

# Husky Herald

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## A Hero In Our Midst

Amy Carton

News Editor

A hero is defined as one who is admired for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. While heroes are often portrayed in TV shows, books, movies, and other forms of entertainment, it is not often that we are exposed to heroes locally within our community. On December 22, 2010, Harrison found just that - a hero in our midst.

James Vargas, a tenth grader who recently transferred to Harrison from Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx, exemplified through his immediate actions what it means to be a true hero. On a Wednesday night around 7:30 p.m., Vargas was traveling along the Bronx River Parkway with his mother. He was sitting in the passenger seat of his mother's car when he began to notice the car in front of him. According to James, the car was swerving uncontrollably and speeding at what he believed to be around 90 miles per hour. It was then that he sensed something was about to happen. As the car attempted to move from the left lane into the middle lane, it whirled around and flew into

the Bronx River. As James described, "I knew something was wrong when I saw the car swerving. Then, the next thing I knew, the car hit the guardrail and flipped into the river."

James, shocked by what he had witnessed, ordered his mother to stop the car and call 911. Without a moment to think, James rushed to the River's edge and began searching for the car. Due to the fact that the river was darkened by the night, James found it difficult at first to find the car. Luckily, he was able to spot the beaming taillights, which were facing the river's surface. Then James did the unthinkable.

Acting solely on impulse, he jumped into the frigid, waist-



James Vargas.

*Courtesy of Alli Fuerst*

deep river and swam out to the car. When asked if he had given any thought to his action prior to jumping into the water, James

responded, "I just didn't think of anything. I just knew I had to jump in there to help her."

Although the car was fully submerged and upside-down in the water, James successfully swam to the driver's seat and kicked open the door. Because so much water had surrounded and entered the car, additional pressure and strength was required to pop open the door of the car. As James described, "It was a little hard to open at the time. I had to rock the car back and forth a few times just to get the door open." After several attempts to tear the door from its hinges, James successfully pried open the door, grabbing the lady who had been driving. He then swam the woman to the riverbank, and by the time they reached the shore the police and ambulance had arrived. The police then took James to see the woman he had saved, where he was introduced as "the guy who saved your life." Although James' heroic acts ended there, the story and impact has not been forgotten.

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# news & features

## Respect Your Elder!

Rachel Breslin and Christina Loguidice  
Features Editor, Staff Writer

This year, former head of the social studies department, Mr. Josh Elder, made the switch to assistant principal. The Husky Herald sat down with Mr. Elder to learn more about his background, and get his take on the latest happenings at the high school, such as the pending introduction of the I.B. program, and Rachel's Challenge.

**Husky Herald (HH):** How are you enjoying your new position as assistant principal?

**Josh Elder (JE):** I am very glad to be in the position I am in. I enjoyed the Social Studies department and working at LMK. The aspect I enjoy the most is getting to interact with students on more of a daily basis.

**HH:** What are your new responsibilities as assistant principal?

**JE:** Students, student discipline, co-curriculars, and academic eligibility.

**HH:** What do you like the most about your new job?

**JE:** What I like the most about it is that it changes from day to day, hour to hour and minute to minute. Every day is changing and I love the unpredictability.

**HH:** How did you become interested in implementing the I.B. program at Harrison High?

**JE:** As a life-long educator, you are constantly growing as a

professional, so in terms of the I.B. program, there are many appealing aspects. It is a different way to represent mastery of content of the curriculum. This program also puts most of the responsibility on students, allowing them to take it more seriously because it gives them more of a chance to show what they know.

**HH:** What is your role in implementing the I.B. Program?

**JE:** Currently my role is to work with other supervisors to plan implementation of the I.B program.

**HH:** How do you think the I.B. program will ultimately benefit the high school?

**JE:** It will offer more opportunities for our students, in a multitude of ways. It allows for more in depth study and focus on individual interests.

**HH:** What other programs have you brought to Harrison?

**JE:** Earlier in the year I worked a lot with Rachel's Challenge.

**HH:** How were you personally affected by Rachel's Challenge?

**JE:** This was the third time seeing the presentation. The message I come away with every

time is that the events in your life don't define you, but rather how you deal with them does.



Mr. Elder at his desk. *Courtesy of Emma Adler*

**HH:** Do you think the Challenge will have a lasting impact on our school?

**JE:** I do because you never know when you can have a positive impact on someone. Now that people are conscience they will only say nice things. Even if it is just one person they can touch five people who touch five more people...Ultimately, we are only going to focus on the people who are committed.

**HH:** How do you the rest of the HHS community felt about the presentation?

**JE:** Many people have come up to me including faculty members telling me how impactful the presentation was. It definitely moved people.

**HH:** Where did you go to college

and what did you study?

**JE:** I got my undergraduate degree from SUNY Potsdam and my graduate's degree from University of Rochester. I majored in history and minored in social studies. I got my graduate's degree in education and leadership because I've always known I wanted to work in education.

**HH:** Are you married?

**JE:** I am. My wife's name is Jessica and we have been married for 8 years. We have a daughter named Lyla.

**HH:** Is there anything you would like to accomplish at the high school before the end of the school year?

**JE:** Yes, I want to work on getting to know more students, and sustaining the message of Rachel's Challenge.

**HH:** What other things are you planning for the future of Harrison High School?

**JE:** The I.B. program will definitely bring positive changes to the school and community. In terms of major changes, every place needs to be treated with kindness and compassion, so I look forward to watching this grow.

# "Blackout in a Can" Four Loko Banned

Tom Falciglia and Olivia Manley  
Staff Writers

The popular drink Four Loko is now banned in the state of New York. According to *The Daily News*, the State Liquor Authority (SLA) had pressured the state's biggest beer distributors to put an end to delivering the beverage and other caffeinated alcoholic cocktails to New York retailers by December 10. The maker of Four Loko agreed to stop shipping its drink to New York distributors after November 19. This deal agreement will allow the SLA to fine any store owners that sell Four Loko without proof that it was ordered before that deadline.

Four Loko is an energy drink with high alcohol content and a bunch of caffeine too. Three alumni from Ohio State University created it in 2006 and first introduced it in Ohio. Within six months, it became popular in Arizona, California, and Illinois as well, particularly among teens and young adults.

Soon, cases were reported where young adults had been rushed to the hospital because of alcohol poisoning due to consuming one or more Four Lokos. The product, marketed as an energy drink, comes in a canister that looks similar to other energy drinks. Yet Four Loko was stocked in the alcohol section of convenience stores.

Four Loko is a malt liquor

alcoholic energy drink that contains a lot of sugar. That means it has caffeine in it and alcohol. Allegedly, one Four Loko contains the equivalent alcohol of three beers and the equivalent caffeine of a Red Bull and two additional cups of coffee.

The four ingredients that make up this drink are caffeine, alcohol, guarana and taurine. Caffeine, a stimulant, does many things to the body. It helps improve alertness and mental performance in people who have gotten little sleep. Also, it increases blood pressure and heart rate and alters sleep patterns. Alcohol, a depressant, can also have major effects on the body. It can cause mood swings, disorientation, possible vomiting, and bad decision making.

Many people are unaware of the ingredients guarana and taurine. Guarana is a climbing plant that has one of the highest concentrations of caffeine on the market – double the caffeine of coffee beans. It can have long-term effects similar to caffeine, one of them being "psychological dependence. This dependence can lead to what some people call "a caffeine addiction."

Taurine is an organic acid with natural effects. It can be found in breast milk, meat and fish. It is also available as a

dietary supplement and can be considered an inhibitory, as its amino acid is used in suppressing epilepsy and in anesthetics.

According to Law Enforcement Chaplain Reverend Rocky Brown III of Delaware County, PA, Four Loko has the blackout effect on the young people who consume the drink. He even stated that adults have been buying the alcohol-based energy drink for minors. He has called this beverage "legalized liquid cocaine." It also has been called "blackout in a can."

Four Loko is available in a variety of flavors, including orange, grape and watermelon. It is sold in a 16-ounce can, and hits the allowable limit of 12% alcohol. In addition to the four major ingredients, the carbonated drink contains sugar, natural flavoring, and artificial flavoring.

"I think it's a very good idea to ban the drink because it can cause many health problems and it is very dangerous to teens," said Samantha Guarnero. "Also, it's probably best to ban it because the drink is targeted to teens. If they want to make an alcoholic energy drink, be my guest, but target it to adults -- not teens!"

"People that drink them need to be responsible just like they were drinking any other

alcoholic beverage," said an anonymous student. "I drink Four Loko, but when I do I am responsible and make sure I stay within my limits."

The mixture of caffeine, taurine, guarana and alcohol in Four Loko had authorities and health experts concerned. The main concern is the mixture of caffeine and alcohol and how it throws off the body, since caffeine stimulates and alcohol slows you down.

"Your body doesn't know if it's coming or going," said another anonymous student. "Four Loko masks the effects of the alcohol. You can actually be a lot more drunk than you realize because the caffeine will make you alert and you don't feel the full effects of the alcohol."

The increasing popularity and consumption of caffeinated alcoholic beverages by college students coincides with reports of potential health and safety issues. In one case at the University of Washington, 23 college students were hospitalized after drinking Four Loko. New York is one of several states across the nation that is starting to crack down on this dangerous beverage.

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## From Mine to Marathon - A Journey

Matt Cysner  
Staff Writer

Less than one month after his rescue from the San José copper-gold mine, where he survived for an unprecedented sixty-nine days, Chilean miner Edison Peña ran in the New York City Marathon. Most would never dare to attempt such a feat, let alone close on the heels of a physically devastating experience, but Edison Peña has the heart of a lion.

Prior to the incident now known as the 2010 Copiapó mining accident, Peña had been jogging three to six miles every day to prepare himself for the

marathon. After being trapped 23,000 feet underground with limited access to food and water, no one would have blamed Peña for halting his regimen. But Peña refused to sacrifice his goal. He knew that lack of exercise would cause his body to deteriorate, along with his chances for marathon success. While some miners kept sane underground by thinking about their loved ones, or in one case listening to Elvis Presley, Peña ran.

Many of the miners were granted amazing opportunities following their rescue. The miner

who listened to Elvis was offered a trip to Graceland. Peña, on the other hand, was flown to New York City by the New York Road Runners and invited to watch the New York Marathon. Peña was honored by the invitation, but chose to take the offer to the next level. Rather than watch from the sidelines, Peña ran all twenty-six miles of the grueling race, finishing with a time of five hours, forty minutes and fifty-one seconds. Asked afterward why he made the decision to run in the marathon Peña replied, "I want to motivate people to tran-

scend their own pain."

Peña's dedication to his goal and will to succeed in the face of some would say insurmountable odds have won him countless admirers, many of whom view him as a real-life superhero. This is an opinion shared by Harrison High School junior, Sebastian Cortes. Reached for comment about Peña's story, Cortes shared, "This guy is more determined than anyone I have ever met. He makes Batman look like an 'Average Joe'."



# A New Way to Fight Acne

Izzy Sheck

News Editor

Self-confidence is something that teens have struggled with for years. Recently, it has become an even bigger issue due to the increasingly idealized nature of the media. It is hard to pick up a magazine today without being confronted with the image of an ultra-thin celebrity with perfectly airbrushed skin and features. When one considers the barrage of such paraphernalia that teens are hit with day in and day out, it is no small wonder that a large number suffer from dangerously low self esteem.

One factor that contributes to low self esteem

among teens is acne. Studies have shown that when a teen's acne flares up, he or she may become more depressed. According to Bobbie McDonald, a psychologist in Costa Mesa, California, "In teenagers, self esteem may take a particular dive with acne because others may be making fun of them, and their anxiety about others' perceptions of them can result in depression." It is suggested that teens with serious acne problems seek the help of a dermatologist, not only in order to improve their skin, but also so they can start feeling better about themselves as soon as possible. Many people do not realize the harmful impacts even the slightest remark about somebody's skin can have on the

person's self image. Teens are constantly looking for assurance that they are accepted by their friends and peers, and feelings of acceptance often begin with one's perception of their own outward appearance.

In addition to being harmful, the relationship between self

confidence and acne is also cyclical. Acne can cause low self esteem, and low self esteem, in turn, can exacerbate acne. Studies have shown that when one feels depressed, he or she is more inclined to neglect the upkeep of their out-

ward appearance. When this happens, it becomes easier for dirt and other bacteria to fester and cause breakouts.

To protect your self esteem, as well as your skin, take a hint from the tried and true platitude: don't judge a book by its cover. Try to focus less on your outward appearance, and more on what is inside. When a person feels good about themselves, it shows. People are less likely to notice someone's acne if they are glowing with self confidence. And remember, the cycle mentioned above works both ways. If you keep up your self esteem, clear skin will likely follow!



Keep confident; stay acne free!

*Courtesy of Emma Adler*

# The straight (hair) truth

Clarissa Karantzis

Staff Writer

The Brazilian Keratin Treatment has become very popular in the United States. Many people have gotten this new treatment, which promises to keep hair straightened for up to four months. This sounds good, particularly as it is advertised as being able to work effectively on any hair, no matter how frizzy. Instead, one can have silky, smooth, and shiny hair for several months. However, most people are not informed about

the dangerous risks that go along with this process.

This new procedure takes somewhere from two to five hours to complete in the salon. After this is done, the hair can't be washed for four days, and during this time, it can't get wet, be pinned up, bent or even touched. Also, those who have had their hair treated need to use a special shampoo and conditioner in order to keep their hair straightened. All together, the cost of the treatment can be anywhere from \$250 to \$500.

Although this treatment seems to be harmless and provides great end results, there are many dangers. The Brazilian Keratin Treatment uses formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is a colorless gas that gives off a suffocating, poisonous odor. This gas can cause the nose and throat to burn, can cause difficulty in breathing, and result in coughing. This dangerous gas also can cause cancer.

When someone gets a Brazilian Keratin Treatment, not only does that person need to wear a mask for protection from the fumes, but everyone in the salon also needs to wear one. The dangerous fumes of the formaldehyde can cause harm to anyone nearby.

Only 0.2 percent of formaldehyde is considered safe, but the Brazilian Keratin Treatment

uses about ten percent formaldehyde solution. This is 50 times more than what is considered the safe amount. This treatment is not approved by the U.S. Drug Administration.

"The procedure took about two and a half hours for me," said freshman Erica Dattero, "but it depends on the thickness of the person's hair." She has gotten the Brazilian Keratin Treatment.

"While I got the treatment, not everyone in the salon had

to wear a mask, but at some points, my eyes started watering and burning. I had to buy special shampoo and conditioner as well. My hair is less curly than before, but it hasn't stayed very straight," she noted. "I won't get this treatment again."

Another possible side effect from the Brazilian Keratin Treatment is the chance of excessive hair loss. Many people have complained that, after the treatment, their hair has started falling out. Some claim to have even lost all their hair.

If you still want your hair to be straight, but prefer something without such harsh possible side effects, consider the Japanese Yuko Straightening Treatment. This treatment can work on any type of hair, much like the Brazilian treatment, but the results claim to last about 8-12 months. It promises hair that ends up sleek, smooth, glossy, and straight, just like with the Brazilian Keratin Treatment. Similar to the first treatment, hair cannot be put into a ponytail, pinned up, or washed for the first four days, but after, hair should be perfectly straight. The Japanese Yuko Treatment claims to be safe for children five years and older, as well as for senior citizens.

Straight hair is the rave right now, but let's be honest, weigh all the risks before undertaking any of these treatments.



Keratin-straightened hair.  
*Courtesy of Emma Adler*

# It Gets Better

Taylor Friedwald and Lindsey Barnett  
Staff Writers

Offensive comments make others feel deeply hurt, upset, or angry. People can be offended about something a person says or does either directly or indirectly. For example, even things just meant for your "buddy" to hear might be heard by others too. Without realizing it, what is said can be offensive to someone else. The point is to watch what you say and do in public areas because you never know the effect it can have on another person.

The problem is when certain people feel there is nowhere to turn for support, and opt for suicide. In the United States, more than 34,000 people die by suicide each year. Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are up to four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers. One of the main reasons for this is acceptance. Many teens in America don't think they have anyone to talk to, to confide in, to turn to for help.

Unfortunately, in recent months, there has been an increase in suicides of gay teens due to bullying. Fifteen-year-olds Justin Aeborg and Billy Lucas, 17-year-old Cody Barker, Tyler Clementi and Raymond Chase (18 and 19, respectively), and 13-year-olds Asher Brown and Seth Walsh were all victims of bullying because of their sexuality, and sadly each took their own life. Harrison's GSA president Jailenn Moore has this to say about recent surge in gay teen suicides, "I think I speak for the whole club when I say we are so saddened by these suicides, and appalled by the consciences of these bullies. Some of these kids don't even tell their friends or family members about their sexuality in fear of not being accepted, some don't even accept themselves."

Because of the recent string of suicides, noted writer Dan Savage created the *It Gets Better Project*, a growing organization that stresses to LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered) youth the simple fact that life in fact does get better.

Sadly, this organization was created after the deaths of the seven teens, but hopefully it will empower LGBT youth through the message that although they may be bullied by ignorant teens in their school now, it gets better.

The *It Gets Better Project* has received the attention of many celebrities who create videos stressing the fact that suicide should never be an option and that life has so much to offer LGBT teens. The site [www.ItGetsBetterProject.com](http://www.ItGetsBetterProject.com) is a place where troubled LGBT teens can go to watch video archives of ordinary people sharing their experiences with being bullied in high school and also can see with their own eyes that happiness, love and success is reality for them now and in the future.

Many celebrities have joined this campaign and have made "It Gets Better" videos. These celebrities include Ciara, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Vinny Guadagnino of the *Jersey Shore*, Michael Kors, Adam Lambert, Gloria Estefan, Tim Gunn, Ke\$ha and many, many more. Even Barack Obama has made an "It Gets Better" video, showing how much of an effect these recent suicides have had on our country.

For any LGBT youth who have been struggling with sexuality issues or harassment from peers, these videos allow them to connect with strangers who have been through the same experiences, making them feel less alone with their problems. By hearing celebrities who act as role models telling the LGBT youth to choose life, it really can have a positive effect on them.

A beneficiary of the *It Gets Better Project* is *The Trevor Project*. Writer James Licesne, director/producer Peggy Rajske and producer Randy Stone founded the Trevor Project in the late 1990s after they created the Academy Award-winning short film *Trevor*, a comedy/drama about a gay teen. In the movie, Trevor, after being ostracized by his peers, attempts to commit

suicide. After realizing that teens might be going through the same crisis as Trevor, they created the first around-the-clock suicide prevention hotline for LGBT youth. In addition to this hotline, *The Trevor Project* has created a website for online support: [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org).

The Trevor Project is the leading, non-profit, national organization focused on crisis and suicide prevention efforts among LGBT youth. They provide life-saving and life-affirming resources that create a safe, supportive and positive environment for everyone. They believe they can create a future where possibilities and opportunities are the same for all youth, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

"We still get calls from all of the country about kids being bullied and afraid to come out as who they are because of the environments they are in," said co-founder Peggy Rajske.

The Trevor Project allows kids to call anytime of any day to talk with a volunteer counselor who helps them. If a person is in the process of committing suicide, a counselor will initiate a rescue. The Trevor Project initiates about thirty rescues a year, saving lives and giving kids a person to talk to with their hotline. The hotline fields over 30,000 calls per year.

With popular gay and lesbian celebrities such as Ellen Degeneres, Adam Lambert, Neil Patrick Harris, Ricky Martin and Jane Lynch, LGBT teens have been finding role models and further proof that life does get better. The hit FOX show, *Glee*, has done an excellent job at addressing the problem of gay bullying in high school. In a recent episode the character Kurt, the only "out" gay student in his high school, was physically ha-



GSA president Jailenn Morel and club advisor Ms. Milne.  
Courtesy of Emma Adler

arrassed and verbally taunted by a football player because of his sexuality. With the help of a gay friend Kurt met from a private school, Kurt gets the courage to finally stand up to the bully. The character Kurt, played by gay actor Chris Colfer, serves as a role model for LGBT youth to stand up for themselves and have courage to keep going through life.

*Teen Nick's* Degrossi also has done an excellent job of addressing LGBT teens' life in high school. Recently, Degrossi showed the struggles gone through by all-star athlete Riley, who is struggling with the fact that he is homosexual. It also shows the progression he goes through to find solace with the fact that he is gay and shouldn't be ashamed of this fact. They also incorporated a transgendered student who is hiding that fact that "he" is really a "she." These characters provide a great point of reference for LGBT teens trying to cope with any harassment they feel at school, or even at home.

It's vital that high schoolers learn the importance of accepting one another, regardless of their ethnicity, religion or sexuality. It's impossible to eliminate bullies; unfortunately there will always be that one girl or boy who bullies others out of insecurity. Teens who are LGBT and are taunted, harassed, bullied and ostracized at their high school should know that it gets better. High school may feel like everything now, but it's not. There is a whole world outside of high school that awaits, one that, in many cases, is far more accepting.

# Asian Culture Club wants YOU

Trent Lefkowitz

Staff Writer

Does every club you try to join turn out to be boring and lame? Are you beginning to believe that all hope for joining a super-awesome club is gone? Well, take heart – there is one club so incredible, there's no way that you can possibly avoid it. The club that you have been searching for is the Asian Culture Club. This unique club meets every Thursday after school in room D216. The club was created by Jeremy Ng in 2008, so that he could have fun with friends while celebrating Asian culture.

Are you scratching your head, wondering how you might fit into the Asian Culture Club? Elise Baik, the senior president of the club, believes there is something fun for everybody at the Asian Culture Club.

"Asian Culture Club (ACC)

is a social club in which members share their love of Asian food, music, and culture," said



ACC members.

*Courtesy of Emma Adler*

Baik. "This year, we're planning to do a lot of activities such as bake sales, community service, and fundraisers. We will also be attending the Boston Anime

Convention, which has become an annual ACC tradition."

Michael Sin, another active participant in the club, commented "It's not really strict, it's really loose, he says. "It's more of a social club than a mandatory club with a lot of work, and there's a lot of food!"

He also stressed that Asian Culture Club is for everybody, not just people who are Asian, sharing "As long as you love our food, pop culture, or pandas... you are welcome anytime!"

Over the past two years, the club has grown to include over 30 enthusiastic, dedicated members and club advisor, Mr. Gunnell. The Asian Culture Club has thrived ever since its inception three years ago. The laid-back style of the club, learning all about wacky Asian pop culture and those dang cute

pandas, has made the ACC an immediate success. Everybody is welcome in the club, and once you become a member, you can never get kicked out.

"Looking back, as one of the few members who has been in the club since the very beginning," reflected Elise Baik, "I'm really proud of how much ACC has grown and gained recognition over the past few years."

While very few of the original members are still in the club, each year more and more new members join. All of the members, no matter how long they have been in ACC, feel a lot pride in the club's growth. Become a part of this club, and it just might change your life. Check out one of Asian Culture Club's meetings, or join the ACC today.

## Bake sales take the cake

Hayley Kronthal

Staff Writer

Over the past few years, bake sales have become popular with clubs, sports teams, and other HHS organizations as an efficient way to fundraise. In fact, they are so popular that it would be difficult to pick out a week on the calendar when not one bake sale was held.

On average, clubs make about 120 dollars per bake sale. Key spots for bake sales are the senior breeze way and in front of the school near the main office. These locations attract students who want a quick snack before catching a bus or heading off to a sport.

Clubs and organizations sell many different treats, ranging from cupcakes and candies to even fruit drinks. Most of these items are sold on average for about a dollar each; a little change for a lot of delight!

The money raised from bake sales goes toward all kinds of causes. Groups such as Model Congress and the volleyball team

use bake sales to defray the cost of equipment, tournaments, and transportation. "The bake sales are not only a way for us to help raise money for equipment," says junior volleyball player Alison Midollo. "They are also a fun way to gain support for our team and encourage kids to come and watch our games."

Other clubs have contributed their profits to charitable organizations. Kids for World Health, for example, donated its bake sale earnings to the John Dao Foundation.

There are some important things to keep in mind if your club or team is planning on hosting a bake sale. First, choose a day

that works for the majority of the club members or teammates. The more people that can help out, the better. Be sure to keep a list of those who plan to stay after



*Courtesy of Emma Adler*

bring. This not only keeps your group organized, but also prevents people from contributing the same treats.

Having a good balance of snacks and a wide variety of options is also key. That way, everybody's taste buds will be satisfied. And do not forget about

common allergens when formulating your snack list! Make sure there are baked goods available that are gluten and peanut free.

Also remember that presentation is everything. No one wants to buy brownies that are in a cardboard box! Have somebody bring in a plate and spread the brownies out. If you are feeling artsy, make a design out of the treats. A well arranged display will attract more buyers, and prevent the bake sale from becoming chaotic.

Most importantly, think beyond treats that are always being sold. Change it up a bit by offering hot chocolate and smoothies instead of cookies and brownies. This fall the girls' soccer team caught the attention of HHS students with chocolate and vanilla milkshakes. The Asian Cultural Club also showed their creativity by selling sushi and other cultural delicacies. If you follow these guidelines, I guarantee that your bake sale will be a huge success!



# REEF, on a mission

Angela Troia

Arts Editor

Every Friday after school, when most have fled campus, room D214 is popping with students determined to make a difference at HHS. REEF club is an organization at Harrison that strives to make the school community a greener place. And in the four years since its creation, it has done just that. "We've initiated several projects through

REEF to help make Harrison High School a greener center of learning. Our goal is to really educate the community on being eco-friendly and make the world a greener place," says REEF's President Adrianna DiFazio.

The Courtyard Beautification Project is one of the many projects REEF club has undertaken. The courtyard within Harrison is widely known among students as a forbidding wilderness of weeds, unmarked by civilization but for a large, bejeweled llama which towers above the foliage. Last fall, REEF members armed with tulip bulbs ventured into the courtyard to give the untamed area a badly needed facelift. "Planting is hard work. It's not just digging into dirt and dropping bulbs, you have to get rid of the already existing roots within the earth so the tulips can spread their own roots," says senior Sara Hand. "Come spring it was nice to see the courtyard glowing with bright tulips." The organization also attempted to open the courtyard, but was forced to put the kibosh on this plan following the discovery of poison ivy.

The green organization has taken steps beyond planting flowers, going as far as to request solar panels for Harrison High. Last year the group proposed a grant to Harrison Educational Foundation for funding to set up solar Panels on the HHS building. However that project is still pending. "I have seen solar panels on other schools within

Westchester and it just lets visitors and students know that their school actually cares about the environment," says junior Juuli Huttunen, "Solar panels at Harrison would set the precedent for a greener community."



DiFazio with club advisor Dr. Tyler.  
*Courtesy of Julia Coash*

REEF club's most current project is Earth Period, where classrooms are asked for one period to turn off all electronic appliances, including the lights. The first Earth Period was held December 17<sup>th</sup> during student's first period class, and others will be held throughout the year. "We took the idea from Earth Hour, which occurs on a global level each year, and scaled it down for our purposes," says DiFazio. "The point of it is to not only reduce the carbon footprint of the school, but to allow students and faculty to become more aware about how their use of technology in the classroom impacts our environment. We hope that the changes and the projects that we put into action today, will change HHS's attitude about making green choices even after we graduate. We would love to come back to Harrison a couple of years down the road and see that the building has taken several steps toward a greener future with its own initiative."

The changes made by REEF have improved Harrison's environmental image, but there is still room for improvement. "We've done a lot to make Harrison more eco-friendly, but it hasn't reached its full potential," says REEF's vice president Melissa Goldberg, "Every student, not just REEF club members, could help out a little too by using the green recycle bins for water bottles in the hallway instead of simply throwing them in garbage cans. Everybody can take a part in being green and making a difference!"

# Charity Fun Run a genuine success

Hayley Kronthal

Staff Writer



Staff turn out for the Fun Run.

Ronald McDonald is more than just a clown; the name is a sign of hope to many children and their families. The Ronald McDonald House Charity has found shelter for more than 25,000 families who have turned to them in times of emotional and medical need over the past 30 years. The first Ronald McDonald house opened in Philadelphia in 1974. From then on, the hope of Ronald McDonald has spread to 88 countries across the world. The mission of the houses is unique because they temporarily house children who have been diagnosed with cancer and their families. Recently Harrison High School has taken an interest in the houses by attending the twelfth annual Ronald McDonald House Kid's Charity Fun Run in New York City's Central Park. Held every November, the purpose of the fun run is to benefit the house in New York, while letting the kids have fun and just be kids. Harrison High School staffers in attendance for the event were: Ms. Morrissey, Ms. Orban, Ms. Epstein, Ms. Maricevic, Ms. Manno, Ms. Angilletta, Ms. Rabuano, Ms. Beniamino, and Ms. Ferrito. They took 55 students along, all of whom were eager in helping the Ronald McDonald House.

"It was great," related Ms. Morrissey. "It's amazing for kids who have so much to change the lives of 80 kids who are battling pediatric cancer."

Harrison High School as a whole raised some ten thousand dollars for the cause with Jacob Temkin raising the most of any individual (1200 dollars). As a reward, he got to go ice skating with the New York Rangers at Rockefeller Center.

On December 16, some 30 students who went on the Fun Run also visited the New York Ronald McDonald House to help out directly by playing games with the kids, reading to them, and just talking to them. The visit was a success and many students have promised to keep in touch with the kids by writing letters. Each student has been assigned a pen pal that he or she will write to

every once in a while just to see how they are doing.

The Ronald McDonald House helps out these kids in so many ways. They

get a chance to hang out with other kids there, and not worry about their respective illnesses. For the Harrison students who had a chance to share in this experience, it was an opportunity to spend time with those who have so much less. Currently, Ms. Morrissey volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House; she tutors the siblings of the sick children who live at the House. Any volunteer work is richly rewarding; giving back to your community provides a sense of lasting pride and happiness.



Some of the students in attendance.



All Fun Run Photos Courtesy of Ms. Angilletta

# Debate Club Makes Waves

Christina Loguidice

Staff Writer

The Harrison High School Debate Team's performance at the first timer's Metro Hudson League (MHL) hosted at Byram Hills was impressive, but check out what they've done since! Harrison has won the novice division of four consecutive tournaments. However, these victories have not come easily. Preparation before tournaments requires rigorous and extensive training to ensure that each student is fluent and ready to debate the topic, which switches frequently from month to month.

The Metro-Hudson League (MHL) tournament at Monticello High School back in November proved a success for Harrison. Out of 35 novice debaters in the total division were the following accolades: sophomore Jungsuh Kim's record was 3-1, placing eleventh; sophomore Haya Nesheiwat's record was 3-1, placing sixth; sophomore Hayley Kronthal's record was 3-1, placing her fifth also, as well as second speaker; freshman Danny DeBois' record was 4-0, placing second (as well as being third speaker); and the winner first overall was freshman Sarah Rossman, who had a record of 4-0 in addition to being top speaker.

During the Malcolm A. Bump Memorial tournament at Hendrick Hudson High School, featuring approximately 90 varsity level debaters (mainly third and fourth-year students from New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Maryland), Ally Brabant became the first Harrison debater to reach elimination rounds at the varsity level, making it to the top 24 (par-

tial double-octofinals). Although Ally lost her elimination round on a close 2-1 decision, she managed to defeat some of the tournament's toughest competition in preliminary rounds, including a tournament semifinalist.

"This is particularly impressive given that Hen Hud was only Ally's second varsity tournament," said faculty Coach Chetan Hertzog.

In the novice division (featuring another 90 debaters), four of our six students reached elimination rounds. Specifically, sophomore Haya Nesheiwat and freshman Sarah Rossman made it to the top 24 in their division, while sophomore Hayley Kronthal had a high enough record to receive a bye to the octofinals round, where she defeated her opponent on a 3-0 decision. She ultimately reached quarterfinals, where she was paired to debate a teammate, freshman Danny

DeBois, who advanced over her because he was a higher seed. This can occur at debate tournaments — in such an instance where teammates will debate, Harrison's team policy is to advance the higher seed, contingent upon the op-

ponents "hit" (debate term to reference verse), the amount of speaker points acquired and the level of difficulty. Thus, DeBois, who cleared to elimination rounds as the tournament's top seed and second place speaker, won all of his elimination rounds on unanimous decisions, and was named the tournament champion.

The challenging December tournament weekend at Princeton University proved another triumph, as seven of our eight

debaters reached elimination rounds that weekend. Students debated five hours on Friday, then returned for a marathon session on Saturday (going 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.) and then back again on Sunday morning. Each debate round lasts for nearly an hour, meaning that by the weekend's end, students debated for a minimum of six hours and a potential maximum of 11. This year, there were 126 students in the varsity division and 98 students in the novice division (with debaters representing Texas, Florida, Washington, D.C., Maine, Massachusetts, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey).

In the varsity competition, Richard Haddad had a winning record of 6-1, making it the double-octofinalist rounds. In addition, Ally Brabant had a winning record of 5-2, making it to the top 16. In the novice division, Haya Nesheiwat accumulated a record of 3 wins and 3 losses. Further, Patty-Jane Geller made the top 32 in her division.

"Princeton was definitely one of the harder tournaments, but overall our team pushed hard and everybody did well," said Geller. "The tournament was really intense, having to debate one after another, but our hard work paid off and I enjoyed the whole experience."

Impressively, Hayley Kronthal and Sarah Murphy were announced as double-octofinalists and Sarah Rossman was announced as a quarterfinalist. Danny DeBois was proclaimed the tournament champion and

fourth speaker overall.

December also saw victories in the Ridge Debates. In the varsity division, among 85 students, Richard Haddad acquired a winning record of 3-2 and this reporter cleared to the partial-doubles, placing twenty-second overall. In the novice division, Jungsuh Kim made it to partial-doubles as well.

The recent Regis Holiday Tournament proved one of the most successful tour-



Debater Haddad strikes a pose.

Courtesy of Emma Adler



Debaters Brabant and Loguidice.

Courtesy of Emma Adler

naments for Harrison, with wins in all divisions. Hayley Kronthal won the novice division, Danny DeBois challenged himself to compete in JV where he won the JV division and this reporter was undefeated at the varsity level. Danny DeBoise had to debate 10 rounds through to the championship, where he ultimately was awarded his fourth tournament win of the season.

The team's achievements this year have been most impressive. The victories demonstrate the hard work ethic and teamwork of the students involved.

"It feels great when we succeed, knowing that all our hard work and effort has paid off," said Ashley Muller, one of the team's four captains.



# I AM NUMBER FORTY

Sarah Mazza

Staff Writer

A total of 40 towns make up Westchester County. This past fall, Westchester Magazine published a cover story article which ranked the best places to live in Westchester County. They based their somewhat debatable decisions on 11 separate categories used to ascertain the quality of a town: its public schools (high schools, specifically); housing costs; property taxes; proximity to New York City (as measured in commute time, in minutes, from the center of each town to Times Square as calculated by Google Maps); safety (per the violent crime index from bestplaces.net); diversity (as measured by the odds that two random people from the same town will be of different ethnicities); parks and recreation (average acreage of open/green space per residential unit); proximity to water (distance from the center of each town to the Hudson River or the Long Island Sound, whichever is closer); a lively downtown; shopping; and nightlife.

The magazine conducted an online survey to determine the weighting by importance of each of these categories. Readers votes translated to the following formula: schools counted for 25.3%, housing costs, 15.4%, property taxes 12.1%, proximity

to NYC 9.9%, safety 7.7%, diversity 6.6%, lively downtown 5.5%, shopping 5.5%, parks and recreation 4.4%, nightlife 4.4%, and finally, proximity to water 3.3%.

When the article first was published, some towns were ecstatic at the results (Irvington was ranked best place to live),



The high school is one of the article's targets.

*Courtesy of Harrison Central School District*

but no town was more upset than Harrison. Harrison was ranked dead last at number 40. According to Westchester magazine, our town is the worst place to live in Westchester County.

Elsa Brenner, author of the article said this about our town: "Harrison, which includes the super-wealthy hamlet of Purchase, has some of the priciest houses in the county and among the highest property taxes. Plus, there's not much to speak of in the way of a downtown or shopping, and its high school does not perform as well as many other high schools in our county."

This reporter took the time to talk to some Harrison residents to get their reactions to the article and the rankings.

"I am just shocked at some of the ratings they put in that magazine about our town," said Terry Pipitone, nurse here at Harrison High School. "Living

in Harrison for 15 years has been wonderful. Harrison just has a great atmosphere and it's great how,

if you're walking down the street, you can be sure to find someone you know. In Harrison, everyone knows everyone. The people in charge of running Westchester magazine just don't understand the meaning of the word town.

Long time Harrison resident and Harrison High School security guard Mr. Gary Chiarella also had a few choice words for the magazine.

"The way the author ranked this whole article was wrong," he said. "I have lived in Harrison all of my life and I never thought that in a survey we would come out dead last."

"When I was reading this article all I could think about was that some of the other towns that are ranked higher than us don't even compare to Harrison," he continued.

Another resident of Harrison, Rosemarie Angilletta, felt taken aback by the article. Mrs. Angilletta works in the library at Harrison High School and she started off by defending the schools here in Harrison.

"The facts are wrong," she said. "Harrison schools are great and the faculty and staff put a lot of time and effort into making this school great."

"The teachers also work very hard with the students. They hold extra help sessions, they put together reviews together before a big test, and most importantly they care about their students," she noted. "Harrison is actually a good community. We are organized and we all come together to form a town. Reading this article made me upset and very shocked. In my opinion, we definitely should be ranked higher."

If you'd like to add your opinion to the matter, log on to the magazine's website at: [www.westchestermagazine.com](http://www.westchestermagazine.com) and in the search box, type in "Best Places To Live."

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## Harrison student saves a life

*(Continued from Front Page)*

When asked about his heroic act and how he felt afterward, James responded, "I just kept thinking to myself 'wow, you know, you usually wouldn't do something like that'. When I saw that happen, I couldn't just sit there and watch. I had to do something." While the woman thanked James after meeting him while with the police, neither she nor anyone else has reached out to James since the accident. While this disappointed James,

he said that it is okay though, because he knows that he did what he had to do. Although he has not heard back from anyone who witnessed or participated in the accident, students, staff, and faculty here have recognized James' actions at the High School.

Shortly after the accident, James' mother brought the incident to the attention of Dr. Ruck. When she asked if he had heard anything regarding James' ac-

tions, Dr. Ruck shared that he had not, and then called James into his office to ask him questions. Like many others, Dr. Ruck was stunned by James' heroics, as well as how humble and modest he acted.

"I found the whole situation heartwarming, yet not surprising, said Dr. Ruck. "It takes a very special person to do as James did, and James has proven to be just that. For that, I am very proud of him."

Ms. Maricevic has James in her English class.

"I was completely shocked and in disbelief at first that he would be such a humble hero, not looking for any praise whatsoever," she said. "His story is a story that needs to be told. Students and teachers alike need to know about this. I'm proud to say that he's my student, and I'm glad to know that he felt comfortable sharing something so personal with our class."

# Out of the dark, a “chain reaction of kindness”

Alexandra Sanchez and Jessica Tannenbaum  
Staff Writers

April 20, 1999, was an ordinary day at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, until two senior students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, opened fire on the school, killing 12 students and one teacher before taking their own lives.

The two boys had planned this massacre for months, hoping to kill hundreds of their peers with bombs, guns, and knives. The boys kept detailed diaries of what they hated and the plans they had, including honoring Adolf Hitler by planning their massacre on the anniversary of Hitler's birthday.

Around 11:14 a.m., the boys entered the school with about 20 handmade propane bombs that they had placed in duffel bags. They placed these bags around the cafeteria and set them to go off at 11:17 a.m. They waited in the parking lot to shoot the people fleeing after the bombs detonated. They soon

realized that the bombs had not worked. If they had, an estimated 488 people would have been killed in the cafeteria.

The two started killing people outside the school with the guns they had hidden in their trench coats. The first killed was 17-year-old Rachel Scott who sat outside the school eating her lunch. People inside the school didn't know what was going on, but would later experience one of the most tragic high school massacres in history. Many who first thought it a senior prank with paintball guns soon learned the devastating reality. When people realized the severity of the situation, they began to flee, hide, and even play dead. Many of those fleeing were met by the killers and were killed or seriously injured.

At 11:29 am Klebold and Harris entered the school's library, where the majority of the killing took place. They shouted for the kids and teachers to "Get up," then started reciting lines from the movie "Natural Born Killers." In the ensuing seven and a half minutes, the two killed another 10 people.

The last words some people had to hear before their death were racial slurs and sarcastic names. The boys started firing at random people, not caring whose life was taken. In the end, they had fired 188 rounds of ammunition.

They then returned to the cafeteria and tried to shoot the bags that contained the homemade bombs, hoping to get them to explode. They eventually started a fire. The two then went back to the library to see if anyone was left. When they realized no

one was, they started shooting out the windows. The two then shot themselves in the library, thus ending what is known as the Columbine Massacre.

The SWAT team and local police arrived on the scene to try and help. Surviving students were bussed over to the elementary school to be interviewed by the police before being claimed by parents. But for 12 families, that did not happen. The teacher that saved hundreds of students' lives, Dave Sanders, also lay dead in the science room. Students and staff tried to perform procedures to keep him alive, but failed.

Who or what triggered this horrible event? No one will really ever know. Harris and Klebold came off as happy kids who did well in school, but always played violent video games. In the past

decade, many have learned to forgive what happened that day, but some remain forever embittered by that day's events.

After Rachel Scott's death, her parents founded a program called "Rachel's Challenge." The philosophy of this program is based off of six diaries left behind by Rachel, along with an essay written she had written just a month before her death.

Rachel was described by classmates

as kind and would do anything to help others. She stood up for kids who had no friends and were the targets of school bullies. Rachel always told her friends she knew she was going to die young and even stated in her diary, "This will be my last year." She knew that one day she would touch the hearts of millions. She also had four challenges to be accomplished, and thus far two have been achieved through the help of the "Rachel's Challenge" organization.

In late November, Dave Gamache, who was best friends with Rachel's brother at the time, visited Harrison High School. The audio and video presentation was roughly ninety minutes in length, during which Mr. Gamache spoke about the tragic 1999 Columbine High School shooting. He related the story of Rachel Scott, and taught students in attendance a valuable lesson – that a little bit of kindness can go a very long way.

Rachel's theory was that kindness and compassion could start a chain reaction that could spread throughout the world. "Rachel's Challenge" is a way to impress upon students the importance of being nice, and how to keep the momentum of kindness and compassion in daily life.

Mr. Gamache showed the audience the handprints that Rachel had drawn on the back of her dresser three years before her death. They stated, "These hands belong to Rachel Joy Scott, and will someday touch

millions of people's hearts."

This proof of Rachel's passion to someday change the world was only part of her story. Rachel kept

six journals

throughout the course of her life. In them she recorded her hopes, her dreams, and simple observations about life. Rachel also wrote an essay entitled "My Ethics, My Codes of Life," which talked about how important it was to look for the best in people.

The presentation reinforced these ideas, and encouraged our students here to adopt the challenge. The "Rachel's Challenge" team works to empower kids to create a permanent, positive environment for the future, and to prevent things like the Columbine shooting from ever happening again.

At an after-school meeting on the day of the presentation students shared their personal stories, and kids learned how to keep the kindness going. "Friends of Rachel" meetings continue to be held after school.

Students were touched by the presentation, and many realized just how lucky they are to have the lives and families they have. Many realized the importance of being nice to others. Dave Gamache told the story of Rachel and touched Harrison High School. We now carry the challenge to realize Rachel's dream together.



"Friends of Rachel" members.

Courtesy of Julia Coash



The "Challenge" banner.  
Courtesy of Julia Coash

# "Rachel's Challenge" reaches student hearts

Allison Fuerst

Staff Writer

"Rachel's Challenge" is a world-wide phenomenon that has helped to instill kindness into the lives of others. In late November, Harrison High School was fortunate to host a presentation on "Rachel's Challenge." For many, it was a life-changing assembly that left tears in eyes and warmth in hearts. The challenge has helped people remember how important it is to be kind to others. As Rachel Scott said, "You never know how far a little kindness can go. It may just start a chain reaction."

Rachel Scott was the first victim who died in the Columbine shootings. Twelve students lost their lives that day, and 26 others were injured. In one of Rachel Scott's diaries, she wrote, "I will not be labeled average." The sentence is punctuated by a bullet hole that went through her backpack that day. To friends and family of Rachel, the bullet whole serves as an exclamation point to that statement. Before she died, she left little signs behind explaining the importance of being kind to others. These signs were located in the contents of her journal, a school essay she had written, and also on the back of her dresser wall. Rachel was always telling others how she knew she was going to die young and also how she would touch millions of people's lives.

According to the website, [rachelschallenge.org](http://rachelschallenge.org), "her acts of kindness and compassion, coupled with the contents of the six diaries, have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing school programs in America - Rachel's Challenge."

There are five key goals that serve as the foundation for Rachel's Challenge. They are:

1. Look for the best in others: eliminate prejudice.
2. Dare to dream: write goals, keep a journal
3. Choose positive influence: Input determines output.
4. Kind words: little acts of kind-

ness translate into huge results 5. Start a chain reaction.

After the assembly, students were encouraged to stay after for another program created called "Friends of Rachel." Here, students were encouraged to share personal stories, which gave people a chance to understand the kinds of struggles we all go through. It made many realize the importance of treating others the way one would like to be treated oneself, and the fact that it is difficult to understand what others might be going through. These after-school programs are ongoing.

One program is aimed toward new students, to help them make friends and prevent them from feeling excluded. Another program consists of writing letters to students to help brighten their days and to congratulate them for good deeds accomplished. Through these small acts of kindness, students will be able to discover the joy of doing the right thing.

Rachel's challenge not only reached our high school, but our middle school as well. At the middle school, students experienced a similar presentation that left them speechless.

"After the presentation, I just looked around me and saw everybody crying," said seventh grader Sydney Fuerst. "Rachel's Challenge sure has helped me realize how important it is to be nice to others. I hope that others learned this message too."

"Rachel's Challenge" is one of many organizations seeking to make the world a better place. However, it appeals directly to students, rather than their parents alone. What many people liked about the presentation was that it was very personal. Since the speaker actually knew Rachel, the audience was able to feel the personal connection that he shares with her family.

# Mr. Basso Will be Missed

Robby Tiburzi

Staff Writer

On February 11, 2011, the sparkle finally left David Basso's eyes. However, his influence will continue to shine on all who go to school in Harrison for years to come. Harrison High School extends sympathy to the Basso family. We are all filled with sadness because we have lost someone who gave his heart to our school community.

Mr. Basso was the Harrison School District's maintenance foreman. He had a knack for giving new life to everything he touched. He and his crew made libraries out of garages, and gave vitality to aging classrooms. His legacy lives on in our school. His hard work, diligence, and commitment lead to creating great spaces for us to learn in. When you look at McGillicuddy Stadium or a new classroom, remember all the effort that Mr. Basso gave for every single one of Harrison's students.

Mr. Basso transformed not just the spaces in our school district, he impacted everyone he met. He had a quiet charisma and kindness that made everyone feel like they knew him forever. He had a knack for making everyone feel special. This reporter knew Mr. Basso and always looked forward to meeting up with him in the hallway. He always would take the time to stop and talk; it was a gift he had to make everyone feel special in a very short time.

Mr. Basso embodied what we in Harrison call "Husky

Pride." He graduated from Harrison High School and played varsity football here. He loved Harrison and the High School. His life was an example of loyalty, caring, determination and community.

We should take time and



*Courtesy of Mr. Bob Salierno*

graciously reflect on all that Mr. Basso brought to us.

His impact on our world can clearly be seen in our classrooms, hallways, and fields.

Although David Basso will never be replaced, his legacy will continue to live in our school's community and he will never be forgotten.



# opinion

## editorials

# There Will Be Blunts

Danny Glass

Staff Writer

In 1906, marijuana was illegal in most of the United States. At this juncture in American History, a bevy of hot button issues were vying for the public's attention: women's suffrage, temperance, and prison reform among them. But why was marijuana illegal? Almost 80 years ago, a man named Harry Anslinger was an ambitious member of the newly created Bureau of Narcotics. His ultimate goal was to make marijuana illegal. In his effort to decry cannabis, Anslinger drew upon themes of racism and violence to draw national attention to the problem. He also promoted wild "reefer-madness"-style exploitation tales of ax murderers on marijuana and sex to scare people away from using the drug.

He was at first unsuccessful; but he had an ace up his sleeve: William Hearst. Hearst had invested heavily in the timber industry; he was an owner of a huge chain of a newspapers and he did not want to see the growth of a hemp industry for paper. By using yellow journalism, he was able to create a positive feedback

cycle. He would write lies about marijuana in his newspapers, which enticed curious readers and caused him to sell more papers. This gave Hearst more money and the capability to spread further lies about marijuana, leading to the drug's being made illegal.

But should marijuana be illegal? It does have the ability to impair a person, and could endanger a person driving a car. But let's examine the statistics. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that between 1999 and 2007, there were 26 deaths with marijuana as an underlying cause. Contrast that with the fact that, in the United States, 40,000 people die every single day. The chance of dying from marijuana (only applicable to smokers) based on these stats is .000000226027397%. Essentially more people die from being struck by lightning than from marijuana. In American, over 400,000 people a year die from smoking. Based on these statistics, any fear that marijuana may kill people is shown to be

unwarranted.

Many people claim that marijuana will damage a person's brain and is bad for a person's health in general. A common argument for this theory is that alcohol is widely available and so are cigarettes. If these are legal and both do harm to the body, then why is marijuana not legal? Here in America, where we can exercise freedom of choice, shouldn't citizens be able to decide what goes into their bodies? If other harmful products are legal, it seems marijuana should be.

The gateway drug theory is a common one among critics of marijuana. This theory contends that, after people use marijuana and find the effects pleasing, they will move onto more intense drugs such as cocaine or heroin. This argument holds little credence. Perhaps marijuana has caused some people to move onto more deadly drugs. But this argument is not strong enough to warrant making the product illegal. There are many other factors that could lead to a person using

these stronger, more dangerous drugs. It is unfair to cite marijuana use as the sole precursor of such problems.

There are many other pro-marijuana arguments. If marijuana were to be legalized, it could be taxed and bring large amounts of revenue into states. This was the main reasoning behind a drive for legalization in the currently debt-ridden state of California. While such tax revenue could help in this stressful economic time, the gross revenue probably would be far less than predicted estimations.

While a majority of weed smokers may switch to distribution by legalized dispensaries, a good portion of weed smokers may still prefer to buy from their usual dealers. First, such dealers know exactly what their customers like. Secondly, dealers might offer cheaper and more competitive prices. Thirdly, some customers may simply feel more comfortable with a dealer than with some new store that makes their purchase more of a public event.

(Continued on Page 13)

*If you were on "Jersey Shore," what would your nickname be?*



**"Dynamic Dino."**  
- Freshman Jessica Olivier



**"R-Ddaddi"**  
- Sophomore Rachel Kalichman



**"DG."**  
- Junior Danny Glass



**"Hideki Spaghetti"**  
- Senior Ryan Polakoff

(Continued from Page 12)

Another argument for legalization is one of safety. Since society will never stop smoking weed, many feel it is vital that the U.S. citizens are given the best variety and quality of product to smoke. The majority of the weed in America currently is smuggled from Mexico to the U.S., along with cocaine crystal meth and other drugs. Weed legalization could provide a new level of quality control that could ultimately (and ironically) lead to better health for smokers. This point if refuted easily, however, as the plain fact is that weed is not really unhealthy. Weed users should not just be able to voice the hypocritical argument that mari-

juana should be legal because it is healthy, and then complain that their quality of weed is poor.

The strongest argument for legalization involves trafficking. By making weed legal, traffickers would lose one of their main products. In turn, the drug wars of Mexico would have less financing. Less financing means less guns and the feedback cycle would be cut short. It would improve both American and Mexican issues considerably. There is basically no counter-argument for this point.

Marijuana has far reaching impacts in modern society. It's mentioned in the music kids listen to, the TV shows everybody watches, and the movies that mil-

lions attend. Proposition 19 was the first major attempt to legalize marijuana in California. On November 2, 2010, the people of California voted the proposition down, 53-46%. Marijuana would stay illegal. This was the closet legalization has come, however, and it is far from the legalization movement's last gasp. Advocates for marijuana will continue to push their agenda forward, and this next generation will be without the pre-conceived notions of the past. Like it or not, legalization appears to be simply a matter of time.

Students here at Harrison seem to be comfortable with the idea.

"Marijuana legalization is necessary and proper because it's not physically harmful to individuals," said one junior. "It helps relax people, allows for abstract thinking and reflections, encourages peace and diplomacy, and legalization would keep weed out of the hands of dealers."

A classmate wondered how such chemical-based substances that cause cancer such as cigarettes are legal, while a less harmful plant is not.

"The government should legalize weed because so many people use it already," said another HHS student. "It would not actually change anything; but it would help the government to regulate and tax it."

Yet another student felt it was a positive idea. "If marijuana were legalized, it would probably decrease recreational use anyway," he noted. "If its notoriety was lessened, then those using the drug to rebel would likely turn away from it."

In the end, the simple case is this: Here in America, one can purchase Thermite legally and blow up scrap metal. The 31-pound semi-automatic Barret Sniper rifle is a legal weapon. If marijuana does not damage other people, then it should be legal. This probably will make little difference to the larger swath of the population anyway.

Judging by the liberal minds of the new generation, marijuana will soon be legalized worldwide. So disappointed prop 19 supporters, take heart. Don't worry -- there will be blunts!



Courtesy of Google Images.

## Sound off!

*How do you feel about the recent upheaval in Egypt, and the nation's future?*

"I think that the Egyptians have a lot of work to do to establish stable institutions that can respond to the needs of the people."

- Ms. Milne

"The revolution is clearly intense. It's essential to my lifetime. I'm not sure how it will affect the price of oil over the next five years."

- Freshman Sam Colangelo

"I think that it's an extremely historic event. Its going to be important for US - Middle Eastern strategy in the future. It will also serve as a model for democratic revolutions in Islamic countries."

- Junior Jacob Tempkin

"While the Revolution was significant in terms of change, the next ten years will tell what change will really come."

- Ms. Makarczuk

"I think that this gives us an opportunity to fix problems the US has had in the past. I believe the Obama administration will take the proper steps in dealing with the situation respectfully."

- Junior Matt DiRe

## The Husky Herald Staff 2010 - 2011

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Special Thanks to Mr. Petrillo

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

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

# BLOCKED

Jamie DeRosa

Staff Writer

I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one who has noticed that almost all the websites kids want to go on have been blocked on the school's internet. While this was somewhat apparent last year, it seems this year the school has really decided to crack down and has done a good job of truly finding out what sites kids were spending their time on last year. Last year, if you walked into any of the free periods and saw a group of kids huddled around a computer screen, they usually were on one of many game sites to be found on the internet (e.g., addictinggames, miniclip, popcap). If you try accessing any of these sites this year, you're greeted by a page that states: "Blocked request: policy violation."

While some sites were blocked last year, it has been taken to an entirely new level this year. It's not just game sites that are blocked - all social networking sites (MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, etc) are completely blocked

from student access. Even the Facebook app students use on their mobile devices have been denied access by this policy, since they link to the same network. YouTube remains unblocked due to its usage by teachers for educational purposes, but the school has blocked YouTube on mobile devices, so videos can't be watched on phones. If you go on to search engine sites like Google, and type in a simple phrase like "games," every site the engine pulls up related to that term is blocked. The reason for this is a more improved internet security program entitled "Sophos Web Alliance," which is usually smart enough to know which sites to block. The new tech is pretty much a filter that goes through searches made by students and blocks accordingly. It is a much more advanced blocking program than the one used last year. The school's goal is simply to get kids to stop taking

advantage of the school's internet access for non-educational purposes. Some kids may agree



Thwarted yet again...

*Courtesy of Emma Adler* with this policy, but most seem to be against it.

I find myself split over the site blockage. Kids should obviously put their work before anything else in school, because that is really what they are here for, but I don't think this jump to blocking off half the internet is necessary. Incredibly popular websites/apps like Pandora, which allows users to listen to music and create their own playlists, have been blocked for school use. Many students used Pandora while do-

ing work because it allowed them to relax and concentrate better. I was among the many students at Harrison that were disappointed to see some of these resources blocked.

I discussed the issue with our librarian Mrs. Johnson to find out why sites like Pandora were cut off from use.

"When students use streaming sites like Pandora, or YouTube, it slows down the whole school's network for everyone else," she said, "When we have a lot of students using YouTube to listen to music, for example, everyone else using the school's internet is affected. It becomes harder for them to do their work because of all the bandwidth these streaming sites take up."

In truth, students should feel glad that our school's blocked sites policy is so generous. Most high schools block YouTube and are far stricter about their internet access policies. No matter one's view on the matter, the school's intentions are honorable.

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## Formspring: Revival of the "Burn Book"?

Tamila Garayo

Staff Writer

Remember the movie *Mean Girls*? A homeschooled student from Africa experiences high school and encounters all the drama of being a teen. The "Burn Book" in the movie was a book used to write secret and anonymous thoughts about various students in the character's high school. Not to spoil the movie, but the school ends up in serious disaster mode as the mean thoughts written are exposed. Welcome to our modern day Burn Book, the website "Formspring."

Formspring.com was intended to be a website where people could ask others questions, whether you wanted to reveal your identity or ask anonymously. On the site, the person who was asked the question has the option of whether they want to answer it or not. Though the website was created with relatively

innocent and positive intentions, it has morphed into something else. When you give teens some anonymity, this gives them the opportunity to ask the most honest and personal questions. The fact is, honesty doesn't always mean innocent or positive.

Formspring takes cyber-cruelty to a new low by making it appear undisputed. You sign up for your own account, literally inviting others to bash you with their "honest" opinions. Because it appears undisputed, it no longer seems like cyber bullying at all. It just becomes another avenue for teens to communicate, and it desensitizes them to what they're doing. Formspring has become a place where teens can ask personal questions and insult others, all the while doing so behind the safe anonymous screen of a computer.

But who is to blame for

this, those creating the accounts, or those writing the nasty comments? I believe it's the account holders' fault. With Formspring, they've given others access to find out information about them, ask personal questions, and possibly even hurt them. This is absurd. Why would people willingly sign up for a site on which they will inevitably receive comments they don't want to hear, ones that make them miserable? Why would they actively sign up for a service that allows people to say hurtful things about them in comfortable anonymity?

While this may sound far-fetched, perhaps the account holders want to see the comments. Some, I believe, are even attracted to them - particularly girls. Some young girls are so vulnerable and passionately invested in their friendships that they feel a need to have others

to tell them what to fix about themselves, physically or emotionally. At the same time, such girls constantly second guess their peers about what they really think and mean.

Formspring is a source of hope - as in if you open an account, you hope you won't get a mean comment. Perhaps you will be that girl who everyone really loves! No one's saying that Formspring is full of nothing but bad questions and comments, but plenty of them exist - probably written by someone who seeks his or her own insecurities through targeting others.

The funniest thing is when people forget to make their comments anonymous and people find out who says what. Always be careful what you say on the internet, friends - what you write today might someday come back to bite you later.



## A day in the life of Logan Epstein

Sarah Vallarelli

Staff Writer

Dancing isn't just an after school activity for sophomore Logan Epstein: it is her deepest passion- and has been for as long as she can remember.



Logan in action. *Courtesy of Logan Epstein*

Logan started dancing shortly after she learned how to walk. The first studio she joined was called Dance Progressions, a place where she developed both her love for dancing and basic skills to compete. After several years of practice, Logan competed in LA Dance Magic, her first competition, and won first place. The little dancer demonstrated that she was in for a successful career.

Now Logan participates in competitions almost once every two weeks, and practices five times a week for five and half

hours each day. A typical day for the dancer consists of going to school until 2:30, heading straight to studio for a session at 3:30, and dancing until 9. After a quick snack and/or dinner for fuel, Logan does her homework, showers, and then goes to sleep. She wakes up the next morning, in store for the same routine all over again.

Sometimes Logan feels run-down from the long practices, and wonders why she continues to make such a time-consuming sacrifice for dance each day. Though her days are busy and tiring, she enjoys them and realizes that her hard work will pay off. Shuffling onto stage and looking out at the thousands of people watching is a priceless feeling for her.

Logan currently dances at the Westchester Dance Academy with several of her friends from school. She usually doesn't compete with them, though when she does she says it's "completely friendly" and even encourages her to work harder.

The dancer has received about six hundred awards, with almost three-fourths of them either gold metals or first

place trophies. Logan says she loves dancing, but winning first place makes it that much better. Though she doesn't get discouraged if she falls short of a win, but rather feels motivated to hone her skills and try even harder in the next competition.

Though Logan enjoys every aspect of dance, her favorite part is making new friends. She views her dance friends as people who she will remain close to for the rest of her life. Nicole, a best friend and dance companion since meeting five years ago, commented on her relationship with Logan: "We both understand each other when it comes to dance because we share the same hard, tiring schedule every day."

Although her work-ethic and love for dance largely contribute to her success, Logan admits that she wouldn't be where she is without her parents. They not only have chauffeured her to most competitions (many out-of-state) and practices, but also have supported her through all the ups and downs. Without



*Courtesy of Logan Epstein*

doubt, the dancer considers them her number one fans.

Logan dreams of eventually attending Juilliard College and pursuing a career in dance. She says, "I always knew what I wanted to do with my life but I never really imagined it being this fun. My goals have always been set high, but I view them as nothing but manageable. I don't think I would have gotten this far if I didn't love dance as much as I do now."



*Courtesy of Logan Epstein*

# Thoroughly Modern Musical

Amy Carton

News Editor

On March 10th, the Harrison High School Footlight Players will present this year's spring musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Set in New York City during the Roaring Twenties, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* depicts the life of Millie Dillmount, a young girl hoping to create a new life for herself in New York City, the "city that never sleeps." As the role of women begins to change in a positive way during the nineteen twenties, Millie struggles to make her mark on the vibrant New York. Based on a film version of the Broadway Musical, the school's production features an array of singing, dancing, and acting.

As students, teachers, and community members alike anticipate the show's opening on Thursday March 10th, the cast and crewmembers devote their afternoons, evenings, and free time toward capturing the essence of their individual characters, as well as the overall atmosphere of life in the twenties. Auditions and rehearsals began early in January. The flavor of rehearsals changes each day, varying from musical practice

with Ms. Fusco to choreography with Ms. Gregory to staging and blocking with Mr. Kevin Kearins. This is Mr. Kearins' first production with Harrison High School's Footlight Players, though he has been involved with directing the elementary school plays for the past few years. According to lead actress Cayla Pettinato, who will be taking on the role of Millie herself, "He's a really fantastic director. We move very quickly. We've already blocked through the entire show." With such efficiency, the actors must remain on task and focused.

As the rehearsals continue,

may seem like the cast and crewmembers have plenty of time to rehearse and develop the show, time has become an increasingly important factor due to the constant cancellations, prohibitive weather conditions, and February break. Despite these constraints, everyone had remained motivated and devoted to making this a memorable performance. This motivation and excitement has



Pettinato and Bishtawi rehearse.

Courtesy of Emma Adler

and tap that are representative of that time period.

Though set in the nineteen twenties, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* enjoys popularity today because of recent Broadway runs. Even though many Harrison students have not been exposed to *Thoroughly Modern Millie* prior to the school's production, those involved are even more determined to produce a memorable performance. Cayla encourages her

peers, "We really hope that not knowing about the show won't prevent people from coming to see it."

The cast, listed below, features actors and actresses from all grades. Notable leads from each grade include Freshmen Hallie Mastroberardino, Sophomores Chris Morris and Andy O'Rourke, Juniors Cayla Pettinato, and Maddy Pollack, Seniors Alejandro Azuaje, Adriana Difazio, and Alexandria Brown, and many others. The cast is sure to put on a toe-tapping performance that will keep the audience entertained.

## CAST

**Millie Dillmount- Cayla Pettinato**  
**Jimmy Smith- Alejandro Azuaje**  
**Mrs. Meers- Halle Mastroberardino**  
**Miss Dorothy Brown- Madison Pollack**  
**Ching Ho- Andy O'Rourke**  
**Bun Foo- Christopher Morris**  
**Miss Flannery- Adriana DiFazio**  
**Trevor Graydon- Marwan Bishtawi**  
**Muzzy Van Hossmere- Alexandria Brown**  
**Gloria- Rachel Kaplan**  
**Rita- Kayana Jean-Philippe**  
**Ruth- Rachel Crozier**  
**Ethel Peas- Elizabeth Crozier**  
**Cora- Rachel Oestreicher**

**Alice- Nicole Barletta**  
**Lucille- Mikie Sakanaka**  
**Susi- Jacqueline Ledesma**  
**Policeman- Gerard Vernali**  
**George Gershwin- Joshua Strone**  
**Dorothy Parker- Eva Mangone**  
**Rodney- Jason Dowd**  
**Kenneth- Joey Marino**  
**Dishwasher- James Nitis**  
**Daphne- Jenna Clemens**  
**Dexter- Gerard Vernali**  
**New Modern- Sarah Curtis**  
**Letch Man- Jason Dowd**  
**Pearl Woman- Jacqueline Ledesma**

cast members have begun memorizing their lines and developing their characters to their full potential. As Cayla describes, "Kevin is giving us plenty of time to make sure that our character development is as strong as it can possibly be by the time the show rolls around in March." Although it

allowed the cast to form strong friendships and bonds with one another that will definitely be reflected on stage.

Cast members, crewmembers, and faculty alike have all expressed their enthusiasm about the upcoming performance, all highlighting the upbeat musical numbers. Because the twenties were such a hopping time period for music, the dancing and singing are what make this show such a hit. Each of the show's leads has his or her own crowd-pleasing song. Along with catchy tunes, Ms. Gregory has choreographed fun, stylized dance numbers, incorporating styles such as the Charleston



Cast members prepare to dance.

Courtesy of Emma Adler

# Spidey Star Tells All

Amy Carton

News Editor

After years of financial struggle, intense rehearsals, and shuffling of lead actors, the highly anticipated *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark* has finally arrived at New York's Foxwoods Theater as Broadway's most expensive musical to date.

Featuring an array of flying, singing, fighting, dancing, and a score by rock legends Bono and the Edge of U2, *Spider-Man* has become the source of much controversy on Broadway. Previews were originally scheduled to begin on November 14th, but the show encountered various technical difficulties and on-set injuries, causing a delay. One delay morphed into many, forcing the opening night to be postponed as well. Currently, the show is scheduled to open in April, nearly four months after it was initially slated to premiere. When previews at last began on November 28th, the Foxwoods Theater welcomed one of the largest turnouts ever at a Broadway show. Hundreds filled the theater, anxiously anticipating the spectacle that would soon fill the stage. Unfortunately, that first audience suffered through four different stoppages during the show, which caused the production to drag on for nearly four hours.

Despite the negative attention garnered by the show, many cast members have remained surprisingly upbeat throughout the whole experience. As the show's leads, Reeve Carney

and Jennifer Damiano, who play Spiderman and Mary Jane, have remained the most optimistic.

Recently The Husky Herald was given the rare opportunity to interview White Plains native Damiano. Damiano made her Broadway Debut at the age of fifteen in the original cast of *Spring Awakening* as a member of the ensemble and understudy of the female lead, Wendla (played by Lea Michele of "Glee" fame). In 2009, at the ripe old age of seventeen, Damiano joined the original cast of the Pulitzer Prize winning *Next to Normal*, as Natalie, a disturbed teenager struggling to fit in and cope with issues at home. Damiano's portrayal of Natalie won her a 2009 Tony Nomination, and launched her into the Broadway limelight. Since completing her run in *Next to Normal*, Jenn has been working with the cast and crew of *Spider-Man* and embracing all of the challenges of starring in such a high profile production.

**Husky Herald (HH):** How did you originally get involved in acting and performing? Did you join any theater groups when you were younger?

**Jennifer Damiano (JD):** I was in a performance choir called "The Dreamcoats" and we mostly performing songs and on rare occasions we would do musicals. I began to fall in love with acting just as much as singing and got involved with a theater group called "The Random Farms Kids Theatre" which was so much fun! At first I just thought of performing as an after school activity, and as a way to express myself creatively. I never expected it to become my profession. But I got an agent in the city and started doing commercials and working professionally until finally I landed my first Broadway role! I have been so lucky and blessed that I am able to pursue this as my career at such a young age.

**HH:** When did you know that you wanted to have a career in acting?

**JD:** I knew that this was something I was going to do and needed to do for the rest of my life when I started doing "Next to Normal" off Broadway at "Second State Theatre" in New York City. I fell in love with the character I was playing and found myself learning more about myself through the character than I ever imagined possible. I found the learning process to be extraordinary and unforgettable.

**HH:** What was your first role on Broadway, and what was your reaction to being cast in the show?

**JD:** My first Broadway show was *Spring Awakening*! I was cast as an ensemble swing member which meant I performed in the ensemble every night but got to go on for lead roles every now and then. I did end up getting to go on a lot which was so fun and surreal! I couldn't believe I got cast! I remember jumping up and down with my friend Gracie in my room when I found out. It was so incredible to think that the creative team of the show believed in me enough to give me this incredible opportunity.

**HH:** What is your favorite role that you've been cast as? What about the role makes it your favorite?

**JD:** Natalie from "Next to Normal" is my favorite role so far. I played her for three years and sort of grew up on stage with her. The character became so close to my heart. I hope I get the pleasure of inviting a character as beautiful as her into my life again!

**HH:** In 2009 you were nominated for a Tony award for your performance in "Next to Normal." Can you describe the atmosphere and your feelings that night?

**JD:** I was so honored just to be nominated that night. That was the true win for me. To be



Damiano with costar Carney.  
Courtesy of Jennifer Damiano

surrounded by such amazing people and welcomed into the community in that way was both surreal and unforgettable.

**HH:** How would you describe your experiences with *Spider-Man*? How are you remaining calm with such chaos and publicity surrounding the show?

**JD:** *Spider-Man* has been the hardest show I have ever worked on and at the same time the most incredible. The press certainly gets to you at times but you have to learn how to not take it personally and keep faith in what you are doing every night. I am having the time of my life.

**HH:** What is your favorite part about performing in a show like *Spider-Man*? Are there any sequences in the show where you have the opportunity to fly?

**JD:** I do get to fly in the show and in fact my one flight that I have with Spiderman himself is my favorite part in any show I've ever done! I've never experienced anything so satisfying on stage, or above it for that matter!

**HH:** What is it like working with Bono and the Edge of U2?

**JD:** Bono and Edge are so cool. They are so focused on the work and care so much about what they do and no matter how serious things get they still find time to remain humorous and good-spirited. It's really such an honor to be in the same room with them working on the same material.

(Continued on page 20)



A shot of Damiano by Annie Leibovitz.  
Courtesy of Jennifer Damiano



# Mentally stimulating diversions...

JT Nangle

Staff Writer

Do you think you can name all forty-four United States presidents? All of the countries of Europe? If you are someone who likes to put your knowledge to the test, then Sporcle is for you. Sporcle.com was created by Matt Ramme, a computer science major who graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1997. According to The Tartan, the Carnegie Mellon school newspaper, the original goal of Sporcle was for Ramme to improve his own trivia knowledge. As his collection of quizzes grew, Ramme decided to share his creation with the world. Sporcle went public in 2007, and has since worked its way into the hearts of fun fact aficionados worldwide. Currently, Sporcle offers over 4,000 timed quizzes. And thanks to an option which allows users to post their own quizzes, this number is growing daily.

Sporcle presents users with a virtually endless supply of productive procrastination. Instead of aimlessly surfing Facebook, users can perform mental calisthenics, challenging their minds in areas ranging from sports statistics to the periodic table. Many high school students are easily distracted by the website's lure. "I use it during all of my frees," shared Junior Tyler LaBarbera, "I know I'm wasting time, but I really like to test what I know."

An informal discussion with peers revealed that the

most popular quizzes among males are sports related. But don't be fooled by the umbrella term; a great deal of variety exists within this category. Tests range from such standard fare as naming teams from the various major sport leagues to more obscure challenges like naming the starting All-Stars for

both the American and National leagues for the past ten years. Although sports quizzes may not fit the conventional denotations of "educational" activities, they keep the mind sharp.

Alex Beckett commented on his use of the website. "I think

I know a lot of stuff about sports and it's fun to be tested on it. I used to play games like Crazy Taxi, but Sporcle is more exciting and makes me feel smarter."

One quick glance around the library is enough to affirm the popularity of the site among Harrison High School students. Unlike many transitory fads which seem to vanish as quickly as they appear (remember Tamagotchi?), Sporcle looks like it's here to stay. "I never knew about Sporcle until last year," said Junior Emily Koller, "But whenever I have a free moment in school I'm Sporcling. I especially love the movie quizzes!"

Sporcle may not help students to stay on top of their homework, but who knows? Today's slackers may be the Jeopardy champions of tomorrow.



A sporcler hard at work.  
Courtesy of Sarina Tassone

## Learning made fun at Ted.com

Matt Cysner

Staff Writer

In this day and age of iPhones and iPads and WiFi at Starbucks the internet is accessible via more avenues than ever before. People use it for shopping, research, education; entertainment. It is home to the third most populous nation on earth: Facebook. If someone wants to have their voice heard, or key into the ideas of others, the web is the optimal medium. This was the reasoning behind TED.com.

In 1984, a conference brought together people from three different worlds; technology, entertainment and design. It continued to grow and in 1996, Chris Anderson had the idea of creating a website that would share the ideas mentioned at the conferences. TED.com (an acronym for technology, education, design) is this website. Self described as devoted to ideas worth spread-

ing, the site is owned by a private, non-profit organization called The Sapling Foundation.

Special features of TED.com include "TED talks" on topics ranging from magic card tricks, to parenting taboos. In a departure from conventional groupings, talks are arranged by viewer selected tags such as ingenious, funny, persuasive, beautiful, and inspiring. The website is easy to

**TED** Ideas worth spreading

Courtesy of Ted.com

navigate, and is as entertaining and interesting as it is informative.

TED talks are not limited to the strictly academic. Many also showcase the talents of those invited to contribute. Andrew Bird, for example, used TED.com as a platform to display his abilities as a one man orchestra. He used

an electronic looping system to record sections of a song where he played the violin, xylophone, sang, and whistled. He did two tasks at a time, and with the help of the looping system, created a sound no one would ever guess came from a single musician.

In conjunction with TED.com is the TED prize, awarded annually to three people who have an idea to benefit the world in an innovative way. One of the TED prize recipients for 2007 was former President Bill Clinton. Following his presidency, Clinton founded the Clinton Foundation, an organization focused on four far reaching goals: health security, economic empowerment, leadership development and citizen development, and economic and religious reconciliation.

TED.com's biggest problem might be its lack of fame. Unlike many trendy websites, TED.com does accept advertisers. This, along with its less than typi-

cal subject matter, has prevented the site from becoming a huge hit (though it is wildly popular among certain circles). One venue where TED.com remains relatively unknown is in high schools. But students introduced to the site for the first time appeared very receptive. Following his first excursion on TED.com, senior Zach Mandell commented "It's really cool. I had never heard of it before, but now I think I will be visiting it frequently."

"It is an interesting website that I plan on looking at again in the near future," shared junior Jared Cummins, "I feel that this website could be used to promote philanthropic endeavors."

Many people, like Jared, are intrigued by the possibilities of TED.com. Whether you are looking to learn from the ideas of others, or maybe share one of your own, TED.com is a great place to start.

# Quick *Flix*, new tricks

Matt Cysner

Staff Writer

Netflix revolutionized the movie rental industry. When Blockbuster was the only way to rent movies, people often complained about the chain's inconvenience. Blockbuster was usually in an out of the way location relative to a person's house. Not to mention, when one arrived, he or she was forced to wait an additional five to ten minutes on line. Also, folks who forgot to check the contents of the case before leaving were subject to an unpleasant surprise when popping the movie into the VCR or DVD player.

The advent of Netflix meant that people could get movies faster, cheaper, and keep them for longer. Blockbuster has permanently been put on the retreat. Netflix became popular very quickly due to people's dissatisfaction with Blockbuster -- and it has seemed to only grow bigger since. As the company grew, new additions were added to the program. One of the most notable add-ons was the addition of the downloadable movie feature. People could now download movies and watch them as if it were a video on YouTube.com. This feature made it more convenient for those who did not want to wait for the DVD

to come in the mail.

This streaming feature revolutionized Netflix because everyone wants to do everything faster. Now, customers did not have to order the movies in advance. Instead, it could be a spur-of-the-moment event. However, there is a downside to this wonderful feature.

"When it comes to streaming, the quality of the image depends on two things," says Eric Taub of Gadgetwise, "the speed of one's Internet connection and the display capabilities of the viewing device."

This means that if the internet connection is not incredibly fast, the movie's quality could be poorer than that of DVD quality. Since the average person does not have the internet connection capable of supporting a BluRay-quality movie, many people who try

to use this feature are disappointed with the results. However, for someone who just wants to see the movie and does not care too much

about the quality of the picture, this feature is perfect.

Netflix recently gave customers the option of a "streaming only" plan. With this plan, all of the movies and television shows in

the online database would be available. This new plan is \$7.99 a month, but it does not include a DVD plan. This could probably be the best idea from Netflix yet. For those who do not want to wait for DVDs in the mail, the streaming plan is the ultimate convenience feature. However, those who watch an excessive amount of movies or television shows might find the online database selection to be limited. Perhaps the choices will not include the one they were hoping to watch. The online movie selection is considerably smaller

than the amount of DVDs that are available to the customers who purchase more than just the online streaming plan.

"Getting movies by mail is cool because you can get any movie you want," notes junior Jose Porretti. "However, there is normally something wrong with the DVD itself, which can get very frustrating."

Fellow junior Matt DiRe enjoys the streaming option.

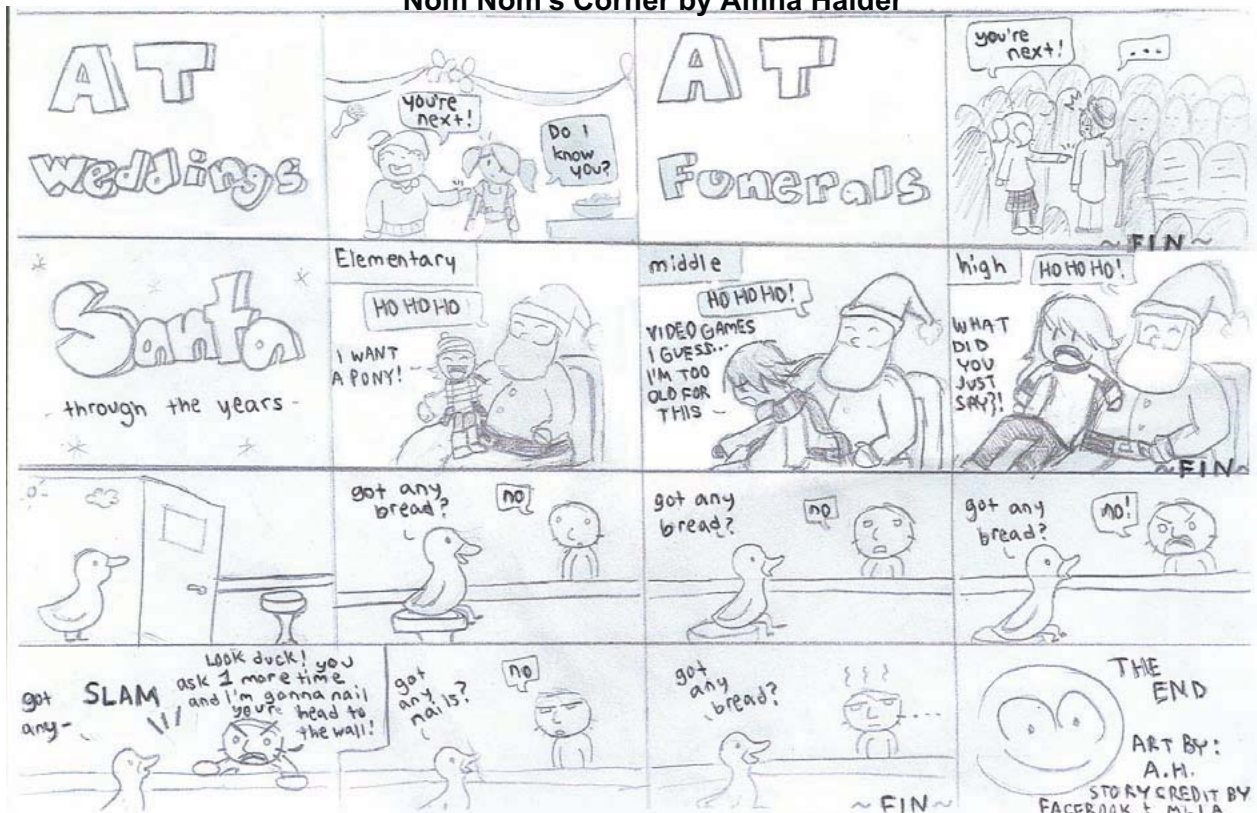
"Streaming movies to my computer is super fun, easy, and faster than getting them by mail," he says.

So the big question is, "Which is better -- more selection or being able to watch the movies faster? Those seeking to watch movies faster and at the spur-of-the-moment will find the streaming plan an excellent choice. However, those who prefer planning their movies ahead of time and cannot stand low-quality resolution will prefer the DVD plan. Next time you watch a movie or television show that is streamed to or mailed to your home, thank Netflix for making it all possible."



Courtesy of Mr. Glauber

## Nom Nom's Corner by Amna Haider



# 3-D takes films to a new dimension

Jamie DeRosa

Staff Writer

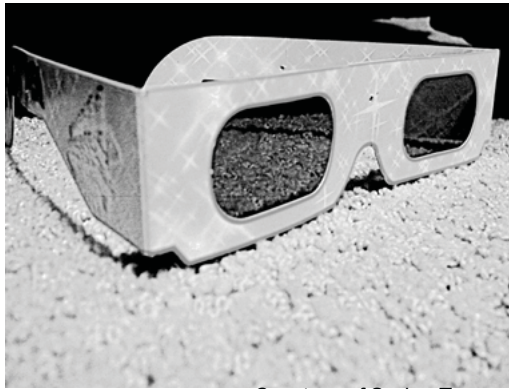
In Hollywood, 3-D is becoming an incredibly popular trend. It seems that every time you go to the movies, more than half of the films are playing in 3-D. Five years ago, any 3-D film was uncommon. Perhaps the occasional animated movie offered a 3-D variation then, but the popularity of the medium has taken off since. When you think of reasons why 3-D has become so popular, you only have to mention "Avatar," which as the highest grossing film ever made, also brought 3-D to a wide audience. The James Cameron film showcased what 3-D can really do in a film. Ultimately, it makes the viewing experience much more immersive and satisfying. The idea of 3-D was already catching on before "Avatar," but that film's success really helped bring widespread acceptance of the technique.

Filmmakers also see 3-D as a way to boost ticket sales. A 3-D ticket costs around three dollars more than a normal ticket. The hope is that the enhanced aspect of a 3-D movie might make a steep difference in terms of box office results. Apparently, converting a movie into a 3-D format does not cost all that much.

Take a movie like "Clash of the Titans," a film that originally was not planned as a 3-D release. After the movie was filmed, the studio decided to convert it into 3-D at a price tag of an additional two to four million dollars. In this case, the 3-D aspect helped the movie's overall box office performance. The profits in this case well exceeded the cost of converting the film to 3-D.

Simply put, people like 3-D, especially kids. Pretty much every animated movie now is in 3-D because the film makers understand its immense appeal to that segment of the marketplace. But people of all ages are flocking to the theaters to fully experience the 3-D effect. And now it's not just movies, either. The 3-D phenomenon is expanding into other forms of entertainment such as television and video games with titles such as "Call of Duty: Black Ops" be-

ing fully playable in 3-D (If you're willing to purchase the insanely priced 3-D televisions which can range from \$3,000 to \$6,000 a unit, with additional charges for extra viewing glasses).



*Courtesy of Sarina Tassone*

Here at the high school, there are mixed opinions regarding the new popularity of 3-D.

"I like 3-D because I feel like when you watch a 2-D film, you're just watching it, says junior Matt Porto, "but when it's 3-D, you feel like you're in the movie!"

Others are not sold on the concept. While it's undeniable that 3-D is taking over the entertainment industry, there are many people out there who

strongly dislike 3-D. Alleged studies are underway to help ascertain whether 3-D can possibly be harmful to the viewer's vision.

"I like 3-D," says sophomore Michael Santacroce, "but sometimes I find that my eyes start to hurt a little, and it detracts from my enjoyment of the movie."

In longer movies like "Avatar," many people reported that the movie gave them headaches and that they had to take off the 3-D glasses every so often in order to give their eyes a rest.

Perhaps the ultimate goal for 3-D entertainment would be the removal of the 3-D glasses. This idea is already being explored with the Nintendo 3-D, which basically is a portable game device that's in 3-D, but doesn't require any special glasses whatsoever. Journalists who have tried out this new technology talk about how well it seems to work. Either way, it looks like 3-D has a strong future in the entertainment industry, as it continues to spread into new realms. Who knows where this technology is headed? Currently, it's spreading at a rate that doesn't appear to be letting up any time soon.

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## Interview with Jennifer Damiano

*(Continued from Page 17)*

**HH:** What was it like to be photographed by world famous photographer Annie Leibovitz in a *Spiderman* themed shoot?

**JD:** Working with Annie was amazing! She knew exactly what she wanted in her shots and made me feel very comfortable on set. I really hope I get to work with her again one day I really admire her process and her work.

**HH:** The acting business is often considered one of the toughest businesses to be a part of. How have you remained optimistic

and relaxed while auditioning and reading reviews of your performances?

**JD:** There is no doubt that this is one of the hardest things to do in the world. The entertainment industry is so important in our culture. I know there is nothing else I want to be doing. I have learned that staying very close with my family and friends keeps me grounded when things spin out of control. It is easy to lose yourself in the negative aspects of it, especially at a young age! However, I keep my eye on my work and on what I know I love about this and will love forever.

That is what propels me forward whenever I get nervous or overwhelmed.

**HH:** What advice would you give to high school students aspiring to have a career performing on Broadway?

**JD:** I would tell students who have aspirations to be on Broadway one day to never doubt themselves and always believe in who they are. Casting directors love people who are not afraid to be fearless and have fun. The more you love yourself and what you do the easier it is.

**HH:** Are there any questions that you would ask yourself that I didn't mention? If so, what are they and what are your responses?

**JD:** If I could I would probably ask myself what the most amazing benefit of my success would be? I would answer: The fans! It's so amazing to hear people, especially young people, tell me how I have changed their lives and inspired them with what I do because there really is no other point to it.



# Jersey Shore to return to the “homeland”

Allison Fuerst, Sarah Mazza, and Katie Rian  
Staff Writers

In case you've been off the planet for a while, *Jersey Shore* is a reality television series on MTV that follows eight housemates spending their summers together in Seaside Heights, New Jersey. The show is packed with action and drama as the housemates fight and party with each other.

The original eight housemates are Michael “The Situation” Sorrentino, Nicole “Snooki” Polizzi, Paul “Pauly D” DelVecchio, Jenni “JWOWW” Farley, Ronnie Ortiz-Margo, Sammi “Sweetheart” Ginicola, Vinny Guadagnino, and Angelina Pivarnick.

*Jersey Shore* first aired on December 3, 2009, to an audience of 1.38 million viewers (according to TV By The Numbers' website). When housemate Angelina left the house in Jersey, the show was down to seven roommates. People's interests in the drama-filled lives of these seven skyrocketed to nearly 4.5 million viewers by the end of season one, which made producer SallyAnn Salsano and MTV very happy. The seven housemates cashed in \$5,000 each per episode, and with 13 episodes per season, that was plenty to finance the drinking and partying.

Season Two took the cast down to Miami Beach. On July 29, 2010, the second season premier episode aired to a whopping 5.3 million viewers. Housemate Angelina decided to give the show another try, but she ended up leaving once again – and has not been asked to return since. The hooking up and fights within the house are what keeps viewers watching. For Season Two,

the seven housemates made approximately \$10,000 per episode (according to wetpaint.com).

Season Three returned to Seaside Heights, but with a surprise twist. Snooki decided it was time for another housemate, and Deena Nicole Cortese

Will native Italians see the show as funny and entertaining or will they view the cast members' upfront personalities and trouble-making attitudes as disrespectful to Italian culture?

Sammi and Ronnie's love disaster continues to engage many love thirsty viewers, while others find it considerably annoying and a distraction from the partying. Pauly D's funny personality and ability to lighten the air around the house with funny comments and catchy sayings leaves many viewers begging for more (not to mention his insanely awesome DJ skills).

As “the gang” packs up and heads out to conquer their “homeland,” many Italian-Americans are concerned. They do not like how the show promotes sex and drinking in the name of Italian pride and they do not want people to view this and believe that all Italian-Americans behave like this.

When the show first came out, there were many controversies over the show's usage of the terms “Guido” and Guidette. Seaside Heights residents were angered by the cast's actions, worried that it reflected poorly on the town's actual population.

“It's still not clear exactly what the structure of the season will be or even where the cast will be based,” says DJ Pauly D on MTV News. It's a safe bet that the group's trip to the “homeland” should yield some hilarious cultural differences and fantastic communication breakdowns.



HHS students get their *Shore* on for Halloween.

Courtesy of Blair Finkel.

was added to the cast. The fist-pumping cast broke MTV records with an astounding 8.5 million viewers per episode. “The Situation,” “Snooki,” “Pauly D” and “JWOWW” were paid \$30,000 per episode (according to myfoxny.com), while the others were paid \$20,000 per show.

Attempts have been made to get the show to be cancelled. For example, UNICO National's (a service organization of Italian-Americans) president Andre DiMino wrote a letter to MTV asking that the show be cancelled because it directly disgraced and stereotyped Italian-Americans. Of course the request was rejected.

The show also has borne the brunt of many jokes and parodies, from Saturday Night Live to South Park. Many of the cast have also appeared on television shows as guests, from Letterman to Lopez Tonight to even TNW (Total Non-Stop Wrestling).

Now *Jersey Shore* will be hitting Italy for their fourth season! Will the move from Jersey create controversies internationally?

## Learning the lingo

Sarah Mazza

Staff Writer

Here are some key terms to aid your viewing of *Jersey Shore*:

**Banana Clip** – Hair accessory used by Snooki to prop up her hair in the signature poof.

**Beat up the beat** – Crazy fist pumping while intoxicated

**Blowout** – Pauly D's signature hairstyle that includes a blow dryer, hair gel and hair spray, normally takes about 25 minutes.

**Came out of the woodwork** – Came out of nowhere

**Duck Phone** – A phone in the shape of a duck and when it rings, it quacks. Originated in Seaside Heights

**Fist Pumping** – A hand motion utilized by Jersey Shore males to show enthusiasm, especially when dancing to house music.

**Grenade** – A word used to describe an ugly friend

**Grenade Horn** – A vuvuzela-like instrument blown to proclaim that a Grenade (see above) has invaded the Shore house.

**GTL** – Gym, Tanning, and Laundry, the process the housemates do every day

**Guido** – an Italian male stereotype

**Guidette** – an Italian female stereotype

**Hippo** – An intoxicated overweight female

**Juice Head** – An Italian male who is hot, tan, and muscular who may or may not be on steroids

**Robbery** – when one steals a roommate's girl that he had his eye on

**Ron Ron Juice** – Combo of watermelon juice, cherries, cranberry juice, and vodka, made before housemates go out

**Stage 5 Clinger** – A girl who follows you around watching your every movement, calls you until you are forced to put the phone off the hook

Tune in Thursday Nights at 10 p.m. on MTV for more *Jersey Shore* fun!

# Got Tunes?

Cherry Aung

Music Editor



Courtesy of Big Machine Records  
**Taylor Swift: *Speak Now***

It's almost annoying how Taylor Swift has been dominating the pop scene, but as today's biggest pop star, not to mention at the incredibly young age of twenty, she can do pretty much whatever she wants and get away with it.

Her last album, *Fearless*, was the top selling album of 2009 and *Speak Now* does not fall disappoint as a follow up.

Swift's lyrics are a story: an autobiography inspired by her experiences and various romances. I've never been a fan of pop songs about love and heartbreak, but Taylor Swift's are an exception – her music is easy to relate too. It's easy to understand why so many women and girls, and even men (yes I know "manly guys" who belt Taylor Swift in the car), are devoted listeners.

The sounds on this album reach beyond her usual country/pop style, taking on an alternative rock edge in "The Story of Us" and "Better than Revenge."

My favorite songs on the album were "Enchanted," "Sparks Fly" and "Better Than Revenge". It was interesting to see the darker side of Taytay, in "Better than Revenge. Sue me, but my least favorite song on the album was the chart topper "Mean". I thought it sounded like guitar-Barbie on helium.

It is kind of hard to realize that Taylor Swift is name-dropping and trashing various people (for example, her ex-boyfriend John Mayer and notorious interrupter Kanye West) with this album because she has the charm of the sweet girl next door who makes

you believe in happy endings and fairytales. That's her appeal, and it works.

A problem I have with the album is that at one point, some of the songs start to sound the same. It would be nice to hear Taylor Swift try writing a song about something other than love, or teenage melodrama.

## **Gorillaz: *The fall***

The Gorillaz's new fifteen track album is the first album ever made entirely on the iPad, so kudos to technology. This album



Courtesy of Wikipedia

has a different sound and feel than the band's previous albums. The vibe is more mystical and electronic.

The album opens with "Phoner to Arizona" which I didn't really like. It is a simple song composed of just a beat that sounds like croaking. This sets a bad mood from the beginning. The songs following are slow, and chill.

Singing is really minimal in this album. The majority of songs are composed of slow beats and synths that have a futuristic mood to them. The album seems to focus on the effect of the world as a whole rather than on individual songs.

I've always been a fan of Gorillaz, but this album is not typical of the band. The fall is an acquired taste – one which I'm not sure fits my pallet. Hopefully, this is not a direction the Gorillaz are transitioning to permanently.



Courtesy of GOOD Music

## **Kid Cudi: *Man on the Moon II***

*Man on the Moon II* is dark in content and raw with emotion. The direction Kid Cudi takes here is very retro □ a fusion of rap and '90s alternative rock, with a little bit of a psychedelic twist. As always with Cudi, the songs have an intoxicating feel. He creates catchy and melodic music that people can "zone out" to.

My favorite track on this album, hands down is "Erase Me," featuring Kanye West. It is the most upbeat track on the album, and Kanye is a perfect accompaniment. I also liked "The Mood," an eerie and intense track.

Overall, the album is solid, but doesn't stand up to Cudi's last album. Still, it is definitely worth a listen.

## **Diddy Dirty Money: *Last Train to Paris***

*Last train to Paris*, the fifth album of the artist formerly known as Puff Daddy, P Diddy, and Diddy, is a conceptual album which follows the rappers newest persona, Diddy Dirty Money, as he chases a lost love across Europe.

An interesting idea, but does the music measure up? In all honesty, no. Diddy has never been much of a rapper (just listen to "Someone to Love Me"), and his singing isn't any better. The fact that he manages to produce hit songs is something I attribute to the talented artists featured on many of his tracks. On this album, the list of

guest stars includes Rick Ross, Usher, Lil Wayne, Swizz Beats among others. Diddy's talented back-up singers, Kalenna and Dawn from Danity-Kane, pick up the slack for Diddy's lack of vocal talent.

The album opens with the song "Yeah Yeah You Would." A voice narrates, "this is a brand new sound." No lie there. Just as Diddy has changed his name, he has changed his style, swapping R&B and hip hop for Euro club dance music (he's not the only one to do this recently).



Courtesy of Interscope Records

There are some notable tracks. On "Coming Home" the vocals are amazing. "Angels," featuring Rick Ross and verses from Notorious BIG, is stand-out, although Biggie's verses are the highlight. "Hello Good Morning" featuring Rick Ross and TI has probably the only good rapping I heard on the entire album.

Is this album entertaining? Sort of. Does Diddy have any talent? No. Even if this was the *Last Train to Paris*, I would miss it. It is a train gone off the tracks.

# 90-Second Interviews



"90 Second Interviews" is a new feature where we sit down with a teacher and see how many random questions they can answer in just ninety seconds. For this issue, we put social studies teacher Ms. Epstein and math teacher Mr. Burns to the test.



Burns



Epstein

Favorite food?  
Chicken scarpariello.  
Favorite TV show?  
"The Sopranos."  
Favorite color?  
Blue.  
Favorite animal?  
Monkey.  
Childhood nickname?  
Burns.  
Favorite movie?  
"School of Rock."  
Favorite band?  
The Beatles.  
What did you want to be when you were younger?  
A baseball player.  
Most value possession?  
My music collection.  
Favorite cartoon character?  
Homer Simpson.  
First car?  
A 1985 Chevy Blazer.  
Favorite superhero?  
Batman.

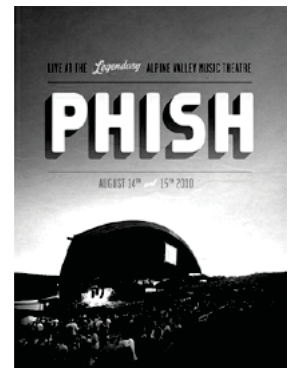


Courtesy of Bing.com



Courtesy of Bing.com

Favorite food?  
Everything.  
Favorite TV show?  
"Big Love."  
Favorite color?  
Rainbow.  
Favorite animal?  
Golden retriever.  
Childhood nickname?  
Eri.  
Favorite movie?  
"True Romance."  
Favorite band?  
Phish.  
What did you want to be when you were younger?  
A teacher!  
Most memorable student excuse for missing homework?  
I got married. I'm not kidding.  
Most value possession?  
My snowboard.  
Favorite cartoon character?  
Jem – she's totally outrageous!  
First car?  
A Volvo station wagon.  
Favorite superhero?  
Superwoman.  
Catch phrase?  
That's cute.  
What do you do with free time?  
I cook, go to the gym, watch movies, and snowboard.  
Something interesting that most students don't know about you?  
I've been to 13 foreign countries and over 40 states.



Courtesy of Bing.com



Courtesy of Bing.com



# sports

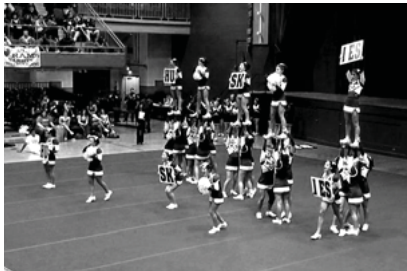
## Cheerleaders overcome problems at County Center competition

Kiersten Colotti

Staff Writer

On the afternoon of November 22, 2010, the junior varsity and varsity cheerleading teams participated in the sixty-second Annual Westchester County Cheerleading Invitational.

This is a cheerleading competition comprised of every cheerleading team in the county



*Courtesy of Harrison NY Cheerleaders*

that wishes to compete. It usually runs until about 10 p.m. and competing teams are judged based on a number of criteria such as jumps, tumbling, and difficulty of stunts.

The varsity team really had something to be proud of this year. They had come in first place in their division, despite stunts that they were unsure about hitting perfectly and tumbling running smoothly. The judges gave them a score of 96 out of 100.

The next night, they would return to the County Center to perform their routine again and compete with the first place teams in the other four varsity divisions. The first place winner of this final would be named the Grand Champions of Westchester County.

However, the junior varsity team at first felt defeated and cheated because they hadn't even placed in their division, with the first, second, and third

placers being announced out of the five JV teams that competed.

The previous day, the JV squad had competed in the Yorktown Competition. The JV team didn't place because one stunt did not go up and another one didn't completely hit. Their dancing could have also used some more tightness, yet they still scored 63 out of 100.

However, on the night of the County Center Competition, all of the stunts hit and the dancing was cleaner than at the Yorktown Competition. But the team scored lower than the previous night, receiving only a 53.

The JV coach, Tashica Clarke, went over to argue with one of the judges for about 20 minutes. Not one person on the junior varsity team agreed with the score. Even the varsity coach, Rosa Acocella, agreed that the JV team had been hoodwinked.

"The judges were very unfair," said Felicia Prignano, a freshman on JV, "because we hit every stunt perfectly! The teams who placed did not hit their stunts as well as we did."

The varsity portion of the competition had already begun by the time Clarke was done arguing. She didn't return to her team for about fifteen minutes after that.

When she returned, she informed the JV team that the judges' justification for the low score was that a sign had been stepped on during the routine, which accounted for a ten-point deduction. That still would have only brought the score up to a 63, the same score the junior varsity team had gotten the pre-

vious night.

Several on the team remained disappointed.

"I think we did really amazing and I've watched the video of us over and over and we did really well," said Ashlee Milone, a freshman on the junior varsity team. "No stunts fell and we looked synched. I think that the judges were totally wrong and we should have placed."

Clarke made sure to inform her team how proud she was of them for all the hard work they did that night. They really brought it to the table, hitting a stunt that they had never hit at practice before. The JV girls reached a consensus that the numbers didn't mean anything, and they still remained immensely proud of themselves for a great routine performance.

The next night, some of the JV girls returned to the County Center to watch their

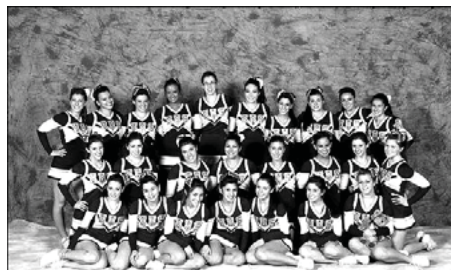
fifth. There were a few faulty stunts in their routine that they had hit solidly the night before. The previous night turned out a lot better for them.

"On the first night at the County Center, we all felt nervous and overly energized, which ended up translating into a good outcome," said Kylie Barnes, a freshman on the varsity squad. "However, on the second night, we almost felt that taking first place the night before was enough, and we did not have so much positive energy and nerves, which made us slack. So, unfortunately, we received a bad outcome."

In addition, one of our own senior varsity cheerleaders, Dana Annattone, received the Annette Hroncich Westchester County Cheerleading Scholarship. This is a \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a deserving senior cheerleader based upon grades, cheerleading ability, an essay response, and a personal interview. Annattone is one of the team's most experienced flyers and has extraordinary ability both on and off the mats, keeping up her grades along with cheering.

Overall, the coaches and cheerleaders alike were proud of

themselves for a performance well done. The JV girls were especially proud, as this was the first time they had hit all of their stunts in competition. This was also varsity's biggest win in competition under coaches Rosa Acocella, Reina Medina, and Kamisi Simmons.



*Courtesy Memorable Moments Photography*

varsity sisters compete in the varsity final for Grand Championships. The teams competing were Harrison, New Rochelle, North Rockland, Maria Regina, and Putnam Valley.

After five great performances and lots of nervous anticipation, North Rockland took home first place. Unfortunately, Harrison's varsity team came in

# Harrison hosts first cheer competition

Mandy Quigley

Staff Writer

On Saturday, January 9, Harrison hosted its first ever cheerleading competition, and it was a huge success. Thirteen teams from all over Westchester came to Harrison in the Junior Varsity, Small Varsity, Large Varsity and the Co-ed divisions.

Opening up the competition was an exhibition by Harrison's Junior Varsity Cheerleading Team before the Junior Varsity competition, and the HHS Varsity squad also performed before the Varsity competition.

Some of the teams that performed that day were Port Chester, Fox Lane, Putnam Valley, Brewster and more. Categories judged this year included motions, footwork, stunts, pyra-

mids, basket tosses, jumps, and tumbling. Others include crowd interaction, which involves voice and showmanship, and crowd leading and crowd appeal. Construction of a team's routine is also judged, including transitions, formations and spacing, and overall presentation of the

specific pattern.

"This would not be possible without all the help from the Harrison Varsity and Junior Varsity teams, the cheerleading parent committee and all the parent volunteers," said Coach Rosa Acocella. "There was always talk of having a competition at

our school, but nothing ever happened, until this year."

"It was a great experience," said Captain Jenny Macginus. "I'm glad our first year doing it was my senior year. It

was such a success."

First place winners in each category were as follows: Junior Varsity – The Yorktown Huskers; Small Varsity – The Fox Lane Foxes; Large Varsity – The Port Chester Rams; and Co-ed – The Croton-Harmon Tigers.

The final round was the Grand Champion Round, naming the highest placing team in all the divisions. The Croton-Harmon Tigers took home the grand champion trophy that day.

The Harrison Cheer Challenge raised about 4,000 dollars to help toward the trip to nationals. The competition was such a success that the school now plans on annually hosting a cheerleading competition.



Courtesy of Harrison NY Cheerleaders

## Hard work pays off for JV Cheerleaders

Michelle De Leo and Kristi Sheehy

Staff Writers

JV cheerleading is really more than you might think. It requires persistence, hard work, dedication, and pride. Right out of eighth grade, tryouts are held. By the end of June, preseason starts and lasts until the next school year begins. In August, both the Varsity and JV cheerleaders go to Pine Forest Cheerleading Camp to prepare for their season.

At Pine Forest Cheerleading Camp, the cheerleaders become a team. Some people say a family is created, as the experience really brings the team together.

"At cheer camp, we all had fun, got to know each other better, and met new people," said Katie Mayne. "We also learned new cheers and what it's like to perform in front of a crowd. It's fun to get to know people outside of your friends."

Next, the JV cheerleaders start to prepare to cheer at the JV football games. The team had to make sure everyone knew the cheers and that they were loud.

"The cheers are hard to learn at first," said one of the cheerleaders, "but once you break it down it gets easier."

Beyond learning all the cheers, the team also had to learn how to stunt one another.

"This this sport is hard because you're holding another person when you stunt," noted one girl. "Stunting is a lot harder than it seems. When you are flying, you have to suck in your stomach, stay tight, balance, and smile too."

The girls have to be very dedicated and focused in practice while learning all these new moves. After all this preparation, the team finally gets to perform and show their Husky spirit at the JV football games.

"Before the first game we were all very nervous," says Jennifer Macilvane. "But I was excited to start a great season."

During the football season, the team starts to practice for competitions. It's very important that each girl remembers the moves and improves on her dances. If the girls were nervous when cheering for the football games, imagine how they felt going into their first competition.

"As you're watching all the other teams perform, you get very pumped up," noted Jen Mac. "But as soon as you step on the

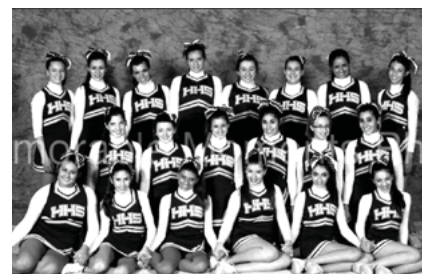
mat, you forget every step that's in the routine."

Competition season is where all the hard work is put to the test. The girls practice day in and day out, putting all their focus on each step needed to be remembered. This year the coaches are doing something different. If, by the first competition, any girl is not putting in all her effort, she will get cut from competitions. This means that some girls still can cheer for the basketball games, but will not be allowed to compete. This has made cheerleading even more intense, allowing for greater internal competition to try and emerge as the best.

To pay for all the expenses of cheerleading, cheerleaders come up with different ways to raise money. Cheerleading is a costly sport. Some of the fundraisers include selling chocolate, offering car washes, and selling Harrison gear. If a girl can't afford the attire for cheerleading, the PTA arranges for girls to sell things to pay off such a debt.

While most cheerleaders

complain about the hard work, saying they often hate it, most would never consider having it not be a part of their lives. They live for the trips to the airport, the plane rides, the parties, the hairspray, the disgusting amount of makeup and the need for inhalers. They live for seeing the fear in the other teams' eyes, and the chills going up their spines when on deck before a key performance, hearing people saying "cheerleading isn't a sport," then proving them wrong, and how strangely enough, the gym becomes a second home. The girls live for it; it's who they are.



Courtesy Memorable Moments Photography

# Boys bowl to league champs, girls finish third

Olivia Pagano

Staff Writer

With negotiations falling apart between team owners and players, many view a strike as a terrible thing. Yet, in bowling, a strike is a beautiful thing. This sport, which brings back memories of little kid birthday parties, or nights hanging out with friends, is gaining in popularity. Here at the high school, it is something that has become a great source of pride, as this year's bowling squads had great seasons.

Here at Harrison High we have two different bowling teams, one for the girls and one for the boys.

The advisor for the girls' team is Mr. Heath Kaplan, while the advisor for the boys' team is Mr. Michael Ciavarella. Members of both teams find the advisors to be fun and dedicated coaches of the sport. The players love the sport and think it is very unique that the school has a team like this.

The Husky bowling teams had some outstanding performances this year. The girls' team started early in the season as undefeated, but eventually lev-

eled to finish third place in their league. Considering how many starters were lost to last year's graduating class, it still was a very successful season. This year the team says goodbye to seniors Lisa Flanagan, Nicolle Fratarolla and Jessica Franco. Under the leadership of team captain Blair Finkel and up-and-coming bowlers Alexa Colocchia, Andrea Tuzolino, Taylor Gillespie, and Elisa Santelia, the girls are looking to win the league next season.

"Despite having a girls team made up of all new players, Coach Kap has really taught us how to come together as a family and we have exhibited skill along with this unity," said Captain Blair Finkel. "The team is self-driven and we all share the same goal-to WIN. Also, we have come together with the

boy's team who had an almost undefeated record and they have helped us to become stronger and more skilled."

The boys' bowling team finished with a record of 87-11, which earned them the title of league champions. This is the first time in school history that Harrison has won the league.

The team was lead by Captain Bennett

Wissak with a 183 average, along with Bobby Medori, who averaged 182. Throughout the season, Bennett bowled twelve separate

200+ games, while Bobby bowled thirteen of them.

"When you're as good as us, it's not about whether you win or lose but rather, by how much you win," said Bennett Wissak.

The team would not have been league champs if it wasn't

for the strong performance all season from Joe Albanese. In fact, he was one of the main reasons that the team came back from being down 70 pins in the tenth frame against Valhalla. The Huskies relied heavily on its two other captains as well, Danny Johansen and Jake Solomon. Their dedication and improved efforts were vital to the team's overall success. There were a few games when the team was struggling and then they stepped up and bowled well above their average to help the Huskies secure a victory.

"Being in first place comes with a lot of pressure, but it's nothing we can't handle," said Jake Solomon. Danny Johansen agreed, saying, "If you're not first, you're last...but if you're in first, you're on Harrison's bowling team."

Also added to the starting five this year was senior Edwin Back.

"Edwin was one of the most improved players," noted Coach C. "He was a key to our match against Horace Greeley."



Harrison bowlers rule.

Courtesy of Carolina Alvarez

## Wrestling is tough: team features star players

Brian Lauro

Staff Writer

One of the more interesting sports team Harrison High School offers during the winter season is Boys Wrestling. Today the wrestling team is coach by Head Coach Vincent Nicita, who has been coaching twenty-seven years. Mr. Nicita has been awarded Coach of the Year and League Coach of the Year by The Journal News, also he has coached nine Section Champions. Assisting Mr. Nicita is assistant coach Pete Loughran, who has been involved with the

sport for twenty-two years. Mr. Loughran was once Head Coach for the Mount Vernon wrestling team from 1981 to 1991, Assistant Coach at Manhattan College from 1991 to 1995, followed by being the becoming Head Coach of Irvington High School from 1998 to 1999. Today Mr. Loughran helps coach our Husky team, specializing in takedowns and counters.

This year's Varsity Wrestling Team's roster consists of Charlie Florio, Joseph Jimenez, Max Lukaswitz, Joe Maida, Steven Maldonado, Maximillian McMullen, Gavin Menchel, David Polakoff, Tyler Rodrigues, Bobby Scatenato, Robby Tiburzi, Alex Tosto, and Captains Duke Alvora, Korado Deliallisi, and Kurt Hinrichs. This year Mr. Nicita only nominated two players to be Player of the Week. On December 12, sophomore

David Polakoff was nominated due to his great success by coming second place in the Patriot Tournament, which featured teams from Sections 1, 2, and 9. David later went 5-0 in a pool play to advance to the finals for his first time. Along the way, David defeated Brett Pastore from Irvington and avenged his earlier loss. Mr. Nicita nominated Kurt Hinrichs on December 24 for his two big wins against White Plains and Mount Vernon.

Wrestling is very different than other sports in many ways. A line-up in wrestling consists of at least 15 players that wrestle individually in their own weight classes, with a total of 15 weight classes. Weight classes go as low as 96 pounds, and as high as 285 pounds. Within each individual match, each player gets points that are added up for a total score that determines

who wins. Points are earned by the player gaining control in the match and also by escaping from the other player's moves.

"It's very hard because you want to lose weight or fat, but also gain muscle," explained senior Kurt Hinrichs. "Also many of us feel that wrestling is more strenuous than football, due to all the work put in to our practices."

"Wrestling tests character, and is a sport that teaches a person never to give up," said senior wrestler Korado Deliallisi. Duke Alvora, another senior on the team, put it simply like this: "Wrestling turns boys into men."

The Harrison Boys Wrestling team hosts its matches at LMK. But usually they are involved in tournaments that are usually two days long and take place Friday nights and Saturday mornings.



Courtesy of Coach Nicita



# Boys' Swim Team members break record, heading to States

JT Nangle

Staff Writer

The Boys Swim Team finished their season at 4-6 after a close loss to Fox Lane on February 7. Although most of the Husky swimmers have already ended their seasons, a few are moving on, looking to make a solid run through the playoffs. With obstacles such as being shorthanded and losing a few key seniors from last year's squad, the Huskies had a tough start to the season. With impressive wins over New Rochelle, Ossining, Yorktown, and Keio, the Huskies showed their coach, Mr. Phil Dearstyne, and their loyal fans that all their hard work in the pool was worth it.

Bryan Pon, Matt Carducci, JT Nangle, Reo Mukadai and Greg VanTongeren are the Huskies moving on to the playoffs. These five have led a group consisting of other great swimmers like seniors Adriano Pierroz,



Courtesy of Mr. Carducci

Colin Frank and Bryan Jacobowitz. Although the Huskies have been effective in the events like the 100-meter freestyle and the 200-meter butterfly, the team's biggest strength has to be their relays. The 200-Medley team consisting of J.T Nangle, Bryan Pon, Matt Carducci, and Reo Mukadai has a very good chance at making a run for States, and in even in breaking the record for this event.

The boys this year have big shoes to fill this year after the records and swimmers of the past. The current records of Boys Swimming have stood for almost 20

years and the team this year is hungry be part of history. Last season, the relay team led by Matt Pon, who now attends Carnegie Mellon University, Carducci, Mukadai and Nangle broke the school record in the 200 Free-style relay. These boys narrowly missed the NYS cut, but finished in the top 10 in the section.

In their most recent meet against Rye, the Harrison medley lost a close race to the Rye relay team featuring two future college Division one swimmers. But despite this loss, Harrison had other impressive wins by J.T Nangle and Matt Carducci.

"This race was a real measuring stick for us to see where we were as a team before we make our way to Sectionals," said Captain Matt Carducci after the

loss to Rye.

Although many see their youth as a disadvantage, the boys swimming squad sees it as a benefit and a source for their optimism into Divisionals.

As the boys prepare, Sophomore Bryan Pon doesn't feel the pressure.

"I've been to a lot of meets in my life," he said, "and I'm not going to treat this one any differently."

Bryan's tough work has truly paid off for the team, especially at the 100 breaststroke events. Both Juniors Matt Carducci and JT Nangle are on the cusp of breaking school records in the 100 Backstroke and 100 Butterfly, but outside of swimming they both are working on becoming Academic All-Americans in the coming months.

(Editor's Note: As the issue was going to press, the relay team broke the school record en route to a second place finish at the Section One Swimming Championships, and qualified for the State Championship in March. Both JT Nangle and Matt Carducci qualified in the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke. The four boys leave for States on March 3.)



Courtesy of Mr. Dearstyne

## Titans slide into Sectionals

Spencer Rosenstein

Staff Writer

The Rye Town/Harrison Titans played their last game of the season looking like a team capable of great success ahead. The Titans gave New Rochelle a more competitive game than the Huguenots would have wanted on their senior night. New Rochelle's leading scorer Richie Prunesti scored with one second remaining to hand the Titans their toughest loss of the season.

Despite their loss to New Rochelle, the Titans have been able to beat teams throughout the season. They defeated the

12-6 Fox Lane Foxes. The win helped spark two more wins against Ossining and Sleepy Hollow/Irvington. They were the first Titans team to come out with win against a strong Fox Lane team. They entered the New Rochelle game with momentum from these three consecutive wins and left the New Rochelle game realizing that there is a strong chance to win as they head into Sectionals.

The Titans finished the season at 8-10-1, their best record since they went 13-6 in

the '07-'08 season. At the time, the Titans were led by Brett Novick who scored 37 goals that season. That season the Titans defeated Rye 7-6 in a game that was decided by the performance of their first line, who contributed all seven goals. The two seniors on the team this year, Scott Bass and Austin Brettscheider (both from Blind Brook), are the only members of the team who have defeated Rye, and they have instilled the work ethic and the desire to win in this year's mostly freshman team.

## Varsity Cheerleaders Place Tenth in Nation

Danielle Carpiello

Staff Writer

The Harrison Varsity Cheerleading squad headed down to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, the weekend of February 12 for the UCA National High School Cheerleading Competition. All of the grueling hard work put in by these 24 girls - ten hours a week for some 40 weeks - surely paid off. Hitting a nearly perfect routine during their performance at the *ESPN Wide World of Sports*, the team landed tenth in the nation in their Super Large Varsity division in the Semifinals round.

# Varsity Boys' Hoops Bouncing Toward Playoffs

Ray Corona, Matt Karpf and Michael Goldman  
Staff Writers

After improvement was made by the Huskies last year finishing 10-9, the Huskies have taken the next step by becoming legitimate contenders in Section 1 basketball. With an all-senior starting lineup, the leadership is shown as the Huskies have been able to overcome challenges such as injuries and tough teams down



MJ posts up for the shot. *Courtesy of Michael Jacobson*

the stretch. The Huskies have averaged over 51 points per game with offensive threats like junior Max Bruckner and senior Brendan O'Shea. Defensively, the Huskies have averaged over 12 steals per game and also are muscling in 30 rebounds. For the first time in a long time, playoffs come up in any conversation about this squad.

The Huskies came into this season with huge losses to their lineup. Big men Dennis Rinaldi and Jared Hodes graduated along with guard Matt Pipitone, leaving gaps in the lineup. A football injury sidelined sophomore Charlie Credendino from participation in the hoops season.

With a smaller team this year, the team had to focus on its quickness to overcome larger opponents such as Horace Greeley's Matt Townsend and Rye's Brian Pickup. A lot of pressure was put on the upcoming seniors to fill the shoes of past leaders. Each senior of the starting lineup brought his own unique feature to the team. Guard Mike Chiarella has the ability of spreading the

court and setting up the plays. Guards Mike Jacobson and forward Brendan O'Shea can get

open and have the confidence to shoot long range jumpers even with defenders in their face. The lineup then is completed with the physical game play of Ryan Evans and Steve Ricciardi. Behind the starters is a deep bench consisting of Angelo Nardulli, a rebounding machine, with Brian Lauro and sharpshooter Max Bruckner.

All players of the Huskies have been motivated by their coaches' reminding them that "Effort is Visible." Due to their determination and quickness, the Huskies have been successful running 2-3, 2-1-2 and even man defense during their games.

The Huskies started the season traveling to play Blind Brook. It wound up as a tough 38-37 loss, but it was an eye opener for the skills of Brendan O'Shea

and Max Bruckner. The Huskies would rebound after, finishing their first 10 at a record of 7-3. During that span, many of the Huskies had big games such as Michael Jacobson's 18 point performance against Pleasantville on December 14 and a 22 point showing from Brendan O'Shea against Rye in the Mamaroneck Tournament.

During the Mamaroneck Tournament, the Huskies had a huge victory over Rye, 73-63. To decide the winner of the tournament, the Huskies matched up against the Mamaroneck Tigers. After Harrison was leading in the first by 15-4, the Tigers came back to within a bucket to start the fourth. Late in the quarter, the Tigers tied the game at 52, leaving the Huskies seconds left. Junior Max Bruckner came through, sinking the last shot and leading the Huskies to a 55-52 victory. The buzzer beating was the icing to Bruckner's 24-point performance in that game.

offensive threat, the key down the stretch will be how they can handle teams with huge players down low. Loyal fans have already seen senior Angelo Nardulli manhandle Brian Pickup in the Rye game, but similar toughness will be needed against even stronger opponents upcoming.

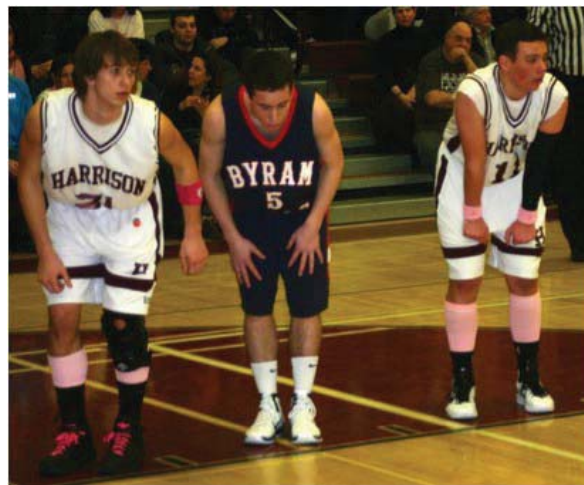
The bench will need to step up and hold leads when the starters get their much needed rest. But the mental toughness is what could lead the Huskies over any opponent. One benefit is the bond and chemistry throughout these players. As they start the playoffs, senior Brendan O'Shea is confident about this year's team.

"This year our team has a lot more chemistry," he said. "Everyone is friends with everyone and it helps our play on the court. We are much smaller than in years past, so we try and use our speed and aggressiveness to our advantage."

Even Coach Chiarella stresses the importance of his team's chemistry, and is pleased with the success.

"The team's morale is better this year than in past years because there is better chemistry and everyone is on the same page," said Coach Chiarella. "I feel that we have done well and they've shown me that they deserve to win. No matter how it plays out, I'm proud of my guys."

No matter how the season plays out, it has been an impressive season for the Huskies on the hardwood.



Lauro and Bruckner position for a rebound.

*Courtesy of Max Bruckner*

The peak of the Huskies season was at the record of 8-3, but since then the team's record has slipped to 8-10. The boys are in contention for a playoff run, but still need more from their seniors. Although the Huskies can be an