rolling and the scores will get even lower."

The team heads into the bulk of its season with their minds set on making history. "Three-peats are cool, four-peats are even cooler," says senior Robbie Williams, "It would be sick to be part of history."

## Spring Sports Preview 2008

Hank Rubenstein

Sports Editor

### Baseball

As the 2008 season approaches, the Varsity Boys' Baseball team looks to gain focus and work hard toward achieving another winning season. Since the team's tough one run loss to Brewster, 7-6, in the second round of the sectional tournament last season, the boys have been working exceptionally hard to make amends this year. After finishing last season 11-12, Coach DiRuocco has been working hard during the off-season in preparation for the challenges of 2008.

"We've got a long season ahead of us; it's not going to be a cake walk," says Coach DiRuocco. "If the boys are going to want to win, they're going to have to work for it." DiRuocco, who has been the varsity boys' baseball coach for the last three years, has seen a fair amount of success while at Harrison. "Winning is tough, but I make the kids realize that it doesn't come easy," he says. "I've had some good teams and some bad ones while coaching baseball, but I've seen successes from all of them because they were able to understand what it takes to win."

Eight returning players from last year grace the current roster. "It's nice to be a vet," says junior Phil Dilulio. "It means we have a little experience under our belt, but we also must act as leaders for the rookies." The team's

three key pitchers are all veterans: senior Artie Fucile and juniors Phil Dilulio and Charlie Galasso. "Pitching is key every season," notes Coach DiRuocco. "We're looking at few more kids to throw some innings this season, but no one we're quite sure of yet." Other veterans DiRuocco will be looking to for a strong season include seniors Tom Murray, Nick Giorgi, Tim Mustacato, and Mike Staklas, as well as juniors Anthony Battaglia and Pat Stiso.

### Lacrosse

With the smell of spring in the air, the Boys' Lacrosse team knows it's time for a fresh season. The HHS Lax crew has been working hard, preparing for a 2008 season that promises an improvement over the past season's 7-10 record. "It's been a long off season," says junior Max Jaffe. "We've worked pretty hard as a team to get ready for the season. We've participated in summer leagues, weight lifting, agility and skills training, I'd hate to see our efforts go to waste."

Jaffe looks to lead Harrison's defense along with other key veterans, junior Justin Segal and senior goalkeeper Bryan "Boo" Cipolla. Cipolla, who has manned the spot between the posts for the past two years, will be looked to this year for another strong

season. "Boo's a pretty good goalie," says junior Justin Segal. "He really helped us out a lot last season, helped us win a few close games."

With the loss of three top seniors to graduation, the 2008 squad looks to rebuild its mid-field and attack this season. "We only have five or six returning players from last year's attack and midfield, but I've got a lot of confidence in the ones we have back, and a few newcomers," says Coach Kinisky. Kinisky, the varsity coach for the past two years, has worked tirelessly during the off-season to prepare his team for the top Section 1 competition they'll be facing this year. "When the big games come around, I'll be looking towards the veterans to really step up and motivate the team," says Kinisky. "It's their job to keep the momentum moving." Kinisky has big hopes for Junior Matt Foristel, who last season scored 23 goals and recorded eight assists.

Only 10 players are back from last year's roster, but hopes rest strongly on



Goalie Bryan "Boo" Cipolla saves another goal.

Courtesy of Dave Kennedy/The Journal News

former JV players Jeff Heine, Danny Fraioli and Antonio Britto. The team also will get additional help from two new students at HHS, Kyle McDonald and Thomas "Cary" Boucher. "The addition of McDonald and Boucher will most definitely help our team," notes junior Ben Puritan. "Both are strong midfielders and will be effective on the attack."



# Inside The NFL: Goodell Speaks

(Continued from Back Page)

higher. I believe in that very much. I have always stated that our biggest challenge is complacency. You have to continually look ahead at the challenges and don't assume that our past success is going to lead to future success.

**HH:** How do you compete with other forms of entertainment?

**RG:** It starts with the game, the quality – everything you do has to represent quality. It reflects on the brand. I have spent a lot of time thinking about the brand of the NFL and the brand of the 32 clubs. Everything that is done should reflect the positive values of the brand. And that is really something that we have instilled across everyone: our integrity, what our brand represents. We want that to be positive; people know they are getting high quality entertainment.

**HH:** Does the NFL plan on having Super Bowls overseas?

**RG:** I'm not planning on it. I know there is interest from international cities on having the Super Bowl, which doesn't surprise any of us, because I think it has become a world-wide event. It is of tremendous value to the cities that host it. But that is a decision that will be made by the ownership. Right now we are not considering that.

**HH:** How important is the internet (NFL.com) to the NFL?



Both Bill Belichick and his team were fined in the "Spygate" scandal. *Courtesy of WordPress*

**RG:** It's another opportunity for the fans to get closer to football. We are in the business of making more football available to more people. The younger generation is getting their information from different sources than I did when I was a kid, because those sources did not exist. We focus in on those places, where people are seeking entertainment or information. The internet is clearly a new opportunity available to everyone that the younger demographic is taking advantage of. We are making certain that our product, our game, our entertainment, is available to them.



*Courtesy of NFL Films*

**HH:** NFL Network is not currently available on Cablevision in Harrison. When will we be able to watch it?

**RG:** We believe the NFL Network is of great value, of high quality and is in great demand. Unfortunately the roadblock we have gotten with a couple of cable operators is not in the best interest of the consumers. In a couple of cases, these operators prefer their sports channels, the channels that they own, over the NFL Network. We think that's wrong. As distributors of content, they should distribute the best content, not just content that they own.

**HH:** How do you plan to push past "Spygate" and protect the integrity of the game?

**RG:** You have to close it, in the sense that you have to recognize, have there been any more violations?

To date, we haven't found anything outside of what we originally found, which was against our policy: the taping of defensive signals. We ended up fining and disciplining the club, as well as the individual very aggressively. I think that we sent a strong message that we are not going to allow people to violate our policies. On the other hand, if there is more information there, we have to make sure to look at that. To date, we have not found any new facts. We still have to speak to (former New England Patriot video assistant) Matt Walsh. If there is new information, we want to make sure we are aware of it and I have said that from Day One. We are moving forward by taking the steps we took last Fall, identifying this as a violation of policy and sending a strong message with the discipline. We have identified several (new) steps that the Competition Committee is reviewing, and we will make recommendations about steps we will take going forward to insure compliance with our policy.

**HH:** Do you hold your players to a higher standard? Is there a code of conduct for an NFL player?

**RG:** There is a code of conduct for everyone associated at the NFL, including the Commissioner. Because of our popularity and the interest in our game, when people make mistakes, which we all do, they are magnified. We have to recognize that responsibility. We have a responsibility to our fans and to the young people that idolize a lot of things we do in the NFL. I want to make sure that is a positive reflection of the NFL; it goes back to our brand.

**HH:** What is the NFL's approach to prevent steroid abuse?

**RG:** The most important thing is to stay current, to make sure that you're looking at what the changes in technology are, what the changes in testing are, what the changes in rehabilitation or education are, and making sure our



Adam "Pacman" Jones was suspended for an entire season due to off-field misconduct. *Courtesy of Sports Illustrated*

policies reflect the latest information, the latest technologies and that our program is implemented in such a way that we will bring credibility to it. We have tested for over 20 years, and we do believe we are a pioneer in (testing for) performance enhancing drugs. Anytime you have this type of thing in society, it encourages people to find another way to get around the rules, and that is just something we have to continually stay ahead of. You can never assume that you have beaten an issue; you're going to have to assume that someone is going to develop another technique, another alternative and you have to stay ahead of it.

**HH:** What is the theme of the upcoming season?

**RG:** The theme is to continue to make every aspect of the NFL exciting, entertaining, unpredictable, and to continue to have it be the best reality content in the world.

**HH:** In closing, what do you want the NFL to look like in 2020?

**RG:** I can't tell the future. I want to see the strength of the NFL brand become global and have people recognize it represents the highest quality entertainment. Also, that we continue to deepen and broaden our relationship with our fans so that there are more ways to experience football, to have a greater emotional connection.

## Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Eager For Another Winning Season

Allie Schnitta

Staff Writer

After going undefeated last year, the Harrison Huskies Varsity Girl's Lacrosse Team is ready to start another action-packed season, hoping to repeat their victorious trip to the title game. Seniors Meghan Brady, Allie Prieston, and Allie Defonce have three years of varsity experience behind them now and have been powerful contributors to the team in past wins. Last season Brady was a huge asset to Lady Huskies, scoring goals at every turn. As a forward, her strength and energy bolstered the team's success. Her agility and amazing shooting ability will continue to play a large part in this, her final season. Senior Allie Prieston, already a one year captain, also has been an integral player for this team. Her positive, upbeat attitude has helped power the Huskies' forward line. Senior Allie Defonce remains one of the fastest players on the team. Her speed and agility has helped boost the team onto victory time and again.

The team was excited to win last year. Making it to the sectionals proved a major event for the team. This year Coach Rosen and Coach Zapalla want

even better results and feel that, since the team is moving up a level from last year, the girls have to practice even harder to be just as successful and win.

This year's varsity team has a majority of returning juniors with some incoming sophomores and freshman to round off the well-balanced roster. According to Captain Meghan Brady, "The team is looking really good at practice and I feel that, if we work hard together as a team, we will be able to win a lot of games this season. This year there are a lot of younger athletic players which is great because we all get along really well and they have already helped contribute to the team's success."

At the end of last season, the Lady Huskies had to say goodbye to one of the best goalies Harrison Lacrosse has ever known. Players and coaches have been scouting around for students with the potential to be efficient goalkeepers for this upcoming season. Two additions to the team have stepped up to fill that role: sophomore Sam Stump and freshman Katie Edin, and the team is optimistic.

"It's a good feeling when you know that there is an athletic goal ready to back you up when the opposing forward line brings the ball down the field," says defender Jess Chestler. "The new goalies have good hand-eye coordination and are quick on their feet. It almost seems like they have been playing for years!"

So far, this has been the case. The team already has beaten both Byram Hills and Clarkston in impressive scrimmages. If those are an indicator of what's ahead this season, look for big successes. The Lady Huskies won 12-5 against Byram Hills and by a score of 15-5 against Clarkston.

"Winning the ball in the draw at the very start of the game and after every goal scored is an extremely important factor, because it allows the team to get a head start and run the ball down the field towards the opposing goal," explained center Sara Misisco. "Harrison has won the ball after almost every single draw in the past scrimmages." Captain Allie Defonce noted that the team is in great shape. "We are always

pumped up before games," she said. "Connecting with your teammates is the key for being able to work the ball around in the forward line, and we are in the process of working on that." In preparation for another winning season, the Lady Huskies are taking an exciting team trip to Baltimore, Maryland.



Sara Misisco catches a pass downfield. *Courtesy of Melissa Shapiro*

# An Exclusive Interview With The Most Powerful Person In Sports: NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell

Dominique Cuce

Staff Writer

The stately building at 280 Park Avenue is the official home of the National Football League (NFL). On the 17th Floor is the office of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, the most powerful person in sports, according to *Business Week*.

Goodell grew up in Westchester. He attended Bronxville High School, where his early interest in sports was obvious. Goodell was captain of the football, baseball, and basketball teams. He continued his lifelong love for sports when joining the NFL as an administrative intern in 1982. His succession to the top became official on August 6, 2006, when Goodell was named the eighth chief executive in the League's 88 year history. Since then, his tenure has been marked by many challenges and issues.

The Husky Herald's own Dominique Cuce recently had an opportunity to interview the Commissioner personally. Here then is a chance to better understand the decisions, thoughts, and strategies of the man behind America's most popular sport.

**HH:** Let's say there was an online posting at Monster or Career Builder for this Commissioner position. What would the job requirements be?

**RG:** I think it takes a variety of different skill sets, because there are so many roles you have to play. At times maybe the biggest, largest responsibility of the job involves dispute resolution, with disputes among partners (the clubs). I think that is a big part of the job.

**HH:** How do you make everyone, the owners, players, and the fans happy?

**RG:** You don't. Your job is not to make everyone happy, that's a false objective. I don't think it's achievable.



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell

Someone is probably not going to be happy with the outcome. I think you want them to understand that you have been thorough, fair, and when you have reached a conclusion, that you communicate that properly. Not everyone is going to be satisfied with that outcome, including the fans, which are big drivers for me.

I think I have a huge responsibility to the fans. You have to recognize issues from the fan's perspective and do what you think is in the best interest of the game. You have to have a very strong conviction of doing what is right. People feel that I'm overly influ-

enced by the owners because they hire me, or the media because they criticize me, or the fans because they pay the bills, but the reality is I don't feel like I'm being dictated to -- I have to balance all of those things and make the best decisions for the NFL.

**HH:** After two full seasons as Commissioner, what would you consider your top accomplishments so far?

**RG:** I haven't even spent any time thinking about that. I think about how we can continue to make the NFL stronger. I don't look in the rearview

mirror much, unless it can be constructive to me. I don't think about it in terms of accomplishments or legacies. I think of it as what are the challenges ahead, and we do we still need to address those challenges.

**HH:** Who are your mentors?

**RG:** I am very fortunate, I have many mentors: family members, teachers, coaches, and my father. My mother was a very big influence; sometimes people overlook that because my father was a (U.S.) Senator (Charles Goodell). And I think none of us get to where we are by ourselves, we get there by the influence of a lot of people. I think that's good, you want to surround yourself with a lot of good people that will bring you perspective. I have a big belief in mentoring.

**HH:** What advice would you give to high school students who might be interested in a career in professional sports?

**RG:** This will probably be unpopular with most of the teachers (laughs). I think the most valuable skill set is not necessarily the course work you take, but learning how to learn and learning how to deal with different types of people. I think those are the two most significant things you get out of your education.

**HH:** Congratulations on having 13 NFL games turn out to be 13 of the 15 top-rated TV shows this past season. How would you define a successful season?

**RG:** I am what you might describe as a "Type A" personality. When I see 13 out of 15, I start saying, how do we get 15 out of 15? Every time we have achieved success, the bar is raised higher, so we have to jump  
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## Freshman Brennan & Teammates Capture National Synchronized Figure Skating Medal

Hank Rubenstein

Sports Editor

Synchronized Figure Skating is one of the toughest sports imaginable. It takes figure skating to a whole new level. Synchronized skating is team skating - 18 anxious skaters performing high speed turns, going backwards, skating as a coordinated unit together and trying not to fall. There's loud music, elaborate costumes, grueling practices in freezing rinks, and high level competitions - first local, then regional, and finally nationals! This



Team Image skating as one!  
Courtesy of Eric Serrantes

year, Harrison High School's Leilani Brennan was part of the team that received a Pewter Medal at the U.S. Figure Skating Synchronized Skating Championships in Providence, Rhode Island.

This team, known as Team Image, is part of the Yonkers Figure Skating Club. Brennan and her teammates were the last team to skate in the 12-team Intermediate Competition at the Nationals in late February. The team skated to an impressive 58 point score to secure Fourth Place and the Pewter Medal in the tough Intermediate Division. It was Coach Sylvia Muccio's first national medal in synchronized skating, and capped a splendid season for the teens from Yonkers and Murray's Rink.

"It's really something special to win your first national medal as a coach, it means you're doing something right," said Muccio. The 58.20 points posted

in the four-minute skate featured control, splendidly pronounced edges, grace and power skated to tango themes. Team Image's finish was just five points shy of first place winners, the Wisconsin Blades of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Team Del Sol of San Diego and the Chicago Jazz placed second and third, respectively.

Synchronized skating originally was called "precision skating," due to the emphasis on maintaining precise formations and timing of the group. Synchronized skating competitions are now judged using the ISU Judging System that was introduced in 2004.

Each element is assigned a difficulty level that corresponds to a base value. Judges assign a grade of execution from -3 to +3, with 0 being the base value. Each grade of execution, or GOE, corresponds to a point value. The sum of all the scores of the elements comprises the Technical Ele-



ments score. A series of five categories comprises the Program Components score. Each judge gives a score for each category. The Technical Elements and Program Components scores are then added to form the total segment score. The team with the highest total segment wins the competition.

Freshman Leilani Brennan, figure skating since she was four, looks to continue her career as a skater and member of Team Image in the near future. "Skating is a lot of fun," says Brennan. "I've met a lot of great people, but have also learned a lot of important life lessons, including discipline and commitment."