

# Husky Herald

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Harrison High School

May 2009

## Disney Trip: A Dream Come True

Jessica Peña

Music Editor

Sadly, there were no Miley Cyrus sightings, but Harrison High School did win plenty of awards. After winning several awards at last year's *Heritage Music Festival* in the hometown of country music, Nashville, Tennessee, and after performing at Lincoln Center (one of the three campuses of Fordham University), the Harrison High School Marching Band and Chorus took on their toughest challenge yet. This time it was the challenge of Mickey Mouse and his gang, the Princesses and their Prince Charmings and the horrible and terrible villains of Disney.

For a few days, the band and the chorus flew down to Orlando to participate in the Magic Music Days Festival at Disney World. The Harrison High School Band, majorettes, and color guard marched down Main Street, while the chorus participated in its own choir showdown on a world stage.

"This is the largest group," says Rose DiFazio, a member of the Uniform Committee and mother of Sophomore Class President, Adrianna DiFazio, and former Drum Majors Louis and Stephanie DiFazio. Indeed it was – so large a group that the chorus and band members boarded on two separate planes. One plane boarded more than 85 students, the other boarded another hundred.

"We were excited to go to Disney," said Nancy Vernali, another member of the Uniform Committee. Students such as juniors Marina Andrade (band member) and Yasunori Miyajima (band and chorus member) shared in this excitement.

"This is where the magic happens," said Marina, who was accompanied by her sister on the trip, making it an Andrade sister getaway. Yasu, on the other hand, said that he's been waiting all his life for this trip, and many seniors agreed. Senior Katie Markowitz had only four words to express her

feelings about the trip: "We're going to Disney!"

What is better than spending a few days with your friends at Disney? Perhaps nothing short of getting accepted at your college of choice might be better, but it wasn't all rest and relaxation. The band and chorus had to do some serious preparation before this trip. They spent days rehearsing and practicing their music and march-

ing, thanks to the special talents of Mr. Nichol (Cable TV Club) who videotaped the band marching and the choir singing.

The band also did their usual fundraiser, the Band-a-Thon. The entire band, color guard, and majorettes got the opportunity to participate in the fundraiser, which included music from alums and local garage bands. According to Tamie Miyajima, another member of the Uniform Committee and Yasu's mother, everyone did a great job.

Once the band and chorus were

scheduled for the festival, it was time to perfect their marching and vocals, in order to try to take down as many awards as possible. The chorus joined the band for the second consecutive year on its annual festival trip.

"The chorus and I were very excited to travel with the band again," said Lynn Fusco, faculty leader of the HHS chorus. "We are looking forward to represent the Harrison High School

interesting challenge of handling this enormous student group going to Disney. Dr. Pasqua said that this festival was his favorite: "Everything that takes place is magical!"

Mr. Briem said the best thing about being in Disney was getting the opportunity to perform on a world stage.

"We get to play for thousands of people who travel from all over the world, who have arrived with high expectations, and don't know who we are or even that we will be there," said Mr. Briem. "We get to be part of a memory that will last a lifetime. Now that's a performance!"

At Disney, the fun started at 6 a.m. Tuesday and continued on from there. The first adventure that both student groups took was chilling out and getting wet at Blizzard Beach.

"It was a great time," said sophomore Joe Pepe. However, many kids forgot to put on sunscreen, leading to an unpleasant sunburn and accompanying pain. After checking into hotel rooms and getting settled in, the two groups went to Planet Hollywood for dinner.

"It was an amazing place," said freshman Paul Park.

"One of the nights was a lot of fun," said senior Sean Neu. "We also got lost at the All Star Music Hotel with Bert, Katie, and Gina."

The next day was a work day for everyone. The visual group had their workshop at Animal Kingdom, Disney's main area for auditioning.

"The workshop was interesting because the majorettes got to experience something new," said Dom Cuce, majorette, who got to learn flag routines to the song "You'll Be In My Heart" from Tarzan.

During the saber routine to Aladdin, the majorettes and color guard got an unexpected visit from Goofy.

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The HHS Band marches down Main Street USA.

Courtesy of Gary Morgen



The HHS Band poses in front of Epcot.

Courtesy of Gary Morgen

# Magic Music Days At Disney



(Continued from Front Page)

"I cried when I saw him," said junior color guard member Jen Paravani.

The band also got a chance to help out with the Tarzan and Aladdin routines. For Tarzan, Dr. Pasqua and Ms. Fusco needed to assist the band in making animal sounds. Word on the street is that Ms. Fusco does a mean "elephant" sound.

"It was hysterical," said freshman Rachel Ostreicher, who thought it was an experience of a lifetime. However, it was a dream come true for flutist Fabiel Jean-Philippe because Aladdin is

her favorite Disney movie. Not only did she get to play music from the movie, but she also got to meet and take a picture with Princess Jasmine and Prince Aladdin at Magic Kingdom the very next day. "It was the best part about this trip," Fabiel said.

After those two workshops, it was time to march down Main Street at Disney's Magic Kingdom.

"It was exhilarating," said sophomore Emma Kate Lindsay, "especially when we got cheered."

The band and visual group nervous about marching at Disney, but when cheered on by strangers it boosted everyone's confidence.

"Our performance this time was spectacular and some may even say it was magical," said Dr. Pasqua. After the very short march, the crew from HHS went backstage to change into "summer" clothes. While backstage,



The Chorus performs in downtown Disney. Courtesy of Gary Morgen

many from the band met Disney characters such as Snow White and a few random Princes. The students were given free book packs and a trophy for the Harrison High School Band's participation in Disney's Magic Music Days Festival. Not only that, but some band members also made the acquaintance of marching band members from other schools.

Next up on the busy schedule was a visit to the M-G-M Park or Hollywood Studios, which the chorus missed out on, since their workshop occurred then. Yet that workshop truly was a memorable experience.

"It brought the chorus together

and it helped us work on our sight reading," said Judy Florio. The chorus got to do *The Lion King* for their workshop. They got to do a melody for one of the songs and watched how it came to life on the big screen, when special effects artists did their magic.

Meanwhile the other people at M-G-M spent their time screaming on rides such as the "Drop Down Elevator" and the Tower of Terror, the inspiration for a Disney movie in the early '90s, starring Kirsten Dunst. The pictures that were taken say it all. Another screaming attraction was the famous Aerosmith's Rock N' Roller Coaster, an inside roller coaster which features songs from the band. "It was mind blowing," said color guard captain and senior Brittany O'Donnell. "However, it was a short ride."

On Friday, the entire group headed down to the Magic Kingdom, where many of the students took pictures with lovable Disney characters such as Alice (Alice in Wonderland), chipmunks Chip and Dale, Pluto, and Rafiki (the crazy baboon from *The Lion King*). Junior Tijana Maletic got her dream fulfilled when she got an autograph

Seuss Landing. At Marvel Super Hero Island, the two biggest rides were the Hulk roller coaster, which many waited an hour to ride, but it was worth it.

Many headed toward Toon Lagoon, where several band and chorus students got soaked. By the end of the day, the group dried off and many headed off to see Sinbad's Show. The show was good, but short.

On the last day of the trip was spent at Disney's Epcot. "It was an amazing way to end senior year," said Brittany O'Donnell, who got a picture with Princess Aurora along with her friend Katherine Yootidies, which was a dream come true (since they had been those characters this past Halloween).

They weren't the only ones who got pictures with Disney Characters. Junior Richard Song got a picture with Stitch from *Lilo and Stitch*. Stitch pointed out Richard's pink shirt underneath his white shirt and laughed at him. Richard said, "Hey, it's just guy in a suit." Taking no offense, he headed



Majorettes and Color Guard go Goofy.

Courtesy of Gary Morgen

from Donald Duck. "I was thrilled," she said. "I was so happy that day."

It was the big day for the chorus, as they sang at downtown Disney. They performed many songs such as "The Beatles Medley," "Sleep," and a spiritual entitled "Wade in the Water." Ms. Fusco had this to say about the group's performances that day: "I was pleased with their musicality." After that, it was back to Magic Kingdom for some more fun.

On Saturday, the HHS group left Disney and headed to Universal Studios, where many students were seeking the thrills of the roller coaster central at Islands of Adventure. The park consists of five parks: Marvel Super Hero Island, the Toon Lagoon, Jurassic Park, The Lost Continent, and

out to enjoy Japanese food at one of Epcot's international restaurants.

Later that day, the first group already was on its way to the airport. It was sad to leave the hot weather of Florida to return to the cold weather of New York. The atmosphere on the plane ride was quiet, perhaps offering many a chance to rest up from all the excitement of the past five action-packed days.

"I slept on the plane," said senior Kenny Dow, who had a blast on the trip with his friends. After arriving at JFK International airport, it seemed as though the trip had never happened -- perhaps it was only a very fun-filled dream -- but the awards and the memories proved otherwise.

## The Husky Herald Staff 2008 - 2009

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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.

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## Feeley Fund Appeal

The Eugene J. Feeley Harrison High School Student Aid Fund has mailed its annual appeal to the Harrison community. The Fund, now in its 62nd year, is collecting monies to enable eligible Harrison High School graduates to further their higher education and training in accredited colleges and schools.

Each year, some fifteen to twenty needy and deserving students are awarded grants that range from \$100 to \$1,000, all made possible through the gen-

erosity of Harrison residents, parents, and staff.

"Our young people need your support to meet the ever-increasing costs of higher education," says Fund Director Lola Geiger. "The Feeley Fund needs the Harrison community to share its increasing confidence in the future of our Harrison youth."

Checks can be made payable to: The Feeley Fund, Attn: Ms. Lola Geiger, Harrison High School, 255 Union Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528.

# New Teacher Feature: Ms. Hoover

Emma Glass

Managing Editor

The *Husky Herald* had the chance to sit down with Ms. Lara Hoover, who is in her first year teaching at Harrison High School. Ms. Hoover teaches Integrated Geometry, SAT Prep, and Probability and Statistics. Read on to learn more about Ms. Hoover.

**HH:** Have you always wanted to be a teacher?

**LH:** For a while, probably since I was in high school. I had a really good math teacher in high school and his parting words to us were, "If any of you find a time in your life when you don't know what to do, be a math teacher, they're needed!" I originally wanted to be a music teacher, but I found it wasn't for me.

**HH:** Where have you taught before coming to Harrison High School?

**LH:** Nowhere, actually, but I student-taught in Dryden High School and Horseheads Middle School -- they are both in upstate New York.

**HH:** How did you happen to find Harrison High School?

**LH:** I found the high school at a job fair. It was actually the first interview that I had. I was very excited

when I talked to Dr. Ladewig [the district's Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources] because it sounded like a really great school to work at.

**HH:** Was math your favorite subject as a teenager?

**LH:** Actually, it was either music or chemistry, and orchestra was definitely a highlight of my day.

**HH:** You were in the orchestra? What instrument did you play?

**LH:** I played the cello, and I started when I was in third grade. I still play [laughs] though not very often or very well.

**HH:** Where did you grow up?

**LH:** Ithaca, NY. I went to Ithaca High School, I did my freshman year at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania, but I finished my degree and masters at Ithaca College.

**HH:** Do you have any stories about a favorite or inspirational teacher?

**LH:** Yes, my senior calculus teacher was the one who convinced me to become a math teacher. I was

not the kid who got the 99s easily; I had to really work at it. I hoped that having to struggle at that would make me a better teacher for students for whom math doesn't come naturally. But I am not sympathetic to kids who do not do their work, it's important.

**HH:** Do you have any suggestions or words of encouragement for students who may struggle in a math class?

**LH:** [Laughs] Do your work! My experience has been that by putting in the effort and attempting a problem by looking for help in your textbook and on the internet is essential. Even when you don't know how to do it, if you really work on it, you will get really far. And when you come to a math teacher for help, you have that foundation. If you just "give up," you will



Ms. Hoover helps Allie figure it out. *Courtesy Marissa DeCarlo* not have as much experience with the problem.

**HH:** That sounds like good advice, especially to those for whom math is not their best subject. Finally, what do you enjoy doing in your free time?

**LH:** I love to read, and my favorite book of all time is *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. I also like to exercise on occasion, and I love baking (cookies), but I would really love to learn how to cook.

# A Legacy of Liberty -- Law Day 2009

Hank Rubenstein

Co-Editor-in-Chief

"A legacy of liberty-celebrating Lincoln's Bicentennial" was the slogan for this year's Law Day, which took place at HHS on April 21. The year 2009 marks the bicentennial anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth; as a prominent lawyer of his time, it only seems fitting to remember Abe on this year's Law Day. The great President and orator's presence was felt as Lincoln's pictures and words graced the extensive Law Day program. Students from Harrison as well as Ardsley, Gorton and Salesian took part in this action-packed mock trial program, while students from Lakeland and Saunders observed.

As usual, several members of the legal community were on hand to

was Chauncey L. Walker, and there were addresses by Superintendent Lou Wool, Harrison Education Foundation representative Laurie Fried, Board of Education Vice President Joan Tiburzi, Mayor Joan Walsh and Principal James Ruck.

Law Day was first envisioned in 1957 when the then American Bar Association's President Charles S. Rhyne felt a special day should be created to celebrate our legal system. Just one year later, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day as a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law.

This year's Law Day was extra special as it celebrated Abe Lincoln. In his Gettysburg Address of 1863, Lincoln expressed

his vision of an American constitutional union. Lincoln's vision began four score and seven years earlier with the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration marked the origins of a "new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." For Law Day 2009, it was encouraged nationwide to commemorate Lincoln by exploring this rich and resonant theme- "A Legacy of Liberty."



Taylor Jones swears in Ali Paonetti. *Courtesy Marissa DeCarlo*

donate their time and experience to make Law Day successful. This year's volunteers included: Frank P. Allegretti, Judge Bianchi, Judge Marc Lust, Bernard Brickel, Fred Castiglia, Bill Fried, Chetan Hertzog, Joseph Latwin, Emily Lucas, Mitch Mandell, and Andrew Spatz. This year's keynote speaker



Jacob Temkin asks the judge a question. *Courtesy Marissa DeCarlo*

made me feel official." Law Day here at the high school wasn't just celebrated by our "law in the court room students," but by our prestigious law team as well. Harry Reibman, senior captain of the Law team, felt honored to participate in Law Day this year as the theme struck close to his heart.

"Since I was a child I've believed in justice and the rule of law, and have always been a fond believer in Lincoln's ideas on liberty for all men," said Reibman. Harrison High School parent Geri Rubenstein attended Law Day and found the festivities both exciting and interesting.

The most exhilarating part of the day happened in the classrooms where students engaged in mock trials. Lawyers acted as judges for these trials; amongst them was Harrison's own Honorable Judge Bianchi. Students in Bianchi's classroom said they felt extra privileged to be with a real judge.

"It was really cool having a real judge," said one student. "It

made me feel official."

Students in attorney Mitch Mandell's classroom experienced a trial that lasted over three hours, finishing with only ten minutes remaining at lunch.

The following sponsors very generously donated to our Law Day, providing gift certificates for winners: The Jacob Burns Film Center and Steiner Sports. Faculty advisors to the proceedings were Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Garner.

"I'm glad the students are able to compete in trials like these," said one Law Day volunteer. "It's a great experience."

Law Day appears to be growing stronger as schools around the U.S. are implementing more and more classes relating to our country's legal system. Here at the high school, Law Day continues to be a great and educational experience.

# Facebook: Who is on the other side?

Dominique Cuce

Co-Editor-in-Chief

In today's society, nothing is easier than being able to receive information in a heartbeat. Websites such as perezhilton.com or TMZ.com let everyone know in a second what Britney Spears was wearing last Friday, and news websites such as AOL.com or Google News can spread important and timely information about the war in Iraq within minutes. Though this may seem a positive attribute, sometimes the fact that whatever is out on the internet can be shared instantly with millions of people can prove to be a negative.

Social networking sites like Facebook or MySpace have recently proven



Who is watching whom?

Courtesy Bieberich

that sometimes certain things shouldn't be shared on the internet, and that there can be consequences for what is shared. Colleges as well as corporate human resource officers have been using search engines such as Google and yastri.com to find out as much information as possible about potential applicants. If pictures of wild partying and drinking are found, or say some inappropriate post on a profile, wall, or blog, a college or future employer may choose to reject the applicant right away. In recent news, a wide range of people, including students, teachers, and even police officers have gotten in trouble because of their Facebook pages.

In a widely reported news story in February, Harrison cops' Facebooks were found to contain racial slurs against President Obama and demeaning remarks about town mayor Joan Walsh. Several people sided with the cops, however, citing the proviso that America guarantees free speech. Still, many thought that the cops should be held to a certain expectation of ethical rigor, and should know

that such "locker room comments" are inappropriate and shouldn't be posted on the internet.

"I think the cops should be held responsible for their actions to a certain degree," noted junior Jen Parravini. "They are also in public position, and they need to maintain a degree of integrity."

Cops aren't the only ones in the spotlight right now; teachers and beauty queens have been castigated for their pages as well. In North Carolina, a teacher was suspended for making inappropriate comments regarding the school district. She apparently had set her Facebook to private, but a news re-

porter was able to get past her privacy setting to see what was on her page. Another teacher in Wisconsin was suspended after posting pictures of herself with guns. In 2007, Amy Polumbo (who was Miss New Jersey at the time), had her private Facebook hacked. She was then blackmailed with the photos she had posted privately. She ended up having to release the photos to the public, but luckily, she still got to keep her crown.

So is the information one posts on Facebook really private? Perhaps people should assume responsibility for whatever is posted, whether public or private.

Senior Caitlin Occhipinti had this to say on the matter: "The internet is a public place and when you post information, it is available for everyone to see."

Classmate Stephen Ferri disagreed. "No, I don't think schools should have the right to look or judge you by your Facebook," he said, "because it should be private and kept separate from school."

## Summing Up Math Club

Judy Florio

Staff Writer

Not many people know about HHS' Math Club, which is run by Mr. Burns and Mr. Ciavarella. Mr. Aidan Burns (AB) was happy to speak with the Husky Herald (HH) to explain it further.

**HH:** About how many kids are in the math club?

**AB:** About 25.

**HH:** Would you say that being in math club will improve math grades?

**AB:** Yes, it definitely helps math grades and it teaches members how to be creative problem-solvers.

**HH:** Do you compete?

**AB:** Yes, we compete in the New York Mathematics League with schools from across the state. We compete about six times a year.

**HH:** Can other students come watch the competitions?

**AB:** No, they are written exams,

and the scores are submitted and that's how the students place.

**HH:** What is a typical day like at the Math Club?

**AB:** We do problems that don't require memory, but are all logical.

**HH:** Does one need to excel in math in order to be in the math club?

**AB:** No, all of the questions are logic-based. As long as you can understand first year algebra, you can compete.

**HH:** When is math club held?

**AB:** Once a month on a Tuesday afternoon.

**HH:** Is there anything you would like to tell the school about math club?

**AB:** Yes, we're always looking for new members, and anyone in any grade is welcomed.



Courtesy of Prevention.com

## Hypnotist at HHS: Real Deal?

Allie Citarella

Staff Writer

Were they really hypnotized or were they really good at acting? Renowned hypnotist Dan LaRosa's recent visit to Harrison High School, courtesy of the school's G.O., left many amused, but there was an undercurrent of questions that surrounded what the student body had witnessed. Perhaps the division comes down to this: those who believe in the psychology behind hypnosis and those who do not. Believers seemed to think they had seen some of our students hypnotized, non-believers were of the mind that those on stage listened to LaRosa's instructions and merely faked it.

Mr. LaRosa's goal was to prove that you can train your mind to do anything and that hypnosis can make you feel better about yourself. The student volunteers were meant to



Hypnotist LaRosa.

Courtesy danlarosa.com

walk out of the assembly feeling great about themselves, as well as re-energized. Hypnosis is a proven technique that can be used to effectively modify behavior in certain people, allowing some the ability to lose weight or stop smoking, or even assist in helping sleep disorders.

The LaRosa performance began earlier in the week with an "alert now" call that went out to homes, along with permission slips sent home for parental approval for those students eager to participate.

Overall, most students were excited about the assembly because they hadn't seen anything like it before – and of course, it was something far more novel than another Friday afternoon in class.

"They had done something like this before at my old school (Harvey)," said Samantha Hochman. "This wasn't as good as the other performance because it seemed to be a lot more acting than hypnosis."

Once the assembly began, everyone got to experience what it felt like to be hypnotized.

Mr. LaRosa led the assembly in a group exercise, asking people to close their eyes and focus on a point between their hands. Marissa DeCarlo felt that when he said to put your hands together, she really could feel them being pulled together. Still, she was less convinced once the people were selected to go up on stage.

"It just looked so fake," she said.

Mr. LaRosa would disagree with that assessment – according to his website, [www.danlarosa.com](http://www.danlarosa.com), he feels that hypnosis works and that it is the fastest and best way to eliminate bad habits, negative thinking, and other life destroyers. "It's also the best way to motivate yourself to live your best life," says LaRosa.

After the whole group participation, it was time to narrow down the volunteers and see who had the potential to be hypnotized. LaRosa played little games similar to Simon Says, in order to determine who was going to continue on and star in the afternoon's performance, eliminating those there to goof off. Joey Loretti was one of those not chosen. "At first I was upset that I was seemingly unable to be hypnotized," he said, "but maybe it was fake for everybody anyway."

The lucky few who were chosen were asked to do semi-ridiculous tasks. They acted like 5-year-olds, rode horses, posed for magazines, looked through shoe-binoculars, saw celebrities, fell asleep at a snap, got married, and much more.

One thing that some found questionable was when LaRosa asked the volunteers to pretend he was a kid their age with whom they wanted to dance. "Even though he said not to touch him, it still was kind of creepy," said Marissa DeCarlo.

For those who missed the performance, there are several Dan LaRosa clips available on YouTube. Ultimately, the debate continues about whether or not the hypnosis was real. Senior Natalie Yubas was one of the chosen volunteers that LaRosa hypnotized. She revealed that, in the past, she has been hypnotized before in order to help her sleep.

"I was really glad to volunteer," she said. "It was entertaining to watch the recording of the performance afterwards and to see myself." Natalie has no doubt that she truly was hypnotized. "It honestly felt like only three minutes, not an hour," she admitted. "It was like every time he woke us up pieced together into one time. I can't believe how it really worked."

# HHS Model Congress Club Legislates Success at Penn

Alison Nathanson

Guest Writer

The Penn Model Congress 2009 was a major success for Harrison High School. Not only did the student team come back with eight times the amount of awards won at Yale 2008, but they did so in grand and eloquent style.

The Harrison High School delegation consisted of 22 delegates, all in different committees. For those unaware of how Model Congress works, the interesting process is as follows: The congress is divided up into the House and the Senate, just like the real legislative branch of our U.S. government. In order to accommodate every student without overflowing the sessions, the Houses and Senate are further divided by colors into red, white, blue or green. The House and Senate are then even further divided into committees. These committees can range in subject matter from ethics to transportation and infrastructure, and even narcotics and drug trafficking. Each delegate meets with their individual committee in addition to meeting in full sessions, where the entire House or Senate of a particular color meets.

Perhaps you are wondering how green figures into the picture. Red, white, and blue are the colors of our flag, but why green? The fact is that green normally is not part of the traditional breakdown of Houses and Senate, but because there were so many delegates at the Penn Model Congress, another section (and color)



The proud Harrison Model Congress delegation at Penn. had to be added.

Courtesy Ms. Makarczuk

This year's Penn Model Congress welcomed nearly 700 delegates from all across the country. Schools from the tri-state area were well represented here, with a large contingency from New York and New Jersey. However, many had come from more distant locales –there even was a delegation from a school in South Korea. Model Congress serves a dual function that way – it's always a place where you can meet people from all over while still enjoying stimulating debate.

The debate this year was heated, and each delegate had something to

contribute to his or her committee. When the meet concluded, Harrison High School was the proud recipient of eight awards, a feat to make the Huskies proud. Jordan Brandes, Elizabeth Gordon, Thomas Blake and Alison Nathanson all achieved an Honorable Mention for respective committee sessions. In addition, David Colangelo and Harry Reibman achieved Honorable Mention for their full committee session of the Green House.

Model Congress is just like the legislative branch of government. However, the judicial and executive branches of government are present

too. For the first time, HHS entered two delegates, Carmen Linero and Adriana DiFazio, into the Supreme Court program, where they learned a lot about the judicial branch. They competed as a team against duos from other schools, playing the roles of Supreme Court Justices. In addition, they acted as petitioner and respondent attorneys by arguing before the Court. Carmen and Adriana won Best Team in their section of the Supreme Court, a notable feat. Carmen and Adriana worked tremendously hard preparing for their tasks, and represented the school well in this first time that Harrison has entered delegates into this special program.

Many thanks to the whole delegation, as well as to Ms. Morrissey and Ms. Makarczuk, for their fine efforts at this year's Penn Model Congress. The Model Congress club is continuing to grow and is always looking for outstanding additional delegates. As the club grows, there's hope that this trend of growing success will continue too.



Students in session. Courtesy Ms. Makarczuk

## Winter Formal Warms the Dance Floor

Sarah Sachse & Lindsey Tannenbaum

Staff Writers

This year's Winter Formal was held at Reid Castle in Manhattanville College. Due to conflicts at last year's dance, Harrison High School was forced to relocate where the dance was held. School president Hilary Rappaport came to the rescue and quickly found a new home to host the formal. She was very optimistic and confident that the dance would be a success.

Prior to the dance, Hilary and other members of the student government arrived early to decorate the room. Beautiful red and white roses and Hershey kisses topped the tables. Finger-foods and soda were placed in the back of the room, a place where students could snack. D.J. Baccio

provided the music and lighting for the dance. He helped create a club vibe by keeping the room dimly lit with colored lights and fog.

Ms. Makarczuk and Ms. Morrissey were eager to see the dance succeed. After putting much thought and planning into this year's formal, they were excited to see the outcome. They not only supervise G.O., but also added their own ideas and opinions in order to make the dance special. Both Ms. Mak and Ms. Morrissey were in attendance at the dance, along with other teachers who helped chaperone the event.

When asked about the dance, sophomore Jessica Franco responded very positively. With a smile on her face she said, "I thought the dance was better than last year's and I thought the place was beautiful. I'm really happy that Ms. Mak and Ms. Morrissey are trying to plan more dances for our school. They always turn out to be a lot of fun."

Ms. Mak and Ms. Morrissey recently announced at an assembly that they plan to create many more events for Harrison High School



A great time was had by all students. They want to continue the tradition of Homecoming and hope dances for many years to come. Courtesy Ms. Makarczuk

activities similar to those they experience at the elementary school level.

Thanks to dedicated members of the student government and the enthusiastic personalities of Ms. Mak and Ms. Morrissey, Harrison High School students will be able to continue to enjoy the excitement of successful school



Nicole Nannariello and Melissa Shulman looking sharp. Courtesy Ms. Makarczuk



Emily Chestler, Kate Cioffari, and Emma Shapiro smile for the camera. Courtesy Ms. Makarczuk

# Scottish Play Comes to the HPAC

Emma Glass

Managing Editor

Everyone is familiar with the superstition that saying "Macbeth" in a theatre will bring you bad luck. But Harrison High School had the good fortune to host the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's version of this unlucky play. *Macbeth* is both a tragedy and a history, as the play is based on a tale wrested from the historical Holinshed Chronicles.

For those unfamiliar with the play who did not understand the performance, or those who were barred from even attending, here is a brief synopsis: Macbeth is an ordinary Scottish lord (thane) when he encounters three witches who prophesize that he will become the King of Scotland. In order to make this prophecy reality, he embarks on a murderous spree, killing the current king of Scotland (King Duncan) and several lords who try to intercept his actions. Malcolm, King Duncan's son, and another lord, Macduff, escape to England and organize an army to fight Macbeth. Macbeth, believing he is invincible, is killed in battle by Macduff, and ultimately Malcolm is crowned the next King of Scotland.

Shakespearean plays were ample entertainment for Elizabethan age peasants, but what did Harrison High School students think? Judy Florio, an eleventh grader, said this: "I have read the play in English class and thought the actors were very professional, especially because the audience

was less successful. Tenth grade student Laura Doherty shared her thoughts. "I liked the play, but I was a little confused because I didn't have any background information," she said. "Maybe it would have been clearer if they had performed in modern English."

There were six actors in the cast and each actor played multiple roles.

Eleanor Handley was excellent as Lady Macbeth and the audience understood both her frustration with Macbeth's cowardice and her subsequent guilt over the deaths of her countrymen. Ms. Handley loved playing the role. "She's such a deliciously complex woman, who I think genuinely loves her husband," she noted. "And let's face it; it's always more fun to play

walls, knocking, and drums to signify scene changes. Fight scenes were accomplished through convincing stage fighting and the use of daggers instead of swords. This was probably due to the fact that the actors and actresses only had about fifteen days to rehearse.

Blood was a major theme in this version of the play. In one scene, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are seen washing their hands in a basin of water after they kill King Duncan and frame his guards. In another scene, Banquo's ghost appears to haunt Macbeth with a bloody gash in his head. The director chose to illuminate scenes of bloodshed with a lit red background. Lights were also used to transition between day and night.

Another interesting aspect of the performance was the director's portrayal of the three witches. They appeared on stage in flowing white robes and hairy white masks. Unlike most students' perceptions of the witches as haggard old women in dark robes (as in Roman Polanski's film version of *Macbeth*), the witches were androgynous due to being played, in part, by men. The witches' costumes were influenced by Japanese theatre, but were also practical as quick costume changes were crucial, due to the limited cast.

Several characters were cut from the play including Hecate (the head witch), the controversial third murderer, and King Duncan's son Donalbain. No scenes were removed completely, but portions of scenes were abbreviated to ensure that the play did not overrun an hour and a half. Otherwise, the play was very true to the original by William Shakespeare.

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is a critically acclaimed, nonprofit theatre company that first began with a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1987. The festival performs each summer at Boscobel in Garrison, NY. Additionally, the Festival travels to different high schools and puts on classic plays, including the works of Shakespeare. Last year, the company performed Shakespeare's famous play *Hamlet*.



The cast of HVSF's *Macbeth*. Courtesy of Emma Glass

was at times noncompliant." The play was most relevant for eleventh grade students because they had just finished reading and/or acting the play in English class.

To others, the performance

the villain."

The other actors were Brandon Meers (Macbeth), Craig Mungavin (Banquo), Klemen Novak (Duncan, Macduff), Morgan Rosse (Malcolm, Witch, Lady Macduff), and Ricardo Vasquez (Witch, Ross).

Chris Edwards directed the play and said the following about the versatility of *Macbeth*'s major themes: "*Macbeth* enables us to look deep into the human psyche and explore what it means to lust for power, self destruct from guilt, close ourselves off to morality, and revenge wrongs done against us. What interested me was the way power is transferred and how absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Unlike the high school's production of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Macbeth* used few props, minimal scenery, and few costume changes, remaining authentic to most Shakespearean productions. Bamboo rods were used to signify the scene where Birnam Wood moves, wooden benches served as chairs, tables, and beds, and flashlights were used in place of lanterns. Music and sound was also heavily incorporated into the production, especially bells, baby

## Tom Talks Faustus

Hank Rubenstein

Co-Editor-in-Chief

The *Husky Herald* (HH) had a brief talk with senior actor/director Tom Blake (TB), prior to his latest production.

HH: So Tom, tell me about your most recent play?

TB: This year I will be directing "Faustus." It's a modern adaptation of Christopher Marlowe's play "The Tragic History of Doctor Faustus." Marlowe, a contemporary of Shakespeare, wrote the play in 1604. The original play was based off a legend of the time called Faust, where a man sells his soul to the devil in exchange for power and knowledge.

HH: For how long have you been acting and directing?

TB: I have been acting for the last eight years and directing for the last three. In 2007 I directed my first play here at the high school, "The Laramie Project" and then in 2008 I directed "Doubt."

HH: What do you enjoy about directing?

TB: When you direct a play, it becomes yours. It's a great feeling knowing that you are holding the reigns of the artistic process. Another thing I enjoy as a director is you get to choose your plays. I enjoy picking ones that raise questions; I feel it gives the performance more meaning.

HH: Who is in your current production?

TB: We have a cast of 14 students. I will be playing the role of Dr. Faustus, and the other leads include Eddie Saviano and Jacob Tempkin as the brothers Chatman, Adriana Difazio as Helena, an Afghani woman who is now a TV camerawoman in the U.S. and Judy Florio as Mephistoph-



Tom Blake, Renaissance Man. Courtesy of Emma Glass

HH: What made you choose Faustus?

TB: Well I read a lot of plays and when I find one that speaks to me, I choose it. I chose Faustus because it's a classic tale of a man tempted by good and evil. It's something we all deal with every day and the audience can easily relate to it.

HH: These next few months are going to be pretty packed for you. Apparently, you're also in the spring musical. Could you tell me a little about that?

TB: The play is "The Beauty and the Beast" and I will be playing the Beast. I'm really excited about it.

HH: When will "Faustus" happen?

TB: It's a three night show starting Thursday, April 23, with performances through April 25.

HH: What are your plans for college next year?

TB: I plan on continuing my love for the theatre by pursuing a major in Directing, but I would also like to achieve a major in Comparative Politics.

HH: Are you thinking about Hollywood at all?

TB: At this point, I don't know. I'm just going to see where things take me!



Macduff slays Macbeth.

Courtesy of Marissa DeCarlo



Actress Eleanor Handley. Courtesy Actors' Access

Emma Glass

Managing Editor

Most of us are familiar with Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, which describes the rise and fall of an ambitious but devious Scottish king. The *Husky Herald* (HH) had the opportunity to interview Eleanor Handley (EH), the actress who played Lady Macbeth in the recent Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival production of the play *Macbeth*. The performance took place on March 24 in the HPAC, thanks to a generous grant from the Harrison Education Foundation.

**HH:** How long have you been working in theatre and/or with the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival company?

**EH:** I first worked with the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival last summer (2008), during their main stage season at Boscobel in Cold Spring. We did *Cymbeline* and *Twelfth Night*, the latter of which was filmed and screened on PBS.

**HH:** Where did you train to be an actress?

**EH:** I'm originally from Australia. I did my undergraduate degree at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, and in May I graduated with an MFA in acting from the New School for Drama in New York City.

**HH:** What made you want to be

# Lady Macbeth Speaks

an actress? Or why did you want to play the role of Lady Macbeth?

**EH:** That's a good question and a hard one to answer. I started acting when I was 12, originally in musical theater. I kind of just didn't stop. As for Lady M, I can't imagine an actress not wanting to tackle that part. She's such a deliciously complex woman, who I think genuinely loves her husband. And let's face it; it's always more fun to play the villain.

**HH:** What is it like working with the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival?

**EH:** The Hudson Valley fest is kind of a dream job for a New York actor, particularly someone just out of school. Firstly, the Hudson Valley landscape is breathtakingly beautiful. The family of actors who come together each year are extremely talented and supportive, and it's within an hour of New York city, making it easy to keep in touch with the industry throughout the summer, without having to suffer through the inexhaustible and pungent New York City heat.

**HH:** Are you strictly a Shakespearean actress, or do you do other types of theatre?

**EH:** I'm not sure it's feasible to be 'strictly' any sort of actor, even if you wanted to, which I don't. The realities of the industry demand that you be as versatile and adaptable as you can. Artistically, I'm also really interested in new work. It's a very different process when you have the playwright in the room.

**HH:** Of the characters you have played (in any play), which one was your favorite?

**EH:** I did a play in my second year of grad school called *Limonade tous les Jour*. It's written by Charles Mee ([www.charlesmee.org](http://www.charlesmee.org)), who publishes all his work online, if you're interested. It's a love story, set in Paris, between

a young, French cabaret singer, and an older American gentleman who's come to Paris after his divorce. They spend the entire play talking about all the reasons they can't fall in love. And so of course, they do. The other actor was a very accomplished New York actor named Austin Pendleton. That was probably the most fun I've ever had on stage.

**HH:** What actress' performance is your favorite version of Lady Macbeth in film or in the theatre?

**EH:** To be honest, I've not seen a lot. I know Judi Dench's performance is widely regarded as one of the best of the last generation. I haven't seen it, but I think Judi Dench is generally pretty amazing, so it doesn't surprise me.

**HH:** In the play, who is more evil, Macbeth or Lady Macbeth?

**EH:** This is a great question for an English essay, and I'm sure you could probably find ways to legitimately argue both. However, one of the best lessons an acting teacher ever taught me was never to judge the character you're playing. He used to say, 'everybody thinks they're sane.' As an actor, it's impossible to work toward the truth of a character if you've already decided that they're crazy or stupid or evil...you end up 'commenting' on the character in a performance that looks more like a cartoon. For me, the only way to approach Lady Macbeth is to focus on what it is she wants - how badly she wants it - and what she's willing to do to get it. That way the audience gets to decide (and enjoy) how evil she is.

**HH:** What is your favorite line in the play?

**EH:** Probably the most famous one...

"Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player, that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more; it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."  
It's famous for a reason.

**HH:** Why is Macbeth still relevant to today's society even over 400 years after its debut performance in 1606?

**EH:** I'm not sure that it is - you'll have to let me know after you see it! I suspect and hope that anyone watching the Macbeths become consumed by greed and ambition, watching how choices based on those desires begin to feed on themselves and spiral out of control, must feel that the play still resonates with the human condition. All of us are given moments in our lives in which we must choose between goodness and greed, and, when we choose poorly, our lives, our families and even our countries turn out to be just as fragile.

**HH:** Do you ever get stage fright?

**EH:** Actually, I usually get excited. The only thing that makes me nervous is feeling under-prepared. But mostly, I can't wait to get the show in front of an audience. Some people call the audience the 'final cast member.' I like that idea. I like to think of the play as a conversation with the audience.

**HH:** Do you have any words of encouragement for aspiring actors or actresses?

**EH:** On the first day of grad school, my acting teacher told the class, 'There are many ways to have a satisfying life. If you can think of ANYTHING else you could do to have a satisfying life, then you should do that.' That actually probably sounds discouraging, but the truth is anybody who wants to be an actor badly enough will do it, because they have to do it. And once you know you're one of those people, all I would add is to focus on controlling what you can control. The 'industry' can be frustrating, so direct your energy to more productive things - work hard, read a lot, and see theater as much as you can. As Steve Martin says, 'Be so good they can't ignore you.'

## Donate Formal Wear To The Needy

Joni Cooper

Food Editor

The *Husky Herald* (HH) recently touched base with sophomore Alex Chill (AC) regarding a new program she organized entitled *The Harrison High School Formal Wear Drive*.

**HH:** How did you come up with the idea of a Formal Wear drive at HHS?

**AC:** I came up with the idea because I wanted to give back to society in a way that I could enjoy and connect with. I love fashion and hope to someday pursue a career that relates to it. I also enjoy helping others out and, for me, there was no better way to reach out toward others for such a memorable event like prom.

**HH:** What is the purpose of the drive and toward whom is it directed?

**AC:** The drive is designed to distribute formal wear to teens that wouldn't ordinarily be able to afford attire for their prom. This year, our aim is to distribute everything we collect to less fortunate boys and

girls in Jamaica, Queens.

**HH:** After the formal wear is collected, how will it be distributed?

**AC:** After we have collected a significant amount of attire and accessories, Harrison High School will join with the Jamaica, Queens YMCA to create a store-like atmosphere for the recipients. Everything collected will be dry-cleaned and placed in an orderly fashion on racks. Dressing rooms will be readily available so that each boy or girl can be certain in selecting the "perfect" suit or dress.

**HH:** What types of clothing and accessories should students donate?

**AC:** Students are welcome to donate anything that may be appropriate for prom. Suits, dresses, tuxedos, shoes, ties, jewelry -- anything will be accepted! All that is not used will either be saved for next year, or further donated.

**HH:** Are students able to make a money contribution instead of formal wear?

**AC:** Money contributions certainly are welcome. The money collected will be used to dry clean the formal wear, and to purchase additional formal wear in various sizes.

**HH:** Where should the donations be dropped off?

**AC:** The donations were collected through April 22. However, another drive will be held for next year. There will always be an opportunity to donate in the years to come.

**HH:** Would you consider transforming the program into a club next year?

**AC:** I would definitely consider making this a club. With enough feedback and volunteering, I believe that evolving this project into a club will make the project even more successful and publicized.

**HH:** What goals or expectations do you have for the program?

**AC:** My hope is for the Formal Wear drive to give less fortunate teens the opportunity to attend their prom in appropriate formal attire.

However, I want the teens to be able to pick and choose what they want, as if they were in a store. The project is a very simple way for many students in this school to give back to society by giving someone the satisfaction and joy of being able to attend their prom fashionably and appropriately. In addition, I hope to continue this drive for years to come, and for other students to continue the program at Harrison High School after I leave.



Mannequin outside main office. Courtesy of Emma Glass

# Beauty and the Beast

Emma Adler

Staff Writer

Harrison High School's amateur actors and actresses took to the stage last month, in a production of the Disney classic "Beauty and the Beast".

The Footlight Players began rehearsals for this year's musical in January under the direction of Jason Summers, who has overseen the production of such Harrison musicals as "Miss Saigon", and "Aida". Chorus teacher Lynn Fusco and senior Stephen Ferri were responsible for the musical side of the production. The tone of the selection was noticeably lighter than that of the high school's productions of recent years. Only the villain, Gaston, dies in "Beauty and the Beast". The



Belle tames Beast.  
Courtesy of Gary Morgen

Footlight Players, however, had not lost their flair for the dramatic.

The set was a triumph in its own right. The curtain rose and the audience found themselves in a forest which was projected onto the stage. Then, a sheath was pulled back to reveal a poor, European town where the heroine, Belle, stands center stage; lost in the pages of a book. Later, a castle emerges an impressive structure that turned, it glided, and had turrets. Label it a chorus member's bias, but it was easy to lose oneself in one's surroundings, even from the wings.

Seniors Amanda Audia and Thomas Blake led the musical as the pivotal Beauty and Beast. The efforts of both were realized in two spectacular performances. Blake's portrayal of the misunderstood beast was thoughtful, and heart-warming. "I was very impressed with his ability to transform into the character." Noted a sophomore.

Audia masterfully depicted a girl on the edge of something big. She was inquisitive and desperate for change but, was driven into the woods in search of her kidnapped father. Toward the plot's conclusion, Amanda was a showstopper with her number, "A Change in Me", which consistently elicited thunderous applause from the audience as well as from backstage.

Claudio Delli Carpini and Matt Crozier shared a role. Both actors brought the villainous Gaston to life; a conceited (and often hilarious) man who unsuccessfully attempted to woo Belle.

He was aided by the long-suffering Le Fou, Gaston's bumbling sidekick as played by sophomore Alejandro Azuaje. The pair provide for



Gaston ponders.  
Courtesy of Gary Morgen

many of the play's moments of comic relief. Lucie DuFour, Judy Florio, Sarah Kaidanow, Lance Troiano, Victoria Moscato, fourth grader Jerome Francisco, Devon Krobotzky, Jenny Parravani, Kelly Curtis, Margherita Santelia, and Gerard Vernali (to be read here as Babette, Mrs. Potts, Cogsworth, Lumiere, Madame De La Grande Bouche, Chip, Maurice, The Silly Girls; Monsieur D'Arque) also starred. With such a large number of leading players, it was difficult to pinpoint favorites. "I can't choose; they were all great!" responded Dom Cuce, when asked to name the character she liked best.

Of these performances, several moments stood out including Troiano and DuFour's playful dialogue concerning their characters' (Lumiere and Babette's) tricky relationship. The Silly Girls assuring Gaston they will continue their "ren-dez-vouses", despite his purported engagement. Victoria's operatic call to arms as she prances across the stage in full Viking regalia after the castle had been invaded by angry townspeople. Cogsworth's public questioning of his sanity, where the clock wonders out loud "what will go next, his mind?" Maurice's (Belle's father) grand entrance atop a whirring invention toward the middle of the play. Le Fou's hilarious



Lofu shows his bright side.  
Courtesy of Gary Morgen

reaction to Gaston's verbal abuses. Monsieur D'Arques gleeful description of life in the asylum. And who could forget when Chip jumped into his mother's arms as she cries his name when they are turned back into humans.



The main cast is complemented by two separate ensembles; the villagers, and the castle dwellers, the latter of which the spell has transformed into enchanted objects.

The large-scale dance numbers, namely, "Gaston" and "Be Our Guest", showcased the talents of all members of the eighty-plus cast.

The play has, thus far, earned rave reviews from students and faculty alike. "I was very impressed with the way the actors in the play performed," stated one junior. "The special effects were very exciting."

"I LOVED CLAUDIO!" added Blair Finkel. "He was the perfect Gaston!"

Overall, it was truly a quality performance and it was truly a wonderful and memorable production. I can say without doubt that "Beauty and the Beast" exceeded my wildest expectations.

## An Audience with A.Audia

Dominique Cuce & Emma Glass

Staff Writers

The *Husky Herald* (HH) recently conducted an interview with talented senior actress Amanda Audia (AA).

**HH:** What other plays have you been in?

**AA:** I have been in *Grease* (Sandy, White Plains Performing Arts Center), *Miss Saigon* (Ellen, HHS), *Aida* (Nehebka, HHS), *Honk* (Maureen, HHS) and many other shows.

**HH:** How did you get involved in theater?

**AA:** My first play was in fifth grade, at Preston. I was Annie, in *Annie*. I just loved to sing and it went from there.

**HH:** What is your favorite thing about *Beauty and the Beast*?

**AA:** I am used to doing more somber characters, and Belle has to be happy, even when she is mad.

**HH:** What do you love about theatre?

**AA:** It is almost like you get to be a different person. It's interesting to try out different characteristics and meet new people.

**HH:** Are you planning on pursuing musical theatre?

**AA:** Yes. In college, I want to take my ambition farther. I plan on being a music teacher and maybe doing some theater on the side.

**HH:** What is your advice to people



Amanda as Belle. Courtesy of Gary Morgen

**AA:** It's like Nike, just do it. If you like it, go for it.

**HH:** What makes *Beauty and the Beast* different from any other show?

**AA:** It is difficult, but at a different levels than an intense, dark show. It's harder for me at least to act happy and do comedy rather than play parts that are sad or angry. Because *Beauty and the Beast* is such a popular movie, I don't want to disappoint my audience. But it is easy in the sense that there are no harsh themes, everything is upbeat. It's exciting because there is a huge set, and the costumes are amazing. It's just going to be a whole new experience.

## Hobo Musician's Story Leads To Riveting Film

Sam Goldman

Staff Writer

At first glance, Nathaniel Ayers seems nothing more than a delusional hobo - dirty, smelly, and seriously disheveled. However, this man has a far greater story than perhaps any homeless man or woman on the streets of Los Angeles. Once perceived as potentially one of the most gifted musicians in the country, Ayers was accepted into the prestigious Julliard School of Music in New York City (known as one of the most celebrated musical institutions worldwide). His heart and his mind were set on becoming a member of one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Unfortunately this all changed abruptly and tragically, early in Ayers' life.

Tormented by harsh, devilish thoughts, Ayers developed paranoid schizophrenia while attending school. He would not return after his freshman year at Julliard due to his severe illness. His grades had dropped drastically, and he was said to be violent and angry with professors and students. His family had seen a major difference occurring in him, and Ayers had begun to drift away from his home since returning from school.

He wandered off into the streets of Cleveland, away from his family, and soon found himself living as a homeless man for an extended period of time. He eventually would make his way to Los Angeles in search of a father who had abandoned the family when Ayers was a young child. This is where Nathaniel would meet Steve Lopez and his life would be changed forever.

Lopez is a reporter for the *Los An-*

*geles Times*, and was in desperate need of a story. One day Lopez came across Nathaniel playing the viola by himself. Lopez was intrigued by the fact that he was not playing for money. Lopez began a dialogue with Ayers, and soon told Ayers that he was going to write a story about him. Lopez had begun a relationship that would forever change the way he viewed everything in his life.

Ayers and Lopez have since become very close friends and the attention the two received was strong enough to be broadcast on national TV as a featured segment on a recently broadcast 60 Minutes program. This special interview showed how both men have clearly learned a lot from one another. It can be seen on YouTube.com.

A more complete treatment of the story can be found in Steve Lopez's "The Soloist," the book he wrote based on his experiences with Nathaniel Ayers. The book covers a wide realm, from the different obstacles Ayers has had in his life to his illness, and then to his eventual friendship with Mr. Lopez.

This incredible story now has found its way onto the big screen, courtesy of Dreamworks SKG. The movie version, entitled "The Soloist" is scheduled for wide release on April 24, 2009. The Joe Wright directed film features Robert Downey Jr. as journalist Steve Lopez, and Jamie Foxx as Nathaniel Ayers. This one-of-a-kind story is exactly the sort of heartwarming tale that could translate to box office success.



# Are You Afraid of the Dark?

Joni Cooper

Food Editor

Thousands of people enter Dans Le Noir? with complete confusion and curiosity. These feelings are understandable, yet they are about to encounter a most unusual dining experience. The restaurant, with locations in Paris and London, attracts its population of customers for one reason—the opportunity of dining in the dark.

A brainchild of the Paul Guinot Foundation for the Blind, the restaurant was founded in Paris nearly five years ago. Dining in the dark had existed prior to the founding of this restaurant in the mid-'90s. Researchers such as Michel Reilhac and Andreas Heineke had attempted to bring the concept to life by organizing events in dark bars, art exhibitions and other cool atmospheres. Since then, the success of its services has been more than just decent. The concept is rather peculiar, though it is this very curiosity that lures

to the reservation to receive prepping or to ask questions about what is expected. Meal orders are placed before the experience begins, in order to save time and avoid confusion. Still left with uncertainty, the guests are then told to place their right hands on the shoulder of the person in front of them. Similar to a train line, the customers are slowly led into a pitch-dark room. To get the attention of a guide, one may simply shout out for help.

In an instant, the sense of sight is lost and all that is relied on are senses of touch, taste and smell. This may come as an initial shock to customers, though eventually they manage to find their seats. In many cases, the guests have a hard time getting situated and also experience frustration in struggling to eat their meals. Throughout the meal, waiters offer tips to diners, such as placing one's finger on the inside of one's wineglass to prevent spillage.

What's truly amazing about Dans Le Noir? is its entirely blind staff. The visually impaired serve as one's guide throughout the entire dining experience, catering to the customers, serving food and throwing out suggestions to survive the unusual atmosphere. For once in a lifetime, the blind become these customers' eyes. People realize that, without such helpful waiters, they would truly be lost. The beauty of the

experience is for the blind to serve as mentors by referring to the natural abilities that they are accustomed to using as a result of their own loss of sight.

Although such a thing would be astonishing, the chefs of Dans Le Noir? are not visibly impaired. With that being said, they are able to apply all senses to formulate the best meal possible. Thankfully, the toilets located in each bathroom are not incorporated into the theme and are fully lit.



The restaurant's facade. Courtesy Dans Le Noir.

All customers are encouraged to give the "surprise" menu a shot. It consists of several different plates that are designed to test one's true taste buds. Different temperatures, aromas, and textures lure the customers into trying out such a diverse and interesting food selection. The costs for this meal and others on the menu are a bit pricey, but understandably so, considering the restaurant's experience and safety precautions.

Soon enough, guests realize that they are unable to see any traces of objects or light within the dining room.

Despite the lack of music, noises are louder than ever before. One can hear loud conversations from adjacent tables and the "Oh-ohs" frequently shouted when drinks are spilled or food is slobbered over one's lap. The experience is not only a physical test to utilize the senses, but also one to challenge customers socially. People are so absorbed in what they're doing that conversations tend to die off, commonly leading to periods of awkward silence. Humans are unaccustomed to speaking to their peers with no sense of vision. Conversations are held more spontaneously and freely, diverting interestingly from a typical "seeing" meal.

With a lack of vision, other senses are heightened, which provides additional appeal for specific foods. Rather than judging foods on their appearance, customers must rely solely on taste. This brings out the "truth" behind the food and its quality. Preconceptions are eliminated and the senses are exposed to the reality of the ingredients. Guests walk out of the restaurant having had an experience that encouraged mutual respect and trust with others, as well an unprecedented way to consume a meal.



The blind leading the hungry.

Courtesy SMH

in its many customers.

It is recommended for customers to arrive at least 20 minutes prior

# Nutty Celebrity Nuptials

Sarah Sachse & Lindsey Tannenbaum

Staff Writers

It seems that the latest trend in Hollywood for 2009 is marriage. Recently, various stars have tied the knot, hoping this year's nuptials will bring them the happiness they long for.

On the day of March 21, 2009, actor Bruce Willis, 54, and model Emma

Hemming, 32, got married. The wedding was held at Willis' home in Parrot Bay in the Caribbean. Ironically, Willis' ex-wife Demi Moore and second husband Ashton Kutcher were among the guests. According to US Weekly, Madonna also attended the wedding. Since the couple started dating last year, rumors had been flying about the impending wedding. A civil ceremony took place in Beverly Hills upon the couple's return to California to legalize the marriage.

On Thursday February 26, star



Emma and Bruce walk down the aisle. Courtesy In Your Business

New England Patriot quarterback Tom Brady and his longtime girlfriend, Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bundchen, got married in Santa Monica, California. A private and low key ceremony was held for the couple. A quaint gathering was held after the wedding at the couple's home in Brentwood. Brady, 31, and Bundchen, 28, got engaged last month. A source told People magazine that Gisele accepted Brady's proposal right away. According to TMZ, Brady proposed to Bundchen on Christmas Eve on a private jet with a dozen white roses and champagne present. Gisele's parents were also on the plane and Brady was said to be very nervous when he popped the big question.

On March 10, 2009, Mandy Moore, 24, and Ryan Adams, 34, got married in Savannah, Georgia. The ceremony was very low key with few guests present. The famous couple was able to enjoy their wedding unrecognized. According to Us Weekly magazine, Adams stated, "Mandy is the most genuinely sweet, angelic person you'd ever wish to meet in your

whole life." The happy couple has been dating on and off for over a year now. Moore allegedly also has had recent romantic ties with DJ AM.

On March 19, 2009, late-night TV host David Letterman and Regina Lasko got married after over ten years of dating. The couple shares a five-year-old son, Harry, who was present at the wedding ceremony. This event marks David's second marriage. The couple said their "I do's" at the Teton County Courthouse in Choteau, Montana.

On January 10, 2009, Stacy "Fergie" Ferguson and Josh Duhamel got married in Malibu, California. About 400 guests attended the wedding held at the Church Estates Vineyards. Her designer dress was made by Dolce and Gabbana.

The ceremony was kept secret, even from the guests. The guests were told the morning of the ceremony where the wedding would take place and cell phones were not permitted. Fergie carried a classic bouquet of white flowers accompanied by bridesmaids dressed in black.

Singer Natasha Bedingfield got married on March 21 to Matt Robinson. Similar to Fergie, Bedingfield's ceremony was held at the Church Estates Vineyard in Malibu, California. The ceremony was held outdoors on a grassy lawn and an aisle decorated with rose petals. There were 150 guests present. Bedingfield was quoted as saying, "We are looking forward to spending the rest of our lives together. Love is hard to find, so when you find it, hang on to it!"



Dave and Regina finally make it official. Courtesy E! Online

# New Moon on the Rise

Marissa DeCarlo

Photography Editor

There were a lot of mixed critical opinions of the recently released screen adaptation of Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight*, but there definitely is a feeling of excitement in anticipation of the upcoming sequel, *New Moon*. The release date for *New Moon* is November 20, 2009. The second movie in the series features the return of most of the successful cast from the first film, including Kristen Stewart (as Bella Swan), Robert Pattinson (as Edward Cullen), and recently announced Taylor Lautner (as Jacob Black).

Author Stephanie Meyer is excited as well: "I don't think any other author has had a more positive experience with the makers of her movie adaptation than I have had with Summit Entertainment," she said. "I'm thrilled to have the chance to work with them again on *New Moon*." Still, there will be changes. Most notably, this time the crew will say goodbye to the director of *Twilight*, Catherine Hardwicke.

Hardwicke said that she wishes she could direct *New Moon*, but the timing just didn't work out. Summit's targeted end of 2009 release of the film did not fit into her schedule, as Ms. Hardwicke requires ample prep time to bring her vision of the film to the big screen.

"I am sorry that, due to timing, I will not have the opportunity to direct *New Moon*," said Hardwicke. "Directing *Twilight* has been one of the great experiences of my life, and I am grateful to the fans for their passionate support of the film. I wish everyone at Summit the best with the sequel—it is a great story."

Summit is no longer thirsty for a new director; they have ended their hunt and chosen Chris Weitz to take on new director duties. Weitz is best known as the director of such films as *American Pie*, *About a Boy*, and *The Golden Compass*. Many have mixed feelings about a guy directing a movie that centers on a love-story. Can a man capture the emotion of love as well as a woman?

Honestly, there are no reasons why a guy can't excel at that task, as many of the love stories that girls have cried over were written by guys. William Shakespeare penned *Romeo and Juliet*, Nicholas Sparks wrote *The Notebook* and the very romantic movie adaptation of *The Notebook* was directed by Nick Cassavetes.

Changing the director is a dangerous move in the eyes of many fans, but actress Kristen Stewart has been able to put her fears behind her after meeting with Weitz.

"Chris, on top of being a really sweet guy, is entirely devoted," Stewart explained. "And he's very clearly not doing the movie just because it's the next big thing. He really likes it a lot."

Author Stephanie Meyer also has voiced her opinion on the direct-

orial change. "I've had the chance to talk to Chris, and I can tell you he is excited by the story and eager to keep the movie as close to the book as possible. He is also very aware of you, the fans, and wants to keep you all extremely happy." She noted that torches and pitchforks are not going to be necessary.

The beginning process of filming *New Moon* was a bumpy ride, especially for Taylor Lautner. He had to work very hard to

keep his role as Jacob Black. Due to the transformation of his character in the second book to a big, buff werewolf, Summit was unsure Lautner could look the part.

"Jacob is a totally different character in *New Moon*," says Melissa Rosenberg, screenwriter of both *Twilight* films. "He's a foot taller and huge — and he's supposed to look 25. It's really a question of whether or not the same actor can play the role."

Lautner did not let anything get in his way, though, and he hit the gym as much as possible to bulk up for the movie. His determination and dedication to the movie was his motivation; he would not let anyone take his place. Lautner was not the only one motivated by this as "Team Jacob" fans shared their opinions as well, starting petitions and online blogs. Lautner already has put on 20 pounds, and has guaranteed that he'll add another ten. He says he hopes to go even above and beyond that.

"My job for *Twilight* was to bring *Twilight* Jacob to life — the friendly, happy-go-lucky little Jacob," he told MTV News. "My job for *New Moon* is completely different. I've been looking forward to that. I've been getting ready for it, and I can assure them I will follow through with that."

As for other cast members, there is a lot of talk about who will be joining the cast, and who might be leaving. The biggest talk is about recently signed Dakota Fanning playing Jane, a dangerous Italian Vultur vampire.

Fanning told *In Touch* magazine (before the signing was official), "I really hope it'll work out" and admitted, "I'm a big fan of the actors in the film and to be a part of that would be a great privilege."

The dangerous Italian Vultur vampire is not Fanning's usual star turn. She revealed, "It's definitely something that I look forward to. I think you have to do all kinds of roles, and eventually I am going to be the

person you hate in a movie. And that's the fun thing about acting: You can be sweet and be mean at the same time in different films."

The rumors about Fanning being in *New Moon* were first reported by Marc Malkin of E! Online. In his report, he cited an anonymous source which stated, "There were no auditions, they just offered it to Dakota Fanning outright and now they're in negotiations."

The reason for just offering the role was because of Jane's physical appearance: she is described as a petite blonde with a "Botticelli angel-like face and crimson irises."

Many readers of the *Twilight* saga and watchers of the *Twilight* film feel that Fanning fits in the second film like a glass slipper, as evidenced by a fan-created online petition supporting her casting. There is talk of actress Anna Lynne McCord playing the part of Heidi and some speculation about whether or not Vanessa Hudgens will play Leah Clearwater (and whether or not Leah's role will be in the movie at all).

Another controversial aspect is the movie's logo as Summit Entertainment released the official logo artwork with the words *The Twilight Saga New Moon*. Fans are confused as to why Summit would add the words "Twilight Saga" to the official movie title, since Stephanie Meyer's title simply is "New Moon." Summit doesn't think it's a very big deal. An E! clarification story quoted a spokesman for Summit Entertainment who said, "The *New Moon* title that everyone's reporting about with the 'Twilight Saga' addition is just letting people know that it's connected to the *Twilight* series for those who may not know. The title still is *New Moon* like the book."

*New Moon* begins filming in March, starting on location in Canada, and then moving on to Italy. The *Twilight* DVD has a release date of March 21, 2009 along with a director's notebook being released earlier that same week. Summit has stated that they will be releasing *Eclipse* in 2010, and Robert Pattinson even dropped a hint that *Breaking Dawn* will go into production also at that time.



Movie Poster for the sequel film. Courtesy Deviant Art



Santino the wonder chimp. Courtesy BBC News

## Planning Chimp Stumps Scientists

Judy Florio

Staff Writer

Santino, the clever 30-year-old chimpanzee who has spent most of his life in a Swedish zoo, has humans stumped. According to a recent article in the BBC News, Santino's daily routine is not the same as other chimps in the Furuviik Zoo. Rather than looking for a bite to eat, or moseying around, Santino walks around his enclosure, where he is the alpha male of the group living within the cage walls, and collects pieces of stones, cement, and gravel to build up his arsenal for the day of eager visitors ahead.

When visitors come to see Santino, he shows his displeasure and aggravation by flinging the stones or bits of concrete at the people surrounding his cage. The intelligence behind this preparation is unheard of — Santino actually begins each day by finding and stacking stones in handy piles around where he likes to sit.

On most days Santino is visited dozens of times, and has thrown up to 20 projectiles in a rapid sequence, but always underhand, as if the animal knows not to throw too hard, for fear that he will hurt one of his guests. Santino's behavior has been witnessed hundreds of times, and has made him something of a local celebrity.

Not only has Santino won fame through his sassy stone-throwing ways, his actions have also made him the subject of a scientific paper. Scientists have used Santino's extraordinary behavior to document one of the most elaborate examples of planning in the animal world. Santino is able to plan for the future by using memories of aggravation from the past.

Mathias Osvath, the director of the primate research station at Lund University and author of the paper in the journal *Current Biology*, stated that "Many animals plan, but this is planning for a future psychological state. This is what is so advanced." Another element of Santino's behavior that boggles the minds of scientists is how he immediately stops collecting rocks and concrete when he sees that he is being observed — not by his fellow chimpanzees, but by humans.

Santino's preparations include not only piling up stones he finds scattered throughout his enclosure, but more recently he has been found breaking off pieces of concrete from artificial rocks to add to his piles of ammo.

Santino takes it upon himself to protect the rest of the chimps that he lives with, because he has taken on the role of alpha male, and has been in that position for over a decade.

Santino is a strong, healthy, dominant male, whose behavior doesn't seem to be changing, and is expected not to change for years.



Dominique Cuce

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Once again, the infamous Bamboozle concert is back. On May 2 and 3, all types of bands and singers will take the stage at Meadowlands Sports Complex in New Jersey (yes, at the Giants' home ground). This year's headliners include Fall Out Boy and No Doubt. Bamboozle also will feature performances from New Found Glory, 3OH!3, Taking Back Sunday and Third Eye Blind. Tickets cost \$57 each and are on sale now, but the two-day passes are already sold out. The event takes place rain or shine, so be sure to check the weather before heading out.

The concert occurs on a total of nine stages, with different bands switching sets throughout the day. Not only are the performances great, but the actual event is awesome as well. One of the features of Bamboozle is that there are stations set up where you can meet and greet different artists. The lines tend to be long, but if your favorite band is signing autographs, it is definitely worth it. Also, there are many free giveaways such as CDs and T-shirts, so be sure to pay attention. Beside the free giveaways, many tents sell CDs for a cheaper price. The best advice would be to bring food because, even though there are places to buy food, it tends to be extremely expensive.

"Bamboozle is also looked at as a preview for Warped Tour," said Natalie Yubas. Warped Tour occurs

in the summer and is a bigger version of Bamboozle. Yubas also added, "If you're going to go to Bamboozle, bring sunscreen, water, camera, money, and band-aids. Also, a really great thing is that there are lockers to check your bags."

Senior Jennie Miele had more good things to say about the concert. "I thought it was a great experience and a way to get a really nice tan," she noted.



Courtesy Mark R. Sullivan/TheBamboozle.com

Bamboozle also has its annual contest, "The Break Contest." Bands compete to win a spot on the Bamboozle stage. Visit <http://www.thebreak-contest.com/> for more details.

## The Rise and Fall of Lohan

Angelica Catalano

Fashion Editor

Where did it all go wrong for Lindsay Lohan? The star currently is facing up to three years in jail after being caught drunk-driving and in possession of cocaine twice in the course of two months. It's intriguing to chart Lindsay's rise and fall, from a strong start as one of the most promising young actors in Hollywood, to a quick decline into a rehab-hopping party girl with her career in tatters, all in the space of a mere 10 years. Don't we all remember Lindsay as a successful and talented child? Things have changed for Lindsay and all of her promise and talent seems to have sadly been wasted.

For over the past decade, Lohan has starred in various productions that helped propel her initial success, establishing her name and reputation. Even before becoming a well-known actress, she served as a role model for young teens and children worldwide. From her success in *The Parent Trap* in 1998, as a young twelve-year old girl, all the way to *Mean Girls* in 2004, where she took on the role of an average teenage girl, Lindsay was the picture of talent and success. Her teenage fans loved her. As she grew older, she began to take on more intense and mature roles, and

it seems that is when everything began to collapse.

As Lindsay entered the adult world of Hollywood, her whole world started to crumble around her. Everything was parties, irresponsibility, and alcohol, and her reputation plummeted in a notorious fashion. Miley Cyrus at 16 is another young and up and coming Hollywood star. She has vowed "never to take on the ways of Lindsay, and toy around with her life."

So what exactly has young Lindsay become? Sadly, Lohan is now the example of exactly what not to do in Hollywood. Parents do not want their children emulating her. She is the poster child of how not to handle fame. As witnessed by Cyrus' sentiments, teen stars now see Lindsay as "what not to do." Her mistakes and foolish irresponsible ways have caused her to land in turmoil.

Currently, Lindsay Lohan is just another forlorn example of how the mighty fall quickly in the land of Hollywood, where careers rise and fall like waves in the Pacific. It's incredible how a few mistakes can amass into a total career killer, ripping what once was hopeful and promising to pathetic shreds.



Lindsay in better times.

Courtesy MTV.com

## Tragic Ski Accident Claims Actress' Life

Sarah Sachse & Lindsey Tannenbaum

Staff Writers

On Monday, March 16, actress Natasha Richardson, 45, died as a result of injuries sustained in a skiing accident north of Montreal. Richardson was taking a private ski lesson on a bunny slope when she fell. She was not wearing a helmet. She immediately got up and laughed it off, and continued to ski the rest of the way down.

"It was a normal fall; she didn't hit anyone or anything," says Lyne Lortie, spokeswoman for the Mont Tremblant Ski Resort in Canada. "She didn't show any signs of injury; she was talking and she seemed all right."

"She was laughing and joking and she walked to her room on her own," says a second spokeswoman, Catherine Lacasse. It was reported that there were no cuts or bleeding. Natasha suffered from severe headaches about an hour after the fall and was taken to a nearby hospital in Quebec where she was then transferred to a hospital in Montreal.



Natasha Richardson

Courtesy of Babble.com

From there, Richardson eventually was flown to Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City where she was declared brain dead. Her husband, actor Liam Neeson, rushed off his movie set in Toronto to be with her.

"There was no chance. It is a fact that her heart was beating, but she was brain dead," commented a Richardson family friend on March 17. The damage occurred because there was a leakage of blood between Natasha's brain and her skull when she fell.

Natasha Richardson officially died on March 18 and her autopsy was done the following day. Her brain showed signs of an epidural hematoma, which is a build-up of blood in the brain and spine which increased pressure and compressed Natasha's brain tissue. Only about 15-20 % of people with epidural hematomas die.

Natasha Richardson was born into fame on May 11, 1963. Her mother, Vanessa Redgrave, is a noted actress and her father, Tony Richard-

son, was a famous director/producer. Richardson made her film debut at the age of four in the movie *The Charge of the Light Brigade*. The film was directed by her father. Natasha grew up in London and attended London's *Central School of Speech and Drama*. She was recognized internationally for her role as Sally Bowles in the 1998 Broadway revival of *Cabaret*, for which she won a Tony award.

Since then, Richardson starred in many other roles. In 1998, she starred as the mother, Elizabeth James, in the 1998 remake of the movie *The Parent Trap*. In both 1990 and 2005, Natasha won best actress awards at the Evening Standard British Film Awards. One of those was for the film *Asylum*, a movie in which Richardson was also the executive producer. She also received a British Independent Film award nomination for *Asylum*. Her final performance was in the 2008 film *Wild Child*, in which she played Mrs. Kingsley.

Natasha Richardson's first marriage was to Richard Fox. They were married from 1990 until 1992. She has had two children with current husband Liam Neeson, Micheál Richard Antonio, age 13, and Daniel Jack, age 12.

After losing her father to AIDS-related reasons in 1991, Richardson became strongly involved in raising money for AIDS awareness. She became a member of the board of trustees for amFAR in 2006. The organization is dedicated in providing education, research, and public policy. Nearly 250 million dollars has been donated to the organization since 1985.

Natasha received amFAR's Award of Courage in November of 2000. Richardson has also took part in

many other AIDS related organizations including Bailey House, God's Love We Deliver, Mother's Voices, AIDS Crisis Tryst and the National AIDS Trust. Richardson sat as an ambassador for the National AIDS Trust organization.

Richardson was an inspiring role model to her friends, family, and loyal fans. Her unexpected accident caught many people off guard, and will serve as a reminder that safety should always come first.



Poster courtesy of Walt Disney Pictures

# The Major League's Off-Season Moves: A Guide To Who Is Where In Baseball '09

Joey Loreti

Staff Writer

With winter meetings and signings now a memory, Major League Baseball's spring training has given way to opening days and the start of another season. After a very busy and controversial off-season, many team's final rosters are beginning to take shape. This off-season consisted of teams paying out over \$400 Million, trades galore, and plenty of trade rumors that never turned into reality. While few see making a couple million less than expected as a hardship, many MLB players felt that pain this off-season, as teams struggled to make budgets with the collapse of the economy.

The New York Mets were the first to make a big splash this off-season, signing free agent closer Francisco Rodriguez, to a three year, \$37 million deal. At the end of the 2008 season, Rodriguez was widely considered the best closer on the market in 2009. It was reported that "K-Rod" was seeking a more lucrative contract, something around \$75 million for five years. The Mets clearly were looking to upgrade their bullpen this off season, especially after again losing their division in the final games for the second straight season. Just a day after signing "K-Rod," the Mets acquired former closer J.J. Putz from the Seattle Mariners in a trade that sent utility outfielder Endy Chavez, relievers Aaron Heilman and Joe Smith, and a few minor leaguers. Although the Mets had just acquired Rodriguez, Putz is expected to share some of the closing duties and in part provide one of the best late inning duos in the league. The Mets later re-signed starting pitcher Oliver Perez for three years at \$12 million per year, after missing out on signing Derek Lowe. Lowe had received an offer from the Mets, but ended up signing with division rival the Atlanta Braves for a huge four year, \$60 million deal.

The Mets weren't the only ones shaking things up in New York. The cross-town rival Yankees planned on making this off-season one of their most productive with over \$90 million to spend. After not reaching the post-season for the first time in 13 years, the Yankees were expected to be extremely active in the free-agent market. With deep pocket co-owners Hal and Hank Steinbrenner, there was no telling what talent would be gracing Yankee Stadium this upcoming season.

The Yankees' first move came in the late fall when they signed big lefty C.C. Sabathia to a seven year, \$161 million contract, with a nine million signing bonus. Sabathia's contract with the Yankees is the largest ever for a major league pitcher. The Yankees saw in C.C. exactly what they needed to replace the footsteps left behind by retiring Mike Mussina, who went 20-9 with a 3.37 ERA this past season.

After the addition of Sabathia, many believed the Yankees would not

target the next biggest available pitching prospect, A.J. Burnett. Yet after reportedly talking with the Braves, the Red Sox, and the Orioles, the Yankees scooped up Burnett with a five year, \$82.5 million contract, just 24 hours after the Sabathia announcement.

With the rotation all but assured, the Bronx Bombers proceeded to lock up a couple of current players under contract, re-signing lefty reliever Damaso Marte to a three year deal, and avoiding arbitration with starting pitcher Chien-Ming Wang for a one year, \$5 million deal. With Sabathia and Burnett signed, the market quickly turned its attention to the cream of the position player free agents, Mark Teixeira. Thought to no longer be



K-Rod will celebrate saves for the Mets this year. Courtesy Delaware Online

suitors for the young first baseman, the Yankees stood back as the rival Red Sox and the Nationals progressed through hopeful negotiations, making a hard

push for the coveted free agent. After a few weeks had passed, Teixeira reportedly was close to signing with the rival Red Sox when the Yankees made their final off-season splash, unexpectedly signing the switch-hitting 28-year old to an eight year, \$180 million contract.

Other teams improved their lineups through the free agent market as well. Boston, while missing out on both Burnett and Teixeira, still were able to sign several savvy veterans with low money guaranteed, high incentive deals.

In one week, the Bosox locked up starters Brad Penny and John Smoltz to sure up the back end of their rotation, along with former Dodgers closer Takashi Saito to bolster their already strong bullpen. They then proceeded to re-sign Mark Kotsay and sign hometown fan favorite Rocco Baldelli for bench and fourth outfielder roles, which was necessary



C.C. Sabathia is now a Yankee. Courtesy Full Count Pitch

after trading for another bullpen arm, Ramon Ramirez, acquired for Coco Crisp. Throw in catcher Josh Bard on a one year deal to back-up Captain Jason Varitek, and the Red Sox committed only \$16 million of guaranteed money to counter the Yankees' heavy spending, in a low risk, high reward type of approach.

The Red Sox did pay two long term contracts this off-season in order to avoid future arbitration, but only in extending Kevin Youkilis' contract four years, for \$41 million, and reigning American League M.V.P. Dustin Pedroia for six years, \$40.5 million. Despite the large total paid in an off-season of relative bargains, these two signings could prove to be great deals for the Red Sox

if both players remain relatively healthy over the next six years. If just a few of their cheap options work for the Red Sox in 2009, expect them to remain right at the front of the AL East race, despite the highly regarded moves by their division rival Yankees.

After reaching the World Series this year, it would seem that the Philadelphia Phillies and the Tampa Bay Rays would not be in need of big off-season additions. Yet the Rays' front office was so impressed with what they saw of Pat Burrell in the World Series last year that they made moves in the off season and eventually reeled in Burrell with a \$14 million contract. Burrell will serve mainly as a designated hitter for the Rays, and supply them with the sort of powerful right-handed bat that they lacked in their 2008 lineup.

In need of replacing Burrell, the Phillies added ex-Mariner Raul Ibanez to their already heavy left-handed hitting lineup. Ibanez, 36, did not come cheaply, costing the World Champions \$31.5 million over a three year span. The Chicago Cubs were denied a return to the World Series once again after being swept by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 2008 National League Divisional Series, despite having been the favorite in the National League. In a renewed effort for 2009 to once again reverse the curse, the Cubs locked up right fielder Milton Bradley for a three year deal of his own, worth \$30 million.

After losing high-profile free agents Rodriguez, Teixeira, and Garret Anderson, the Los Angeles Angels needed to make a move to place another impact bat into their lineup. Jason Giambi had already left the Yanks to sign with his old team, the A's, which left the Angels

to pick up another former Yankee, Bobby Abreu, in a very affordable one year, \$5 million deal. The same day, the Nationals finally brought in the big clean-up bat they've been craving, locking up Adam Dunn in a two-year \$20 million deal. Dunn is a sure bet for 40 home-runs and over 100 runs batted in. He will instantly provide a big veteran bat to complement the Nats' young hitting.

Toward the end of the off-season, the market seemed to have dropped out on the remain-

ing unsigned free agents. Many teams had thought about signing free agent starting pitcher Ben Sheets, but were wary of his health risks. After reportedly agreeing to become a Texas Ranger, Sheets failed his physical, keeping him a free agent. He opted for surgery to repair a torn flexor tendon in his elbow and likely will attempt a return for the second half of the season.

Ken Griffey Jr. had apparently made his decision to sign with the Atlanta Braves on an affordable one year deal. However, after the Atlanta Journal Constitution falsely reported that the deal was official, "The Kid" ended up signing with the team that first drafted him, the Seattle Mariners, for a one year, two million dollar contract. Griffey's contract is just as much about his play on



Manny being Manny back in his Red Sox heyday. Courtesy Village Voice

the field as it is about the fan attendance he draws and the expected increase in merchandise sales. In a response to missing out on Junior, the Braves picked up former Angels' outfielder and designated hitter Garret Anderson in an affordable one year, two and a half million dollar deal.

And of course, this entire time, Manny Ramirez was being Manny. After a huge second half with the Los Angeles Dodgers and gaudy post-season numbers, Manny came into the off-season expecting a contract in the four year, \$100 million range. After the Dodgers made two early attempts at resigning Ramirez, one an offer of arbitration and the other a two year, \$45 million deal, agent Scott Boras proclaimed he would now begin to take "serious offers" for the unique free agent. Boras, known throughout baseball for his constant antics that drive up the price on his free agents, poorly misread the market for Manny, as there were never more than two interested

teams for the slugger. Even the Yankees were apparently tapped out, and the Mets decided to stick with Daniel Murphy in left field rather than pursue Ramirez. The San Francisco Giants appeared to possibly be in competition for Manny, but they ultimately never made an offer.

After months of negotiating and talks breaking down, the two sides were able to reach an agreement on a similar, two year \$45 million contract. However, Manny can opt out after just the first season, so we may very well have to deal with Manny being Manny this next off-season.



Pat Burrell switched World Series teams in the off-season. Courtesy MLBlogs.com

# CAZZS' CORNER

## New Rules May Ruin Football

Chris Cassavecca

Sports Editor

The National Football League recently established new rules to go into effect for the upcoming 2009-10 season. According to N.F.L. Commissioner Roger Goodell, these new rules were established out of a concern for the players' safety.

The new rules include the following: there will be no more than two players wedging on a kick return, no more than five players on each side of the field for an on-side kick, and a third rule that may change the game of football forever.

According to the newly minted fifth provision of Rule 12, Section 2, Article 12 (the rule regarding "roughing the passer"), a rushing defender is prohibited from forcibly hitting in the knee area or below on a passer who has one or both feet on the ground, even if the initial contact is above the knee. It is not a foul if the defender is blocked (or fouled) into the passer and has no opportunity to avoid him; this rule has come to be known as "The Tom Brady Rule," since it obviously is geared to prevent similar injuries. A player will be penalized if they hit a quarterback anywhere except the designated "strike zone." Violation of each of the above new rule

to watch hits so hard that the person watching feels it.

What most people don't realize is that the N.F.L. came up with these rules not only to protect the players, but also to protect the N.F.L. television ratings. The N.F.L. recently cut a deal with the Dish Network to keep the NFL Network

The onside kick often is what provides teams with hope of turning a blowout into a closer game. If the N.F.L. is so worried about ratings, then why ruin these ratings by taking out the fun aspects of the onside kick? If a



Devin Hester eludes Colts en route to another kickoff TD return.

Courtesy of Shaun Best/Reuters

on their satellite offering for the stately sum of one billion dollars each year (yes, with a b!). With so much money at stake, it is important to keep ratings up. If a big-time player, such as Tom Brady or Peyton Manning, was to go down through a long-term injury, ratings would logically go down as well. Viewers tune in specifically to watch such primo quarterbacks. However, what if Drew Bledsoe never broke his sternum in 2000? Where would Tom Brady be today? The same goes for the recent career bloom of Brady replacement Matt Cassel. If Tom Brady hadn't gone down last season, Matt Cassel would still be a benchwarmer.

The point is that the N.F.L. needs injuries. As harsh as that may sound, injuries allow for a showcase of formerly unseen talent in players that might never otherwise get a chance to shine. The N.F.L. has hit a sensitive note here for many football fans, especially ones who formerly enjoyed watching the intensity of such players as Lawrence Taylor, Joe Greene, and Mark Gastineau. The N.F.L. needs to leave the rule book alone before the game turns into nothing more than a glorified "Flag Football League."

Some of the league's most inspirational players would have been out of the league due to suspensions if they played the game that way. Owners build up their teams and spend millions on defensive players (such as Albert Haynesworth, the \$100 million dollar man) to attack and sack quarterbacks, doing whatever it takes, even if it means taking an occasional swap at the QB's legs.

The special teams rule changes seem to be another set of unnecessary actions taken by the N.F.L.



Courtesy of Emma Glass pre-season and extending the regular season by two games (making it an 18-game season). Goodell hopes to put this extension into effect over the next two years, considering that all NFL team owners first have to agree on the proposal.

This season extension would make the Super Bowl occur at the end of February, rather than at the beginning. If this rule does go into effect over the next couple of years, it



makes the other alleged "safety" rule changes a little more understandable (I understand them, but still don't agree with them).

The biggest concern the owners might have with a season extension is how long their players could last. Due to the power and speed of the game, many players can hardly make it through the current 16-game season, particularly such big defensive linemen as Albert Haynesworth or Kris Jenkins. It might take a lot of extra conditioning.

Eighteen all-out games of football sounds great for fans. This certainly would help boost ratings for the N.F.L., but is it really in line with the idea to make football a safer game overall?

Although Roger Goodell and the N.F.L. Committee have made some questionable moves in these recent weeks, there is one good idea currently being explored – that of shortening the



Mark Gastineau in his "Sack Exchange" days.

Courtesy of ABC News

amendments by players will result in a 15-yard penalty.

According to many people, N.F.L. officials are officially ruining the game.

There are three reasons why people like me watch the good ole' game of football: 1) to see one's team win, 2) to watch and root for one's team's players be successful, and 3)



A downed Tom Brady and the "reason for this new rule."

Courtesy of Deadspin

# Cazz's 2009 NFL Mock Draft

Chris Cassavecca

Sports Editor

## 1) Detroit Lions: Matthew Stafford QB Georgia

Detroit's quarterback situation has been in question since, well let's face it, they've never really had a franchise quarterback. Matthew Stafford is the perfect pick here at number one and the Lions desperately need him. Last year, the Lions were ranked 28<sup>th</sup> in the league with a passing averaging of 185 yards. Although any quarterback taken in the draft is unproven, the Lions have no other choice (Mark Sanchez and Josh Freeman are the only other high profile QBs in this draft) and the Lions won't be looking for one in later rounds. Although the team still has questions with its offensive line (how strong it is, whether it can protect the quarterback), the line still needs someone to protect. Stafford will be the first pick, no questions asked.

## 2) Rams: Jason Smith OT Baylor

Arguably Smith is the best tackle in the draft. At 6' 5," 309 lbs., Jason Smith is what the Rams need to get back to 2001 Super Bowl contender form. In the combine, Smith put up 33 reps and ran a 5.22 40-yard dash, which is fairly quick for a lineman. They have the running back in Steven Jackson and a quarterback in Marc Bulger. With Jason Smith at tackle, they will finally have someone to protect against another injury-plagued season. Last year the Rams were 31<sup>st</sup> in total points (14.5 per game), and were ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in total yards (287.2 yards per game). The Dolphins beat them to a great OT in last year's draft; this year the Rams will be in control.

## 3) Chiefs: Aaron Curry LB Wake Forest

Aaron Curry is hands down the best defensive player in this draft (and possibly the best overall player). The Chiefs suffered last year on defense, in spite of their 2008 pick, Glenn Dorsey. Aaron Curry is a high caliber player who put up amazing numbers in the combine, running a 4.56 40-yard dash (the fastest time for a LB) and 25 reps in the bench press. The Chiefs will also be running under a new head coach in Todd Haley (the former offensive coordinator of the Cardinals). This puts Curry in an even easier learning environment, as every player will be at the same level. Though it will take some time for Curry to adjust to Chiefs newly formed 3-4 defense, he could be the Jerod Mayo of this draft. (GM Scott Pioli picked Jerod Mayo last year for the Patriots; now that he is with the Chiefs don't expect him to do anything differently).

## 4) Seahawks: Eugene Monroe OT Virginia

Although it is highly unlikely that three offensive tackles get drafted in the top 10, this year it just might happen. The Seahawks have a need, and with the addition of T.J. Houshmandzadeh it is very unlikely they will draft Michael Crabtree here, especially with the large depth of wide receivers available in this year's draft. Matt Hasselbeck is getting up there in age and won't be able to take the same hits he used to, especially after last year's herniated disk injury. The Hawks can use Eugene Monroe to protect Hasselbeck in the pocket, as well as use him as a pulling tackle to help make holes for whoever will be running the ball for them next season (the Hawks currently do not have a starting running back).

## 5) Cleveland: Brian Orakpo DE/LB Texas

Mangini has never been much of an offensive guy; he loves that defense mentality, which is why they will select Orakpo. With Aaron Curry off the board, the Browns have no other defensive option at LB. Although many Brown fans would like to have Crabtree with this pick, Mangini prefers first having a defense to help you get the ball back. Last year the Browns were 26<sup>th</sup> in total defense (they gave up more than 350 yards and 21 points per game). Cleveland simply could not rush the quarterback, only racking up 17 sacks on the season (no player had more than four). Orakpo immediately changes the impact of the Browns' defense and can achieve strong numbers throughout the whole season, providing he can last the whole season.

## 6) Cincinnati: Michael Crabtree WR Texas Tech

With the loss of T.J. Houshmandzadeh and a currently disgruntled Chad "Ocho Cinco" Johnson, the Bengals need a wide receiver. With concerns about his broken foot, Crabtree did drop in draft value, but that broken foot will not mean anything to Cincinnati. Crabtree did not participate in Pro Day or in the Combine because of his broken foot, but Cincy will come away with a steal. Crabtree definitely had a huge impact on Texas Tech's run last year and he will do the same in the pros. Crabtree is a guy destined to succeed in the NFL, unless there is an injury involved, but overall Crabtree is physical, tough, and smart (something Chad Johnson wishes he was).



Michael Crabtree should be the first WR chosen. Courtesy DoubleNation

## 7) Oakland: Jeremy Maclin WR Missouri

This is the first time in three years Oakland has had a pick outside the top 5 and with Crabtree likely going before this, Oakland likely will go with WR Jeremy Maclin from Mizzou. Although Maclin has some mechanics work to do on his

route running, he is a multi-task kind of guy. Maclin was also a kick returner in college and will complete Oakland's phenomenal special teams' package. I can also see Oakland taking BJ Raji at this pick or maybe even trading down, as Maclin isn't a really high caliber player in this draft.

## 8) Jacksonville: Andre Smith OT Alabama

After a playoff season in 2007, last year wasn't as kind to the Jags. Although the team has some questions on defense, the offensive line is struggling and getting old. Smith was the original top OT before the combine, so he does have some high draft value and the Jags will not want to pass on him. David Garrard had a tough time staying in the pocket last year and was limited in his mobility because of constant offensive line collapses. Maurice Jones-Drew also had a tough time finding holes and would like that to change this year. Andre Smith may be an egotistical hothead, but his talent is elite-level.



Matthew Stafford is headed to the Lions. Courtesy Study of Sports

## 9) Green Bay: B.J. Raji DT Boston College

Aaron Rodgers was not the reason for the downfall of the Packers last year, but he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Last year the Packers were horrifically defensive, giving up an average 351.1 yards per game and struggling against the run (ranking 20<sup>th</sup> in rushing yards allowed). Ryan Pickett is the current nose tackle but does not fit in a 3-4 defense. At 6' 2," 337 lbs., Raji is not only a perfect fit for a 3-4, but he is what the Packers have been looking for since Mike McCarthy became head coach in 2006.

## 10) San Francisco: Mark Sanchez QB USC

Many mockers do not have Sanchez here at number 10, in fact, I'm the only one who has this USC quarterback going to the 49ers. San Francisco has many problems with their team, but rebuilding has to start with a quarterback. USC quarterbacks are known for being a bust in the NFL (Matt Leinart, for example), but Sanchez seems different. He had a great Pro Day and gained a lot of draft value. There are also rumblings that Aaron Maybin from Penn State could move up to this pick, considering his speed and incredible movement around blockers. The 49ers haven't had a franchise quarterback since Steve Young (or Jeff Garcia, if you count that). Sanchez would be a perfect fit with Mike Singletary's offense.

## 11) NY Jets: Darius Heyward-Bey WR Maryland

With Coles gone, the Jets are left without a #1 receiver. At Maryland, Heyward-Bey was a very quick threat downfield and can also turn his 6' 2" height into an 8-foot giant. At the combine, he recorded the fastest 40-yard dash at 4.3 seconds and had a vertical jump at 38.5 inches. The Jets also have some concerns at quarterback, but they would like to go with an in-organization quarterback at this time (especially after drafting Clemens in 2006 and Ainge in 2008). If the Jets do select a QB, it will most likely be Josh Freeman from Kansas State, but they will likely go with the need pick here and choose Heyward-Bey. If Heyward-Bey is already gone from the board, the Jets will go after Tyson Jackson, a DE from LSU.

## 12) NY Giants: James Laurinaitis LB Ohio State

After pulling out of the draft last year, Laurinaitis lost a lot of draft value. A year ago he was a top 10 pick and would have likely gone to the Jets instead of Gholston. The Giants get lucky this year with Laurinaitis and they will be able to finally add some depth to the linebacker staff. The Giants are always Super Bowl contenders, but now with the releasing of Burress, they need to make sure the defense is able to stop the opposing team from scoring. Without Burress, the Giants haven't shown great ability to produce points.

## 13) NY Jets: Jarron Gilbert DE San Jose State (Trade Up Situation)

Kenyon Coleman and Shaun Ellis are both on the wrong side of 30 and the team would like to get a young DE. Jarron Gilbert has not really been spoken of, as there are several high caliber Des available in this draft. At 6' 5," 288 lbs., he is a perfect fit for a 3-4 DE. Gilbert ran a 4.80 40-yard dash, which proves he has the speed to get to the quarterback and could be an outside threat. The only concern is whether Gilbert will be able to learn a Rex Ryan defensive scheme. The Jets may also go with Derrick Williams from Penn State if they are unable to draft Heyward-Bey in the first round or if they decide to go with Tyson Jackson.

## 14) NY Giants: Hakeem Nicks WR North Carolina

The releasing of Burress has many Giant fans worried, but Hakeem Nicks will be able to pick the Giants back up. Although Nicks lacks the height Burress had (he's only 6' 1"), Nicks is a very physical receiver and will fight for the ball when it is thrown to him. Nicks is not a deep threat, but when it comes to Eli dumping off passes into the end zone, Nicks will make sure he comes down with it.

# Returning Laxmen Revive Husky Hopes

Claudio Delli Carpini

Staff Writer

The temperature was flirting around at some forty degrees and there was a constant rain. Thick grey clouds smothered the surrounding area over Harrison's McGillicutty Field. This wasn't the type of weather the Harrison boys' varsity lacrosse team had hoped for when they walked on the field to square off against Nyack High School for their season opener.

The Huskies, led by head coach Bruce Kininsky, proved worthy of establishing a legitimate record this year as they tied local power Rye High School 2-2 in a mid-March scrimmage. Scoring both goals in that contest was senior Cary Boucher, a senior attack man who is headed to the Suffield Preparatory School next year to play lacrosse. Keeping the Garnets top scorer Rob Santangelo in check was senior defenseman Justin Segal, who is entering his fifth season on the varsity lacrosse team.

Justin elaborated on his last upcoming season, stating, "We have a number of sophomores who are stepping into lead roles this year. If the seniors can lead the young talent on



The Huskies in action.

Courtesy of Helena Jaffe

our team, we will be on our way to a very successful season."

What the Huskies are hoping for this season is a solid foundation of role players – ideally six or seven. Boucher, Segal, and defenseman Max Jaffe are all seniors with solid experience- but varsity lacrosse games in Section One aren't won by just a handful of players. This area is a hotbed for recruiting; divi-

sion one players are as common in Westchester as they are anywhere else in the country.

Coach K got a pleasant surprise with exceptional performances from sophomores Charlie Shgrue and Alex Accompora. Accompora had a hat trick in his varsity debut, opening the game with two quick goals before he then whipped a laser from twenty yards

out for the game winner in overtime. Shgrue's two goals late in the game provided the Huskies with the life support they needed to take the game into overtime. Both players showed veteran poise and consistency in their first game as starting middies.

Last season the Huskies were on the bad end of three blowout losses; one coming to regional powerhouse John Jay-Cross River in the second round of the sectional playoffs. The Huskies' low seeding for the sectional tournament - something that's indicative of a team's regular season performances- certainly did not aid the Huskies toward a deep run in the playoffs.

"The luxury we have with our schedule this season is that we will be able to contend with every team we play," said Justin Segal. "That should put us in a very good position come playoff seeding time."

The Huskies are hoping for a high seeding this year, but this time around no one's making them keep their fingers crossed.

## Baseball Rebounds From Skoalgate

Sam Goldman

Staff Writer

It came to be known as "Skoalgate." These are terms that have been associated with the 2008 Harrison Boys Varsity Baseball team. Last year's Varsity Baseball team was a mixture of both excitement and conflict. For those unaware of what happened, the boys' team was accused of using chewing tobacco over the course of the season. This caused nine players to be suspended for three pivotal games, and ultimately it shattered hopes of a potential playoff appearance for the team. The boys ended up with a record of 9-12 and overall, there was a sense of underachievement. "This year is a different story," says the senior first basemen and captain of the 2009 Huskies, Pat Stiso.

When he sat down to speak with the Husky Herald about the future of the team, Pat seemed very confident in the abilities of his teammates to move toward a potential sectional championship: "Our strength coming into the season is that we've been playing together since Little League. We are a senior- laden team, and I think if anything we have the greatest team

chemistry in the whole section."

With heavy contributions expected from senior captains Phil DiLullo, Charlie Galasso, and Pat Stiso, the team hopes to again have a taste of what they accomplished two years ago. As sophomores on the Varsity, these three made a second round playoff appearance and obtained valuable experience.

When asked if there was any doubt in his mind about making it into the playoffs, Stiso candidly replied, "Nah, not even." Clearly this team seems determined and ready to play. "People have been schemin' on our abilities to compete, but this year is doozie."

What Stiso means is that people have been overlooking the team's play, but that this year will prove to be a true showing of its talent. Ultimately, the team is ready to make a new name for themselves and to put all the talk about last year's team behind them once and for all.

The offensive and defensive sides of the ball are definitely shaping up from last season. With an increasing slew of hitters, led by DiLullo who is a definite player at the plate, the Huskies look to take their opponents by surprise. Defensively they are looking just as strong. With Charlie Galasso on the mound, along with some other defensive help, the team promises to be a consistent one.

"And don't forget me at first base," added Stiso. "I'll field anything that comes to me."

Clearly Stiso's confidence is evident. From the looks of it, these boys want to make the best of the upcoming season. The boy's team would greatly appreciate seeing more school spirit in terms of crowds coming out to

cheer them on. If you can make it to a game, you should go see how the boys are set to launch the 2009 varsity baseball season.



## Huskies Tee Off New Golf Season

Joey Loreti

Staff Writer

The Harrison Golf team is in full gear this year, looking to capture a league title. Led by Coach DeVittorio, the Huskies are an experienced team with a ton of talented players. Eight out of the current 10 players are returning from last year's team.

As with any team, strong leadership will be the key to success. Returning seniors Chris Malfitano and Steve DiMilia should provide that leadership for this year's Huskies. Other returning players include Mike DiTursi, Nate Berman, Matt Schaffer, Daniel Lichtenauer, Charles Lichtenauer, and Rocco Cipriano. Alex Lee, who played two years ago, has now returned to the team. Rounding out the roster is Nicky Pyle, a rookie.

Harrison recently picked up a big victory against New Rochelle at Old Oaks Country Club, 216-234, where the Huskies had four players

in the top five, with Chris Malfitano leading the way.

"We're really hot right now," said Malfitano, "especially me; catch me if you can I'm the gingerbread man." The Huskies improved their record to 4-2, including a flawless 2-0 standing in their league, and look to improve upon that with their next match.

In early May the Huskies will tee off against their rival, the Rye Garnets, in a big match at Old Oaks Country Club. With such a huge matchup on the horizon, the Huskies are looking to pick up some momentum moving forward with their season.

"The team is really coming together," said senior Steven DiMilia. "We're playing like a family." With that kind of team mentality, there's no limit to the success the Huskies can achieve this golf season.



Mike DeLacy goes yard.

Courtesy Lauren Dowling

# Delli Carpini Wins All-American Honors

Sam Goldman

Staff Writer

Recently, Harrison High School senior Claudio Delli Carpini earned High School Track & Field All-American honors (top six in the country) in two of the sport's most competitive events, while also performing in the school's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Claudio earned All-America status in the long jump and in the 60-meter high hurdle events. *The Husky Herald* recently sat down with Claudio:

**HH:** What inspired you to run track?

**CD:** To be honest with you, I was cut from the baseball team in seventh and eighth grades and I decided to run track.

**HH:** People throughout the country know you as a national leader in both the 60 meter high hurdles and the long jump, but they don't know about your records as a middle school competitor. Why don't you tell us about that?

**CD:** When I was 13 years old, I jumped 6'0" in the high jump which at the time was the national record for eighth graders, and this helped motivate me to pursue track for the future.

**HH:** Recently you competed in a national competition for the long jump and the 60 meter hurdles. How did those events turn out for you?

**CD:** I didn't jump my best in the long jump. I jumped 23.0 feet even, but that was good enough to secure my All-American bid at sixth place. In the hurdles, I broke a sectional record at 8.03 seconds, although that doesn't

translate to my personal best. However, that time also was good enough to help secure a sixth place spot as All-American.

**HH:** People have been calling you "Claud the Maude" lately. You also changed your Facebook name to

**CD:** It honestly has no reference to me at all. It actually is a woman's name, which completely contradicts my own gender. I really am not a woman I just think it sounds cool.

**HH:** People have really enjoyed your recent performances as Gas-

ments and support, and if you didn't compliment me, well then at least I hope you enjoyed the show.

**HH:** Other members of the spring track team are curious to know about your obsession with the singlet. What can you say to them?

**CD:** If you want to hate, then come up to me and tell me. But I guarantee if you hate, you probably don't look half as good as I do.

**HH:** What do you have to say about having both Coach Zanots as your sprinting coaches?

**CD:** If I'm an All-American athlete, then they're All-American coaches. They push me, and they've never put a ceiling on my potential.

**HH:** Do you think that having been in a dance class here at Harrison High School gives you an advantage in the real world?

**CD:** Most definitely, it does. Half of the men in this world don't dance. So even if I am a terrible dancer, I'm in the upper tier of men.

**HH:** What are your plans for college?

**CD:** I spoke with Syracuse and they want me to be a preferred walk-on for football and track. Penn State offered me a half scholarship to run track, and I'm still waiting to hear from Clemson also regarding running track.



All-American Claudio Delli Carpini hits his stride.

Courtesy of Armory Track

this. Can you explain this nickname?

**CD:** I would be lying if I told you that someone gave me this nickname. I made it up in an attempt to promote myself. Since my acting career has really taken off these past few months I really needed something to stick in people's minds, and ultimately, "Maude" was it.

**HH:** It's still a bit confusing. Why "Maude," and what exactly does it mean?

ton in the school musical production of Disney's *Beauty and The Beast*. What message do you have for your fans?

**CD:** The way the role of Gaston came about was "perfect place, perfect timing." I was in dance class when I heard about auditions. At first, I was apprehensive about trying out for the role. But in an attempt to become a better-rounded person, I gave it the old "college try." To my fans I'd like to say thank you for the compli-

# JV Girls' Softball Team Raring To Go

Chris Cassavecca

Sports Editor

Coach Cerreto and the Junior Varsity Girls' Softball team are off to another successful season after last year's successes, going 17-2 and only losing twice to Pearl River (and only by one run each time). This year Coach Cerreto and the girls are looking forward to possibly achieving an undefeated season.



Sam Angeletta tosses one at practice. Courtesy Emma Glass

Although the JV has seen incredible success these past few years, Coach Cerreto feels that the biggest success will come from how much the girls will learn from this JV experience in preparing them for Coach Marino's Varsity team. In preparation for this

upcoming season, some of the JV girls went to Varsity clinics to work on their hitting mechanics and strategies.

In a recent interview, Coach Cerreto said that her expectations for this season are extremely high.

"The team chemistry is there and the players have both confidence in themselves and each other," noted Cerreto. "Now they have to take that and bring it to the games with them."

According to Coach Cerreto, focus and a hard work ethic is all it will take for this group to be prepared. This JV team is loaded with talent and full of returning players: shortstop Diana Min-

ishi and third baseman Ashley Bratburg are just two among the many returnees expected to help out the Varsity in the near future. The JV also features a new young backstop in eighth grad-

er Amanda Evangelista, who will be catching for the lady Huskies this upcoming season. Evangelista has already worked with starting pitcher Sam Angeletta and relief pitcher Jess Rozyke before, and Cerreto feels very confident in the pitcher-catcher chemistry.

"Every player, whether starter or sub, is equally valuable to this team and every one of them has a specific role and responsibility," said Cerreto.

"Every veteran player has the mindset of a varsity player and that's why this team is so special."

Key games to watch this season are Pearl River, Yorktown, and Tappan Zee. The lady Huskies are eager to take on Pearl River again, after losing close contests these past two years. A win against Pearl River will prove that this team is ready for the Varsity level, and may prove to be one of the best softball teams Harrison has fielded in years. Yorktown always provides a challenge, as does Tappan Zee. Harrison has never had a reputation as a strong school for softball, but this current team of JV girls has other teams worried.



Jess Rozyke warming up.

Courtesy Emma Glass