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Harrison High School

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Lucky 13 for Model Congress

Emma Adler

Editor-in-Chief

This spring Harrison High School took Philadelphia by storm, picking up an unprecedented thirteen awards at the University of Pennsylvania Model Congress conference.

The conference kicked off on March 31. Hundreds of delegates representing dozens of high schools crowded into the famous Irvine Hall for opening ceremonies. Following a speech by former congressman Joe Sestak, and a brief overview of the rules of the conference, the delegates dispersed throughout the campus for their first committee session. Over the next three days, each of the Harrison High School delegates would engage in approximately twenty hours of structured debate, tackling issues running the gamut from drug trafficking to the housing crisis.

Friday was the busiest day of the conference, including two three-hour committee sessions and one two-hour full session. Harrison High senior Zach Mandell presented a bill to legalize the medical usage of ecstasy. Junior Julia Coash presented legislation which would require women as



The Harrison delegation.

Courtesy of Ms. Makarczuk

well as men to enlist in the draft. Asked about the experience of debating in a committee with ten to fifteen strangers, Coash commented "It is kind of an awkward situation, spending hours talking with a group of people you don't know, but it forces you to open up, and by the end of the conference you all get to know each other." Topics discussed in Harrison delegates' committees on Friday included the death penalty, voting rights for convicts, and adoption rights for gay couples.

On Saturday, the delegation took advantage of a seven hour break between committee sessions to enjoy the city of the Philadelphia. Some journeyed to

the Old City, a part of Philadelphia renowned for its architecture, historical significance, and shopping. Chaperones Ms. Makarczuk and Ms. Morrissey headed up an excursion to Reading Terminal Market, a sprawling public market located in the heart of Philadelphia where hungry visitors can sample delicacies from over one hundred storefronts. Afterward, freshmen delegates Ben Adler, Sam Colangelo and Coby Lefkowitz took a detour to Jim's, one of the Philadelphia's most famous Philly cheese steak restaurants.

Following their evening committee session that night the delegates swapped their blouses

and blazers for tank tops and jeans and made their way to the delegate dance at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. In spite of a noble effort on the part of the conference administrators,

the dance received a collective thumbs-down from the Harrison delegates who chose to put in an appearance. Junior Angela Troia remarked, "It was a cool idea to hold the dance in a museum, but it was hard to dance with a bunch of statues everywhere. It also would have been nice if they'd had an actual DJ instead of a laptop playing music."

Sunday began with a final full session of debate. In the Red Senate, the delegates debated a bill outlining harsher punishments for military officials involved in instances of water boarding, and passed a resolution to support Brazil's acquisition of a perma-

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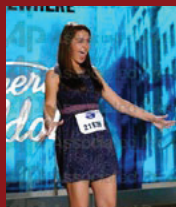
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news & features

Cysner Climbs His Way to the Top

Angela Troia

Arts Editor

After years of playing little league and other recreational sports, most teens find their niche on football or baseball fields, or perhaps on the court, shooting hoops. This is not the case for Matt Cysner. This Harrison High School junior has chosen a sport that takes him to new heights, literally. Cysner is a nationally ranked climber. This past February, Matt finished twenty-second in the USA Climbing National Bouldering Championship, a performance that was his personal best.

In a high school where football seems to dominate the sports arena, climbing is not often a sport considered by many. "Before Matt started climbing I had no idea that such an event existed," said fellow junior Matt DiRe. "I had known that people climbed, but not at a competitive level."

The sport involves a simple objective: climb from the bottom of the wall to the top without falling. On paper, this may seem like a breeze, but in actuality it is one of the most physically demanding sports.

There are two types of climbing: sport climbing and bouldering. Sport climbing involves

longer climbs and the use of a rope. In bouldering, the walls are shorter and there are big



Cysner takes hold.

Courtesy of Matt Cysner

pads on the ground to protect against falls.

"You don't need to be able to do the hardest rock climbs in the world in order to have fun and get a good workout," said Matt Cysner. "You just need to push yourself and you will gradually get better."

Needless to say, Matt is no ordinary athlete. Even though one might not spot Matt throwing a ball around after school, his workouts and daily routines are rigorous.

"Pushups, pull-ups, and sit-ups help, but in order to get better at climbing, you just need to climb a lot," noted Cysner, who plans on going to New Hampshire this summer for three weeks of rock climbing.

Boulder, Colorado, proved to be a new experience for the intrepid climber. He had previously qualified for the competition, yet

this bouldering wall exceeded anything Matt had ever climbed before -- reaching a tall twenty feet.

"I was extremely nervous," says Matt, who claims he can still feel the intensity of the competition. "I was very nervous for the event. I had put a ton of pressure on myself to do well at nationals, so much so that I forgot to take a step back and relax. As a result, I did not climb as well as I would have liked, but I am still happy with how it all turned out."

The climbers are judged solely on difficulty and completion, not on speed. The competition is not timed. Each hold is worth a point and the higher a climber gets, the more

ranked in order of highest score. Matt's first and final round was a qualifier round, scored out of possible 15 points. Matt scored a high 12.04, close to the first place qualifier who managed a 14.48. Matt's age group had thirty-three competitors competing to be ranked the nation's top climber.

"Climbing isn't simple," says Matt DiRe. "I have climbed with Matt for simple fun and, especially as an amateur climber, I admire Cysner's physical ability as well as his technique." DiRe is proud of how well Matt did at the national competition. "He really pours his heart into climbing and deserves to go places with it."

One thing's for sure -- this is not the last time we will see Matt climb.

"Becoming a professional rock climber is extremely difficult and I do not think that I will make it to that level," a modest Cysner confided. "However, I would like to work in the climbing industry so that I can stay involved with the sport as it progresses in the future.

I'd like to at least have a career that would allow me to keep rock climbing. I can definitely see myself rock climbing for the rest of my life."



Cysner climbing.

Courtesy of Matt Cysner

points are earned. Falls are also factored into the score, but they do not take away a substantial amount of points. Scores are then added and competitors are

KFWH to LMK

Peri Mendelsohn

Staff Writer

Students in *Kids for World Health* Club have recently been learning about how education levels differ in different parts of the world. For example, in Taliban, Pakistan, children are not fortunate enough to have the privilege of education and constantly live in danger because of the prevalence of weapons in their society. While many kids don't appreciate the importance of school (to say the least), kids in

countries like Pakistan yearn for a proper education and every day is a struggle to survive. On April 4, students involved in *Kids for World Health* took a trip to the middle school to convey this important message. The students in the club prepared a presentation informing middle school students at LMK about the harsh conditions in Taliban, Pakistan. The presentation stressed the importance of education and how it should be appreciated because many don't have this advantage. The presentation also provided students' insight as to why it's important to help the less fortunate. Many underestimate and ignore the existence of poverty in third world countries and this presentation truly was an eye-opener, one that delivered an important message to the Harrison community.

The presentation consisted of watching a 40-minute video with the middle school students, one depicting the troubles that kids from Taliban have to endure day-to-day just to survive. Following the presentation, the high school students followed up with a more personal PowerPoint presentation where kids were asked for input on the situation. This allowed middle school students to

openly share how the presentation affected them, granting them the ability to imagine what their lives would be like if they lived in Taliban. One question asked in the presentation was, "How would you feel if your younger sibling



Courtesy of Ms. Columbus

knew how to use a gun?" Often kids don't realize the dangers others go through in order to survive.

Even though weapons are not present and a part of our everyday lives, we should not fail to see the differences in places like Pakistan, where guns are used commonly by children who use them as a method of both self-defense and survival. Schools in Pakistan even educate kids on how to properly use weapons and many kids learn how to be suicide bombers at young ages. Lastly, the students were asked to write down questions they have about the Taliban. Following the PowerPoint presentation, the students heard a speech by Silbi Stanton.

Ms. Stanton is working on building schools in Pakistan that will provide an adequate education for the children in Pakistan, one that will enable them to rise above their current problems. At Ms. Stanton's schools, she is encouraging the attendance of

girls. This is unusual because normally in Pakistan girls are considered useless in their community and cannot attend school. Some of the students' questions were answered by Ms. Stanton during the presentation, further deepening their understanding of the matter and allowing them to get first-hand insight on the situation. The interaction with Silbi Stanton also provided students information on how to give additional donations to help the situation in Pakistan.

After viewing the movie, *Children of the Taliban*, at a *Kids for World Health* meeting, Harrison High school sophomore student Olivia Hy-mowitz expressed her feelings on the program.



Courtesy of Ms. Columbus

"The presentation will allow the middle schoolers a chance to know what's going on in the world outside of their community," she said. "I think most people are unaware how different people live in foreign countries and I'm so glad I was given the opportunity to learn more and share the stories of the Taliban with middle school students."

The video has had a similar effect on sophomore Stephanie Irvine, who shared, "It is an important issue to know about because it teaches kids how to appreciate education and the

safe environment they live in. I'm very happy to be involved."

The presentation informed students about a current world event that endangers kids' lives every day. It also gave students some perspective on how fortunate they are and how much harder kids have it in foreign countries. Some raised concerns that the presentation might prove too scary for middle school kids, some of whom might not be mature enough to handle the subject matter.

Yet *Kids for World Health* advisor Ms. Allison Blunt argued that this presentation was one that needed to be seen.

"Kids deserve to know what's going on in other countries," she said. "We cannot hide them from the truth and it will only increase their desire to lend a hand."

Often we forget everything we have to be thankful for in our country, state, and community. This presentation stressed the importance of being informed about world events and being thankful for the safety, security, and promise our country provides.

The trip gave high school students an opportunity to share their thoughts on a current event

with younger students as well as a great experience presenting and learning about this riveting topic. The process enabled high school students and teachers to learn a great deal about Pakistan as well as interact with students from the middle school, which is not commonly done. Members of *Kids for World Health* and the school district greatly appreciate all of the hard work and effort put in by the club advisors, Ms. Blunt and Mrs. Wilson. Their efforts in making this trip happen did not go unrecognized.

Band Trip Just Peachy

Trent Lefkowitz

Staff Writer

Harrison High School's band, chorus, majorettes, color guard, and wind and jazz ensembles all headed down South in late March for their biggest performance of the year. This time, the performers packed up their gear and took a 16-hour bus ride to Atlanta, Georgia, in order to compete in the Atlanta Heritage Festival.

Though prepping for the Festival was their main focus, the group still had time to explore and enjoy the "Peach State." Band teachers Mr. Briem and Dr. Pasqua planned several exciting activities both before and after the big day. The group was able to visit the University of Georgia, take a day trip to *Six Flags*, and eat at well-known Georgian restaurants such as Agatha' Christie's Mystery Dinner Theater and Ryan's Fire Mountain Grill and Buffet. They also visited the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, where they saw and learned about King's birth home, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Freedom Hall, the Eternal Flame, and his crypt.

One of the most memorable experiences of the trip included pianist Peter Serkins' performance at the Atlanta Symphony Hall. Serkin played in his "Bartok and Brahms" concert series, and made a trip to Stone Mountain Park for another performance the day of the competition.

Junior drummer Raf Dalcolmo loved Serkins' performance, but particularly enjoyed his time at Six Flags.

"One of my favorite parts of the trip was visiting Six Flags," he said, "because I got to go on the Go-Karts. Driving them was tons of fun. I also really enjoyed the Batman Gotham City area."

HHS stepped up to the plate when the competition arrived. Performances took place on Friday, April 1 and were

the Best Overall Band award, and three HHS musicians were recognized with the Maestro Award for their individual

spectators by walking off the stage right before they were expected to perform.

Long days and constant prep for the competition left HHS performers exhausted. Though the group enjoyed their stay in Georgia, by the last day most of them were ready to head home and resume their daily lives. They left Saturday night from Six Flags (the location of the awards ceremony) and returned to HHS Sunday afternoon.

Senior drum major Bryan Jacobowitz had mixed emotions after completing his final competition as part of the HHS band.

"It's bittersweet, because while it's one of the last times I will be leading the band," he said, "I know for a fact it's not the last time I will be seeing the band."

One of Bryan's favorite band memories throughout his high school career was the Nashville trip in 2008.

"When we were in Nashville, we went to a concert at the Grand 'Ole Opry, and whenever anybody would say the word 'focus' the crowd would give a thunderous applause," he recounted. "While we still aren't quite sure why they did that or what it meant, it's a fond memory I have from that trip and an inside joke between all of the seniors."

There are many seniors who, like Bryan, are sad to leave these experiences behind.

Though underclassmen are upset to lose a valuable chunk of the overall group, they already are looking forward to next year's competition.



Band members pose with awards.

Courtesy of Gary Morgen Photography

followed by an awards ceremony the next day. The Huskies were a big success, adding numerous awards to its already impressive collection of accolades.

performances: Bryan Jacobowitz on the piano, and Jacob Seidman and Ryan Polakoff for the trombone.

A pleasant surprise for



The Jazz Band lets loose.

Courtesy of Gary Morgen Photography

The marching band, majorettes, and color guard won silver in their respective competitions, while the percussion ensemble, wind and jazz ensembles all took home the gold. The entire group snatched

HHS was also the Spirit Award. The group received the award for displaying a positive attitude throughout the trip, and the April Fool's joke they pulled on the crowd at the Wind Ensemble competition. They "fooled"

Fun-Lanta Days And Nights

Olivia Pagano

Staff Writer

Although everyone was excited for the band trip to Atlanta, most were dreading the 16-hour bus trip to get there. There were thoughts that sitting on a crowded coach bus for hours and sleeping in uncomfortable positions would be agonizing. Surprisingly, it was not. It gave time for the band to get mentally prepared before competition mode began. During the bus ride, students bonded and, like every other teenager, they were energetic and basically insane. Games were played, stories were told, and it was like there was a speaker blasting laughter.

On the way down to Atlanta, the band stopped at the infamous *Cracker Barrel* in North Carolina, where Southern hospitality was on display. Mr. Briem instructed the band to be polite, cautioning against one-word responses like 'yeah' and 'thanks.'

Arriving in the city of Atlanta was exciting. Instead of taking downtime at the hotel, the band got dressed and went to the lobby. They left to take a tour of the Coca-Cola factory because the soft drink originated in Atlanta, but sadly, they were late. So instead of taking the tour, they were dropped off at a shopping center (and all the girls were happy).

After, the band members went to the *Agatha Christie Murder Mystery Dinner Theater*. The show that was performed was called "Grave's Anatomy" and required audience participation. Due to the fact that the audience was mostly Harrison students with musical experience, it was ironic that they had to write songs that told a story of working in a hospital. One song in particular stood out to many band members, it was the parody of Rebecca Black's top hit, "Fri-

day." The malpractice lawyers at "Our Lady of Excessive Hotness Hospital" sang this song with



Look out below!

Courtesy of Gary Morgen Photography

lyrics by the band's drum major, Bryan Jacobowitz. One sample lyric from this hysterical song is: "It's trial, trial, gotta get put on trial. Everybody's lookin' forward to the verdict, verdict. Settling, Settling, (Yeah!) Settling, Settling, (Yeah!) Cash, cash, cash, cash. Looking forward to the verdict." That night was full of laughs and excitement for all.

The next night the band enjoyed a performance of *The Atlanta Symphony*. For many adults, it was very rewarding to see musicians of such caliber. For the exhausted students, though, it was time to sleep. Even though the symphony would have been great for people to listen to, the possibility of staying awake during such lullaby-like songs was unlikely.

On Friday, April 1, the band was pumped for competition. Due to the scheduling of the competition at 4 p.m., all of the students went to *Stone Mountain Park*. This park has one of the South's biggest landmarks. It is the rock with the confederacy carved

into it. There was a tram that went to the top of the mountain. People took pictures and videos to record the memories. Later that afternoon, the whole band left for Powder Springs, Georgia. This is where the competition was located. First the marching band and the majorettes performed in front of some of the South's most prestigious music people. After that, the color guard, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble and the percussion ensemble performed in Hillgrove High School. These performance groups were cheered on by their fellow band members and parents.

After hours of listening to music and doing their best, the musicians returned to a huge surprise at the hotel. While they were in a meeting in the *Embassy Suites' Phoenix Room*, the band found out that a famous basketball player, Allen Iverson, was there, apparently awaiting surgery. Apparently the NBA star was upset and very intoxicated. The band parents and directors were concerned for the students' safety, so they were kept in the conference room and later escorted to their rooms.

The next day was very exciting for all because they

were brave, and they went on the Sky Coaster. They flew ten stories high, before experiencing the exhilarating free fall.

Although the day of rides was over, the award ceremony had yet to begin. All band members rocked out to the classics from the '70s as they waited to find out who won. Overall the band won nine awards, including awards presented to individuals that stuck out while competing; Bryan Jacobowitz, Jacob Seidman, and Ryan Polakoff. Even though not all members were awarded with this honor, the students all cheered, supporting their fellow musicians, classmates and friends. Due to the high qualifying awards the band won, they were invited to go to Los Angeles next year and compete.

"My favorite part of the trip was spending the whole day in *Six Flags Over Georgia* and being able to receive an award knowing that it is my last year doing this," said, Nour Neshiwat, a senior and four-year member of Harrison High School Band.

After a whole day of excitement from thrilling roller coasters to winning awards, the band got back onto the bus for another



Courtesy of Gary Morgen Photography

spent the whole day at *Six Flags Over Georgia*. Some rides there are Goliath, Georgia Scorcher, Superman, The Great American Scream Machine and many more that made people scream with joy and fear. Two chaperones on the trip, Mrs. Corona and Mr. Vernali,

16-hour trek back to Harrison. The bus was silent the whole way back as exhausted students slept. Arriving back home was great, but most were reminded that they still had to get up for school the next morning.

Harrison Debate ends on a high note

Peri Mendelsohn

Staff Writer

These past few weekends, the Harrison Debate Team attended two state tournaments and won both! The first of the two tournaments, NYSDCA, was held April 1-2 at Brooklyn Tech High School. The second state tournament was on April 8-9 at The New York State Forensic League. Certain qualifications were required in order for students to participate in both of these prestigious tournaments, so only the top debaters from multiple schools in New York were on hand. This posed tough competition for the Harrison debaters.

The first tournament consisted of five preliminary rounds followed by quarter finals, semi finals, and the State championship. All three Harrison debaters participating had great records and were successful in the tournament. Sophomore Peri Mendelsohn, sophomore Sarah Murphy, and freshman Sarah Rossman did a fine job representing Harrison.

Unfortunately, Sarah Murphy and Peri Mendelsohn were unable to break to quarter finals, but obtained excellent records in preliminary rounds. Peri Mendelsohn won two of her preliminary rounds and made it to what debaters call a "bubble round," a round that decides which debater will be able to have a specific ranking in the State and the tournament. Peri lost that round, disabling her to place, but lost off a low-point win (she had higher speaker points than her opponent). Sarah Murphy won three of her preliminary rounds and did

an outstanding job, receiving high speaker points in every round. She actually placed ninth in New York State. If the tournament



Debaters pose with trophy. *Courtesy of Mr. Hertzig*

had allowed debaters to break to the octofinals, Sarah would have been one of the finalists, but because the tournament was running late, only quarter finals could be carried out. Still, Sarah's debate skills did not go unrecognized - she won third speaker at the tournament.



Debois debates. *Courtesy of Mr. Hertzig*

Lastly, Sarah Rossman truly went above and beyond, wowing everyone by winning the whole tournament. She won four of her five preliminary rounds and moved on to quarter finals. She proceeded all the way through quarter and semi finals and made it to the State championship. All of her hard work and preparations

paid off when she beat her opponent, Zeke Rosenberg, from the Bronx High School of Science, in the finals. She was also named first speaker at the tournament. Sarah demonstrated amazing speaking skills throughout the tournament and allowed Harrison to win yet another Debate Tournament.

During the New York Forensic League's State Tournament, five Harrison students were given the privilege to compete. Harrison students Ally Brabant, Christina Loguidice, Danny Debois, Hayley Kronthal, and Sarah Murphy all obtained outstanding records and each received recognition. Again, five rounds determined the eventual State championship.

In the Varsity division, junior Christina Loguidice won two of her five preliminary rounds (an exceptional record for Varsity Debate). Christina was also named the seventh Varsity Speaker in the State, which is an enormous accomplishment. Another successful varsity debater was junior Ally Brabant. She won four of her preliminary rounds and broke to octofinals. Unfortunately, she faced tough competition in the octofinals and could not move on. However, she was named the top varsity speaker in New York State. Both varsity debaters did an incredible job, especially given the difficulty level of the tournament.

As for the novices, the three debaters in this division did a great job as well. Sophomore Hayley Kronthal won all of her preliminary rounds and broke to octofinals. She was the tournament's top seed entering elimination rounds, which is highly impressive. She was even named the third speaker in

the novice division. Freshman Danny Debois and Sophomore Sarah Murphy truly stole the show. Both debaters cleared preliminary rounds with four wins and one loss and broke to octofinals. Both debaters continued to win their final rounds until it was just the two of them left to compete for the championship. Danny Debois and Sarah Murphy became co-champions of the tournament together. Sarah also was the seventh speaker in the novice division. These two debaters have displayed exceptional consistency throughout the year and fully deserved this recognition.

"It was a great opportunity and I'm so happy with how I did," said Sarah Murphy. "Everyone did an amazing job. Everyone



Mr. Hertzig and the gang. *Courtesy of Mr. Hertzig*

on the team is so amazing that it gives me incentive to keep working at it."

The Debate Team truly has had an exceptional year, and much credit has to be given to Coach Hertzig. The amount of tournaments won by the team is a direct reflection of Mr. Hertzig's coaching abilities paired with the students' hard work ethic. There is no debate about how proud the whole Harrison community is of our Debate Team's excellent performance this year.

EURO-TRIP 2011

Joni Cooper

Managing Editor

For years, Ms. Battipaglia has been taking her students to various parts of Europe and North Africa. Each trip she leads is unique in its own way—not only in regards to the countries she chooses, but the itinerary and the group itself. One summer she brought a small group of students to Tunisia to assist her in working at a museum, while another she traveled with nearly thirty students to historical “must-sees” and other sites throughout Italy and Spain. Simply put, she is an advocate for change. Her independent trip this past February was to Italy and France.

“I was a little intimidated when I found out I was going on the trip with only three other girls



The group poses with their host family.

Courtesy of Joni Cooper

that were all seniors,” says freshman Breana Coash. “Though by the end of the trip I felt pretty close to them, and really ended up enjoying myself. I loved seeing the places and things we learned about in Latin class, and definitely want to return to Europe again.”

The original plan was to spend four days each in Italy and Tunisia, but political unrest in the latter country required Ms. Battipaglia to adjust the itinerary. Then a flight delay ultimately caused the group to miss a connecting flight from Amsterdam to Rome. The next available flight was nearly ten hours later, but that allowed the group to get a taste of Amsterdam. There was time enough to pose with the “I Am Amsterdam” sculpture, to eat an authentic meal at a small pub, to “window shop” down narrow side streets, and to see some of the world’s most renowned canals.

When at 8 p.m. the group finally arrived in Rome, the assumption was all would grab a quick bite then head back to the hotel for some sleep. Ms. Battipaglia, though, had other plans.

“We call her the energizer bunny,” says senior Michele Sullivan. “No but really, nothing slows down Ms. B.”

After the group reenergized with slices of margarita, eggplant, and white cheese pizzas, Ms. Battipaglia gave her students a glimpse of some of the key sites they would be visiting in the upcoming days. She brought them to the Trevi Fountain (only a five-minute walk from the hotel), the Spanish Steps, and several beautifully lit monuments such as the Pantheon and the Vittoriano (also known as the “Wedding Cake”).

The days were long and busy in Rome, though the group knew this was necessary to cover most of the city’s “must-sees” and “must-dos.” Within less than a week, the group not only revisited and learned more about the sites from the first night, but also saw other main attractions such as the Coliseum, Vatican Museum, and Circus Maximus.

Though Ms. Battipaglia felt it was important to cover the most famous historical sites in Rome, the teacher saved ample time for fun activities and less touristy places. During the day, the group strolled down Via Condotti—Rome’s “Rodeo Drive”—and ate fresh gnocchi and pasta fagioli in Campo de Fiori while watching pantomimes and musicians perform outside. At night, Ms. Battipaglia took the students to Trastevere—a quarter with cobblestone walkways and clotheslines suspended between buildings—and Piazza Navona to visit one of Italy’s most famous “gelaterias” for tartufo.

Not all of the time was spent in Rome. After an early visit to the Sistine Chapel, the group headed on a four-hour train ride to Florence. They visited

Santa Croce (the largest Franciscan church in Italy) and Michelangelo’s “David” sculpture, snapped some photos on Ponte Vecchio, and shopped in the city’s leather market.

Before hitting Pompeii, another destination several hours from Rome, the group made a pit stop in Formia to spend the night with the Parisis. Ms. Battipaglia became close with the family through a foreign exchange program, and has kept touch with them for years since. Having heard that Ms. Battipaglia was bringing some of her students to Italy, the family welcomed the group to stay in the second floor of their apartment.

While Ada (the daughter of Ms. B’s friends) took the group into town, Ms. Battipaglia caught up with the rest of the family at home. Little did anyone suspect the group was in for a five course, two-hour dinner upon their return. The initial assumption was that salad, pasta Bolognese, and homemade juice comprised the entire dinner. Yet these were “appetizers,” as baguettes, broccoli, French fries, sautéed onions, beef, and an assortment of gelato followed.

“Our stay in Formia will be one of my greatest memories from the trip,” says senior Nikita Mogar. “Everything just seemed so ‘authentic’—the food, the house, and most of all, the family. I will miss the view of the sea from our room, the family’s ‘Italian’ hand expressions when they spoke, and how warm and welcoming they were to us.”

The next morning the group said their goodbyes and headed off to Pompeii. Before exploring the town’s ruins, Ms. Battipaglia took her students to one of her favorite pastry shops in Italy—Gabbiano Pasticceria. Afterwards, the group spent hours walking through the ruins and learning about the town and its people before Mt. Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD. The students were especially amazed at how the bodies of victims were preserved by plaster. Before return-



Nutella crepes fresh off the pan

Courtesy of Joni Cooper
ing to Rome, the group spent some time in the Amalfi Coast town of Sorrento.

Before departing Europe, the group flew to France and spent the last two days of their trip in Paris. After settling into their new hotel in the Spanish Quarter, they walked down boulevard Saint-Michel and ate at a small French Bistro. Though they satisfied their appetites with baguettes, French onion soup, and beef bourguignon, the group had enough room in their stomachs to purchase some Nutella crepes for the road.

The group was on a tight and busy schedule since they had only one full day to cover all of Paris. The next morning, Ms. Battipaglia first took them to see the Eiffel Tower. After a quick bite, they headed to the Museum D’Orsay, where they spent hours examining the works of prominent artists such as Edgar Degas, Claude Monet, and Vincent van Gogh. At night they visited sites such as Sorbonne University and Notre Dame, and later headed to Montmartre to wander the town, visit the Basilica of the Sacre Coeur, and see spectacular views of Paris.

Before their flight the following afternoon, the group had time to shop along the Champs-Élysées and stock up on macarons from Ladurée, a world-renowned macaroon shop. After saying their final “au revoirs,” “arrivederci” and “au revoirs” to Europe, the group headed back home.

“It was a pleasure to see these four young adults totally immersed in a new culture,” says Ms. Battipaglia. “The positive impression they made on our host family and the enthusiasm they expressed for culture and antiquity was truly meaningful to me. It is what motivates me to continue these trips overseas each year.”

Pantry raid shocks town

Alex Psaros

Staff Writer

Harrison residents were stunned by the arrest of 90 year-old Florence D'Imperio on February 17th 2011. The elderly volunteer had recently been named citizen of the year and had been inducted into the Westchester County Senior Citizens hall of fame for her dedication to the local food pantry. D'Imperio had also directed the *Meals on Wheels* program in Harrison, serving meals to senior citizens. How could this seemingly selfless woman be charged with a felony third degree burglary?

Working in collaboration with Christina Rohatynski, the food pantry's director, Harrison Police Officers set up surveillance cameras to determine whether or not Florence D'Imperio had indeed stolen the donated food. Sure enough, the suspicions were confirmed. But the surveillance tapes also revealed that D'Imperio had not acted alone. On the contrary, she had been aided and abetted by five other Harrison residents:

Jack Arcara, Joseph Arcara, Adam Straface, Sheryll Toplyn, and D'Imperio's son William D'Imperio. All were arrested and face charges. Three of the culprits (Jack Arcara, Joseph Arcara, and Adam Straface) had previously been employed as full-time workers at the food pantry.

Following a two-month investigation, the police department announced that the six conspirators had not only stolen food from the pantry, but had also filched clothing and other donated goods. Sheryll Toplyn and Jack Arcara both face five counts of petty larceny. William D'Imperio faces two counts; Straface faces a single count. Despite the incriminating evidence against them, all six of the accused pleaded not guilty in court. Harrison residents were



The scene of the crime.

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

surprised and embarrassed by this turn of events. Freshman Sarah Mazza commented, "It's a disgrace to steal from poor people. It is unnecessary, especially since she [D'Imperio] had a job. I also think it's terrible that she dragged her family into this. I am disappointed with my beloved town. I expected more of my fellow community members, and I hold my head down in shame."

Freshman Trent Lefkowitz shared, "I think it is terrible, because I knew her. It makes me sick to think that she was taking stuff from the people who really needed it."

Rula Samad, also a fresh-

man, stated "The security should have been more advanced. Maybe they could have caught the people sooner. I think that Harrison stores should all improve their security to prevent events like this from happening in the future."

An anonymous source weighed in, "Hopefully this is a wakeup call for the town. I hope people realize that their security needs to be heightened, and that they need to be more on top of their staff. Stores should be more selective and careful when hiring staff members because you never know what could happen."

Students and teachers alike are frustrated with the town, and hope to see improvements in security in the near future. However the case of the Food Pantry bandits plays out, one thing is for certain: something needs to change.

A "peerless" support network

Tyler Hart and Brian Lauro

Staff Writers

As students graduate from junior high they begin a new and vital chapter in their life: high school. The four years one spends in high school have a large role in determining how the rest of one's life will play out. As such, entering the high school can be a daunting prospect for middle school graduates. Formed in 2003 by Mr. Iorio, the Peer Leadership program at Harrison High School aims to ease the transition by allowing upperclassmen to act as mentors to groups of freshman.

"I inherited this program as an idea from a guidance counselor who left the school in 2003," said Mr. Iorio.

In peer leadership sessions, mentors reflect on their years of high school and share techniques and methods for

dealing with high school which the freshman can benefit from. Each group of freshmen is paired with two to three peer leaders in the beginning of the year who have undergone an application process and been specially selected for the program.

Mr. Iorio explained the process of how peer leaders are chosen.

"First any incoming junior or senior can sign their name on an application. After that, the current peer leaders and I conduct group interviews and make observations on the applicants. After we have seen the applicants in



Head of the peer leader program, Mr. Iorio.

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

an interview, I ask the faculty and staff what they think about the applicants and if they are fit to be a peer leader. Then I take what I have seen and all the information I got and make a decision on the applicants."

In general Mr. Iorio is pleased with how the program is going. Still, there is always room for improvement.

"Ideally, I would like to have more hands-on training for the peer leaders. For example, we could have a challenge day and more opportunities in the year to meet with the leaders. However, most of them have

busy schedules and sports obligations."

The *Husky Herald* conducted a survey asking students that have gone through the peer leadership program, and that are a part of it this year, how they feel about about the program and whether they think it is successful. Over half of the students surveyed expressed satisfaction with the program.

Jordan Valentzas, a freshman, commented that the program has helped her learn to manage her time. Senior Gary Castelli shared how peer leadership benefitted him as a freshman, stating "It helped me to learn about the High School and all the extracurricular activities the school has to offer." Needless to say Peer Leadership has left a mark on the students of HHS.

Are *You* a Cheater?

Brian Lauro

Staff Writer

Making choices is unavoidable wherever you go, but as students we are forced Monday through Friday to grapple with what for some can be the ultimate point of indecision: to cheat, or not to cheat. Whether they will admit to it or not, cheating is something almost every student has considered doing at one point or another; something every teacher has to keep an eye out for.

Here at Harrison High School, cheating occurs on a daily basis. It comes in many forms, from copying someone's homework, to taking a glimpse at another student's test. According to U.S. News and World Report surveys, 80% of "high-achieving" high school students admit to cheating, 51% of high school students did not believe cheating was wrong, 95% of cheating high school students said that they had not been detected, 75% of college students admitted cheating, and 90% of college students didn't believe cheaters would be caught, and almost 85% of college students said cheating was necessary to get ahead.

A survey taken at random asked seventy-four Harrison High School students whether they have ever cheated. A staggering 81% admitted that they had cheated at least once. Of those students, a mere 15% were caught. And many of these students got off relatively easy. Asked to describe their punishment, responses included the following:

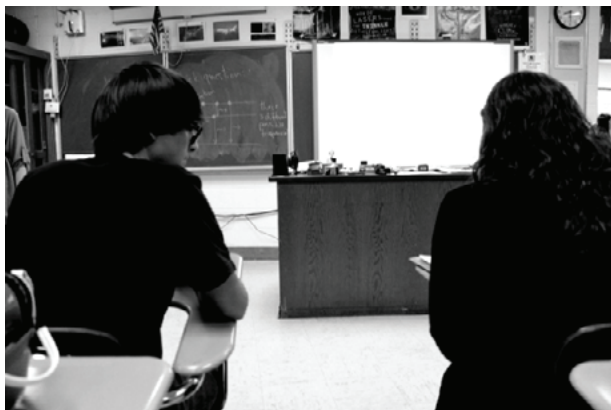
"I didn't even get in trouble. All I had to do was retake the test."

"The teacher just moved my seat away from everybody

else."

"I was told to stop and not to do it again, 'or else.' And when I did it again they just repeated that."

Of all of the students questioned, only one received a serious punishment: "I had to hand in my test and I was given a zero."



Caught in the act?

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

Given the disturbingly large number of students who get away with cheating, and the laxity of the punishments incurred by those who are caught, it is unsurprising that many Harrison High School students have a skewed outlook on cheating. Of the students who participated in the survey mentioned above, 93% stated that they believed cheating to be worth the risk. One of the few students who answered in the negative explained his reasoning, commenting "If you get caught cheating you may get a zero. If you just take the test you will get a score a lot higher than that, even if you don't understand the material."

Another student opposed to cheating shared "Cheating can only get you so far. It won't help you in the long run, after you graduate from high school or college."

Some students like to think that teachers are oblivious to the amount of cheating that goes on in your average classroom. But the majority of teachers are far from ignorant.

"I am aware that cheating is highly probable, but I

check to make sure they aren't," stated one Harrison High School teacher. "I usually notice that the younger students, such as the freshmen, are more willing to cheat."

A second teacher weighed in, "I am aware that students could be cheating, but most of them aren't. Most who do cheat do it when it is easy to do, which is why I try to avoid multiple choice and give more short answer questions. This way, students have to give me the reasoning behind the answer, in addition to the answer itself."

Every teacher has his or her own methods for limiting cheating. Some patrol the class; some use Turnitin.com; some create different versions of a test.

One teacher shared his method, stating "I get an idea of who the cheaters are in my classes as the school year progresses. Then what I do is place the group of students who I believe is more willing to cheat together so that if they do attempt to cheat they will cheat off another student that most likely doesn't know the answer either. I have found that this method has worked very well for me over the years."

While it is definitely possible to reduce the amount of cheating that occurs, eradicating it entirely is simply not possible. There are an infinite number of ways for a student to cheat, and even if a student is caught, a teacher needs proof in order to dole out a punishment. But just because cheating can be easy, and can boost your grades without any effort, does not mean you should do it. Teachers can try to limit cheating all they want, but in the end the real responsibility lies with us – the students. So next time you feel the urge to take the easy way out, consider the age old adage: winners never cheat, and cheaters never win.



Courtesy of The Bamboozle

Mandy Quigley

Staff Writer

Bamboozle is a three-day, rain or shine concert, where fans come out on April 29, 30, and May 1, to see their favorite artists and bands perform.

The radio station 92.3 NOW was giving one lucky high school a prom held at this year's Bamboozle Festival.

The station first separated schools into 21 counties. In the first round, the three top vote-getting schools (63) then moved on to the semi-finalist round.

On March 21, 2011, listeners started voting online at www.923now.com. Votes were "tweeted" and done through "like" buttons on each school's listing on the website. The ten schools remaining on April 4, 2011, were designated finalists.

"Even if we won, I don't think we could have accepted this great prize," said senior Danielle Carpinello. "There is a school play on that same day and it wouldn't be fair to those in the play if we went."

"I've always wanted to go to Bamboozle, so this is really exciting that we came this far," said fellow senior Alyssa Maida. "I would love to go with this as our last senior class event together."

While Harrison High School made a strong showing, advancing into the semi-final rounds, we ultimately did not make it. Congratulations to the Brooklyn Technical High School, who managed to accrue more votes than over 1,000 schools in the tri-state area. Their seniors will be journeying to the Meadowlands on April 29 to have a prom like no other.

Even though we didn't win, this event brought the 2011 seniors together in a strong effort to win something fun. The Bamboozle Prom was a positive bonding experience for this year's seniors.

Prom-lem Solved!

Christina Loguidice

Staff Writer

When you were a little girl, didn't you always dream of the perfect prom dress to wear to the infamous "Senior Prom?" What your fairy-tale vision probably didn't include was the price tag. On average, prom dresses cost around \$500 dollars! Many females around America are crushed when they find out their dreams for prom are shattered due to the simple fact of financial need.

To remedy this problem (at least on a small scale), Youth Volunteers of Harrison (YVH) are organizing a formal wear drive for young high school females who are not financially able to purchase a dress. This event is contingent upon the idea of improving the lives of others who are unable to attend their Senior Prom because of financial issues. YVH is asking each student to donate a gently used or new piece of formal wear (e.g. bridesmaid

dresses, prom dresses, cocktail dresses and any other accessories like jewelry, shoes, or purses) that might be appropriate for other females to wear to prom.

Not only is this campaign a great vehicle for Harrison students to give back to their community, but it also allows someone else the chance to feel like a princess for the night! All proceeds will be distributed to a boutique fashion show at Thornton high School in Mount Vernon prior to Prom season.

The Husky Herald sat down recently with the director and founder of this "Prom Perfect" program, senior Alex Chill, to get important information out to the high school community.

"I have been a member of YVH for three years now," Alex said, "and I'm very proud of this non-profit 'neighbor to neighbor' project. Initially, I wanted to incorporate something I enjoy (fash-

ion) into a way I could also help others. Through this campaign, I hope to achieve a long lasting bond with Nellie Thornton High School in Mount Vernon."

"The fashion show entails a mix of recipients who attend, as Harrison High School Youth Volunteers model some of the donated attire," she explained. "The show is accompanied by food and music. The 'distribution party' is a huge part of what we do. I don't want to just give the dresses as a means of charity, rather, I want the girls receiving these to feel special."

This event has been going on for three consecutive years.

"When we started off, we only had a few recipients and dresses," said Alex. "But the event has grown. Last year we had over 200 dresses distributed to girls who ended up extremely happy with their respective 'Prom Perfect' dresses."



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

How can Harrison students help? Start looking in your closet for anything worthy of a donation to this wonderful cause. Any articles of clothing can be brought directly to the security desk in the entrance of the high school. A clothing rack and boxes are there, and donated items are then prepared to be sent out for the fashion show and eventual distribution. Keep in mind that this year's drive will end on April 25, but this has become an important annual event for YVH. Shouldn't everyone get the chance to feel like a princess that special night of prom?

The choice is yours

Allison Fuerst

Staff Writer

As the second semester enters its home stretch, many Harrison High School students are selecting their classes for the coming year. For many, this can be a stressful process. Harrison High School is a school that allows students to follow many different academic paths, offering regents classes, Advanced Placement (AP) classes and, beginning next year ex, International Baccalaureate (IB) classes. Students can take advantage of all of these options over the course of their high school career.

Seniors may be the ones waiting with bated breath at the mailbox, but current sophomores are also facing difficult decisions with regard to next year. A student's junior year performance has a huge influence over whether he or she is accepted to college, and everybody knows it.

This year's sophomores will be the first class that will be able to enroll and receive a diploma for IB courses. The IB program is prestigious, but also extremely challenging. Most of the other high schools in the tri-state are do not offer the program. Some Harrison High School students have expressed doubt about the school's decision to adopt the IB, and hesitance to take on the intensive course load required to earn an IB diploma. Sophomore Sarina Tassone commented, "I don't know whether or not to go for the diploma. It's a lot of work and I'm not sure whether it's better to do other classes and receive high averages or go for the diploma and receive lower averages." Sophomore Taylor Friedwald says, "I've heard that when you apply to colleges the only thing about IB that they will

ask you is whether or not you are an IB candidate. If so, you check the box. I don't know if it's worth all of the work just so you can check a box." Another turn off for many students is that pursuing an IB program prevents students from taking a relatively lax schedule senior year. Sophomore Olivia Manley shared, "I want to have free classes my senior year. I would rather work really hard my junior year and have some leisure time senior year."

In order to receive an IB diploma, one must take six IB courses, write a 4,000-word essay and take an elective course called The Theory of Knowledge. The six IB courses must include three HL (high level) courses and three SL (standard level) courses. The HL courses are two-year courses, while the SL courses last only one-year.

If you're feeling unsure about your course selections, or whether the IB program is for you, the best thing you can do is consult your guidance counselor. Schedule a meeting, and come prepared with questions and ideas. For some, it may be helpful to create a few possible schedules to consider. If you don't feel like taking a trip to guidance, take a look at "The Guide to Education Planning for Students and Teachers" distributed yearly by the high school. The packet lists all of the courses that the school offers, as well as a brief description of what the course entails. It also gives a detailed, easy-to-read explanation of what the IB program is and how it can help you to succeed. Educating yourself about your options is the best way to ensure that the choices you make will be right for you.

TGIF, it's A-109!

Jamie DeRosa

Staff Writer

Going to Harrison High School comes with many benefits: among them are great teachers, a bounty of after school activities, and much more. But when it comes to Fridays, the one benefit that stands above all others is Café A109, or rather the delicious treats that are cooked up there.

Café A 109 has become famous amongst Harrison High students and for good reason. It has become yet another reason to love Fridays, for that is the day the students of A109 bring their excellent work to the rest of the school, the day when the Café provides HHS students and faculty with terrific high-quality baked goods.

Throughout the week, those who happen past room A109 are often greeted with the enticing aromas of baking and cooking underway. That's the students hard at work, preparing for Friday's rush. There always is a line of students each Friday morning, eagerly awaiting the famous A109 brownies. Hungry students line up at the classroom from the time as it opens early in the morning and the pace keeps

ready. Recently the Husky Herald discussed the phenomenon that is Café A109 with Mrs. Lore and Mrs. Smith.

The thing to remember is that each week is a process of preparation.

"Tuesdays are when we start to prepare," said Mrs. Lore. "Every other Tuesday, we take trips to Costco and Stop N'Shop to get all the necessary supplies we need. Students help out with the shopping and are assigned to get specific items. This helps teach them budgeting and money skills. We'll use the money made from the previous Friday to buy the supplies we need."

Once the ingredients have been obtained, the next step occurs.

"Baking begins Thursdays," said Mrs. Smith. "The students go through two periods of academics and then we begin the baking process. The students

wrap the food."

"Café A109 has been around for seven years now," said Mrs. Lore. "We normally

make," says freshman Jake Levy. "I think it's very underrated. I always go as soon as A109 opens to get some."



Junior Chris D'Antona goes for a brownie.

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

make around 140 brownies for each Friday morning, unless it is a brownie bash -- in which case, we make over 200 brownies."

It's not unusual for the brownies to sell out, since it is the most popular item. Recently, the Café has expanded its menu, offering soups and even Irish soda bread in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day.

"The students involved with Café 109 learn and practice a lot of life skills," explained Mrs. Lore. "It teaches them money skills, socialization as well as math. I think it's a great thing for these students to be a part of."

"The brownies are just awesome. I love the aroma too," said junior Mike DeFonce. "When I go into A109, everyone is always in a good mood."

"My personal favorite part of A109 is the iced tea they

"The food they make is delicious," according to sophomore Kim Conigliaro. "It's no surprise that they keep people coming back each week."

You'll be hard pressed to find anyone not totally enthralled by Café A109 and its savory offerings. It is one of the greatest, yet often unsung perks of the HHS experience. Students who are regular customers of the Café should be grateful such a program exists. For the students involved in the program, it's a great, practical hands-on way for them to work together and have fun, yet also learn important skills. Class aid Marie Rizzo commented, "Our students enjoy it immensely. They enjoy interacting with the students who come to the Café. It has been beneficial, and very successful. We appreciate everyone's business!"



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

up for most of the morning. The key to Café A109's success is in the teamwork. Everyone has a role to play and each lends a big hand in getting everything

are now much more independent when it comes to the baking. They work with less adult assistance. Some students will help with the cooking while others will

“Smut” list causes strife

Sarah Mazza and Hunter Sable
Staff Writers

Who knew in that just one day an epidemic could start across two states? What started in Greenwich one morning escalated until it was on the state-wide news by that same evening. The epidemic was the “Smut” List, released March 15, 2011.

The “Smut” list is a list of mainly girls (along with a few guys), classified by school. The list is ranked supposedly by “the most promiscuous” in each school in Westchester County and Greenwich, CT. The list ranks young teenage girls, aged 14 to 18, by first and last names, and also by their alleged sexual encounters.

A mysterious culprit sent out a broadcast BBM (BlackBerry Message) prompting others to add onto this “Smut” list. By the time the last bell had rung at 2:30 p.m., the list had grown considerably longer and was the buzz of every school in the area.

The same day the message was broadcast, it reached the ultimate social hotspot: Facebook. That night, the page “Westchester Smut List” was created, containing the list that was sent out through BBM, along with multiple wall posts from teens across the County. Within 24 hours of its creation, the page received more than 7,000 “likes.”

Sergio Sano, an 18-year old from Yonkers admitted to creating the Facebook page and posting the list on the site.

“I got tired of all of my friends asking me to forward the message to them,” said Sano, “so I just created the Facebook page to make it easier.” Sano admitted this on a post to the Facebook page of Zedalsa New York (a group of young entrepreneurs that webcast every week from Port Chester).

There are still questions regarding who created the original list and who sent out the messages, as well as to why it was done. What could possibly have motivated anyone to write such a degrading list?

With President Obama stressing bullying as a major problem for the youth of America,

the list illustrates cyber-bullying of the highest order. Cyber-bullying occurs when a teen is threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another teen using the Internet or other digital device. Such bullying and cyber-bullying has been the cause of many teen suicides before, and authorities moved quickly on this matter to try and prevent such things from happening here in Westchester over these cyber-bullying lists.

“It’s messed up,” said sophomore Bobby Scatenato. “I just feel bad for the girls that don’t deserve to be put on it.”

“It has to be pretty depressing for the girls that were put on this list,” said junior Cameron Ganis. “I don’t know how I would react if I was a girl and I was on it.”

This list holds the potential for those named to be ridiculed and hurt, and to have their reputations ruined. Many of the girls on the list have since had to change their names on Facebook to avoid taunting offensive remarks from others, along with friend requests from random guys who believe these alleged “smuts” can easily be taken advantage of. This has lead to some emotional distress, but school officials moved quickly to assure it wouldn’t escalate further.

This local story even made it to NBC’s *Today Show*, along with other major news networks, showing how fast this story escalated. A Harrison parent was interviewed on the *Today Show*, speaking candidly about her daughter being victimized on the “smut” list.

“Whoever did this was sick,” the mother noted. “No one has the right to make up a list of supposedly the most promiscuous girls in Westchester high schools.”

Even our principal, Dr. Ruck, was interviewed on *Fox News* where he said there is a zero tolerance policy for cyber bullying in Harrison High school.

“For any youngster that



The scene of the “smut” list controversy.

were involved in doing it, you deserve the consequences that are coming to you,” Dr. Ruck stated. “I can tell you, if it is someone in this school, we will press charges to the fullest extent”

“It’s so stupid,” said senior Tiffany Reyes. “People base it off of rumors, one party, or one night where you just had a lot of fun.”

“Whoever made this list should have kept it to themselves,” added freshman Paige Brabant. “It is incredibly rude and you should address someone in person if you have something inappropriate to say.”

“I think this list is horrible,” said High School science teacher Mrs. Adrienne Sheffield. “From what I have heard, girls that were on the list were made very upset by it. People were crying and lots of tears flowed when this list came out. Anyone on a list like that would feel hurt and disrespected.”

Harrison High School Assistant Principal, Mr. Lawrence Mastrota, agrees.

“I personally think it is very unfortunate and disappointing that a person or a group of people would put people’s names out there regardless of whether they know them or not. Even to imply such things is inappropriate. To me, it’s just despicable. Thankfully for Harrison High School it hasn’t disturbed us to the point where there have been fights over it, but I know that people definitely are upset their names were on the list, and I completely understand that.”

“Our goal at Harrison is to support all of our students,” he noted. “If they are upset by their name being on such a list, we ask that they seek out help and

Courtesy Harrison Central School District comfort from one of our social workers, guidance counselors, or administrators. This gives our students someone to talk to, lets them know they aren’t in this alone.”

“Certainly if we find out as an administration that our students here at Harrison High School are actively participating, we will take appropriate action as a school system,” he assured. “We can’t control what other people do, but we can control how we as a school react to it. It’s important for students to know that they are not in this alone; we are here to be 100 percent supportive and give help to anyone that needs it.”

The controversy around the list hung in the air for a week or two. However, now that some time has passed, the larger controversy surrounding the list appears to have died down some, and people have begun to forget about this “smut” list.

Thankfully, no one in the school community is being thought of any differently simply because someone has put their name on a list, and life at Harrison High school has returned to normal. However, this story leaves us with a lesson to be learned for these modern times. The accessibility of the internet and cell phones has taken bullying to dramatic new heights. It is up to each of us to act responsibly with what we do with such technology moving forward.

Ultimately, the big question remains as to who started this list and why. But more importantly, we have learned how vulnerable we all are to the possibility of such cyber-bullying.

The problem with *Playland*

Sam Mandell

Staff Writer

On February 28 in Rye, New York, there was a meeting asking a lot of little kids how they think the county-owned *Playland* amusement park can get better. County officials would like *Playland* to become a place that everyone knows, both inside and outside of Westchester County. About 50 elementary and middle school students attended this meeting, sharing their many thoughts about how to make *Playland* better.

Now entering its eighth decade, *Playland's* 280 acres were once thought to be the jewel in the crown of Westchester's park system. In 1927, the County hired the Walker and Gillette firm to design this Art Deco masterpiece (as the only Art Deco amusement park in America, *Playland* is on the National Register of Historic Places). The original design included picnic areas, restaurants, three ice-skating rinks, a swimming pool, two beaches featuring just less than 8,000 feet of shoreline, and thrilling amusement rides.

Two other amusement parks, *Rye Beach* and *Paradise Park*, were razed to create the current *Playland*. Frank W. Darling, who had experience constructing amusement parks

in New Zealand and England and France, was tapped to construct, operate and manage *Playland*. Shortly after Labor Day, 1927, over 1,000 men began the construction project. The park was officially opened on Mary 26, 1928.

So what's so different about *Playland* from other amusement parks? Well, for one thing, other amusement parks have new equipment that actually works. Many also find fault with other aspects of the current park – stating it should have better food and more places to sit down. But in the end, the most important aspect of any amusement park is its rides. *Playland* only has two actual roller coasters and two water rides. This falls short of almost every other amusement park, places that feature a wide variety of thrilling rides which visitors enjoy riding time after time after time.

To stay competitive, *Playland* needs to expand the variety of its rides, and just get all around better, more exciting and more intense rides. It has to expand its creativity to more of a *Six Flags* level. If a ride isn't fast, at least it should have more loops, and vice

versa. This reporter would prefer more wooden roller coasters. This would be a perfect complement to one of the current historic coasters, the historic *Dragon Coaster*. But overall, the park needs speed

in its rides. The park currently offers *Super Flight*, but to attract more

visitors, they should acquire roller coasters similar to *Batman*, *Rolling Thunder*, and *The American Scream Machine*.

Yes, families can enjoy time walking on the charming art deco boardwalk or playing mini-golf, or even sitting on the same bench that Tom Hanks sat on for the movie *Big*. But to ensure the park's survival, the Country should do something to improve the quality and quantity of the rides.

"They need to make the rides higher and faster," noted freshman Kyle Lefkowitz.

"Today's *Playland* is filled with very old and dirty equipment," observed fellow freshman Brandon Merluccio. "Some of the lights don't even work and are very dark. What the park should do is get new equipment and clean everything up to make

Playland more of an attraction to people out of town."

Playland's food offerings are also an issue. The only food *Playland* offers now are fast food restaurants like *Subway*, *Burger King*, *McDonald's* and more. What *Playland* should do is get better food – not necessarily gourmet offerings – just better than it has now. There's also a need for more and better seating areas. If *Playland* truly wants to get better, then it should provide more than the few benches currently available.

Many of us here at the high school have good memories from visiting *Playland's* Kiddyland when they were young. Now many of the rides from years ago are gone.

"They should get the seal ride back because it was the best ride," said freshman Olivia Pagano.

In life, many things are easier said than done. While it is good to suggest and hope that things will change, the financial fact of the matter is that *Playland* has no money. So while all these are great suggestions, if *Playland* has no money; it will be very difficult to implement all or even some of these suggestions.



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

Fake blueberry blues

Lindsey Barnett

Staff Writer

Many popular breakfast foods contain blueberries as a supplemental ingredient. But if you are one of those people who can't get enough of blueberry flavored foods, be warned: the berries in your breakfast are not what they appear.

When you bite into a pre-packaged blueberry muffin, or a cereal with blueberry bits, chances are that what you are you really eating are blueberry chunklets: an artificial product made from a combination of oils, dyes, and sugars. Sounds yummy, right?

The substitution of blueberry chunklets for actual blue-

berries has sparked controversy. Anti-chunklet critics believe that if anything in a product's packaging or advertising suggests that it contains blueberries, it must contain the actual fruit. But representatives for General Mills, Betty Crocker, and Kellogg's, the three companies known to use blueberry chunklets in their products, argue that it is permissible to mislead the consumer, as long as the truth is exposed in the nutrition facts. Boxes of Kellogg's Frosted Mini Wheat's, for example, feature pictures of blueberries on the box, but the nutrition information on the back indicates that the cereal contains

blueberry chunklets.

Blueberries, unlike blueberry chunklets, are rich in antioxidants, vitamins, and fiber. But do Americans really care about whether their blueberries are the real deal? A survey taken during lunch periods revealed that six out of ten Harrison High School students eat from the brands stated above. Seven out of ten students stated that they would not eat the companies' blueberry flavored products if they knew the truth about their ingredients.

However, there are some who don't seem to care all that



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

much where their blueberries come from. Junior Alexandra Pانونetti commented, "I've been eating Betty Crocker blueberry products for a while

now and nothing bad has happened to me." And it is true, the oils and sugars in blueberry chunklets are not life threatening. The issue here is false advertising.

Blueberry chunklets may not be the end of the world, but this effort of companies to conceal the truth about their products begs the question, what else is being kept under wraps?

Energy in a can:

What you don't know can hurt you

Amy Carton

News Editor

You know the names: Red Bull, Monster, Rock Star, Full Throttle.

Energy drinks are becoming more and more popular every day. What's driving the controversy isn't so much the content of these drinks, but rather the individuals who are consuming them. According to a recent study conducted by online journal *Pediatrics*, 30 to 50% of teenagers consume energy drinks on a daily basis, despite safety warnings clearly displayed on the labels. Although the FDA requires that labels be included on all beverages, many consumers, especially teenagers, do not take the time to read them. Hazardous ingredients and health warnings go unheeded by unsuspecting teens. Without reading the nutrition labels, many consumers simply assume that the drinks are healthy and safe, leading to overconsumption and potentially dangerous outcomes.



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

Marketing Strategies

In the past, energy drinks were marketed for adults between the ages of 18 and 30. Recently, however, drink manufacturers have targeted a younger audience. When Red Bull was first introduced to the Austrian market in 1987, it quickly gained popularity through advertising and attractive slogans such as "Speed in a can" and "Red Bull gives you wings." Because of its promise to boost energy levels for extended periods of time, the drink gained popularity worldwide, becoming one of the top energy drinks in the US and abroad. With such an exponential growth in consumption, other drink companies expanded their marketing strategies to ensnare younger audiences. Targeted consumers became the building blocks for advertisements. Initially when energy drinks first hit the market, their main audience was extreme-sport competitors. For people involved in sports such as dirt biking, snowboarding and other x-game events, energy drinks provided the athletes with the instant adrenaline rush necessary to attempt crazy and dangerous stunts. While extreme-sport athletes continue to remain a primary focus of energy drink manufacturers, other audiences, including bookworms, women, and drug-seeking partiers now comprise a large portion of energy drink consumers. With slight changes in advertising and marketing strategies, energy drinks have gained support from celebrities, athletes, and ordinary people. For academically inclined students, drinks such as "Nerd" and "Brain TonIQ" promise to provide "the energy and concentration needed to improve academic performance." For those less interested in academic studies but more interested in gaming



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

and fantasy worlds, drinks like "Mania," "Power Up," or "Sonic Boom" tout better coordination and focus. And for those intrigued by the stimulant effects of Cocaine, the drink "Cocaine" simulates a drug high with burning in the back of the throat. Even the font on the can label resembles powdered cocaine. Unique, eccentric names, bright colors and fonts, bold graphics, and online advertisements on social networking sites all compel teenagers to purchase the drinks. While such strategies have resulted in a dramatic increase in sales, what is the health cost for teens?

What's in the can?

Despite companies' claims that their products contain healthy, safe ingredients, energy drinks are full of threatening supplements, vitamins, and most of all, excessive amounts of caffeine. These drinks are categorized as nutritional supplements, meaning that manufacturers do not have to abide by FDA regulations regarding the amount of caffeine per drink. Unlike sports beverages and flavored waters, energy drinks are comprised mostly of caffeine. In fact, the majority of energy drinks contain 70 to 80 milligrams of caffeine per eight ounce serving, which is five times the amount of caffeine in a single can of soda. This caffeine comes from various supplements in addition to natural sources. Additional stimulants such as guarana, taurine, yerba mate

and kola nut all contain additional amounts of caffeine, adding to the already hazardous concentrations. When alcohol is added to these caffeinated energy drinks (such as FourLoko), the risk of toxicity increases.

What Attracts Teens to Energy Drinks?

Marketing for these energy drinks promises increased stamina, weight loss, improved energy, better athletic performance, and increased concentration. But what is the reality from a health standpoint?

"Energy Drinks have made it their business to appeal to kids, teens and young adults - Who wouldn't be attracted to them?" said HHS health teacher Mrs. Zanol. "The companies pursue all sub-groups of young people with their specific drinks for extreme athletes and party-goers, to gamers and illegal drug users... they've left no stone unturned. So it's not surprising that so many teens would gravitate towards these drinks that are "edgier" than juice or soda, but still legal. The aggressive advertising and unhealthy ingredients (enormous quantities of sugar, caffeine, and herbal stimulants) just go to show that Energy Drink companies want to make lots of money, and don't really care at all about your health. My goal as a Health teacher is to "call out" the scam BEFORE my students get addicted to the products."

Egypt leads; will others follow?

Clarissa Karantzis

Staff Writer

Almost everyone has heard about the horrors currently taking place in the Middle East and Africa. Demonstrations, rebellions, rallies, and cries for freedom have all been shut down and many people are wondering what happened to these early civilizations that were once so advanced and organized.

The demonstrations in Egypt started in February 2011 when thousands of Egyptians rallied to change their government and dethrone their ruler of 30 years Hosni Mubarak. The protests quickly morphed into a state of civil war.

To organize and gather supporters for their rallies, the Egyptians used modern social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. Because of this, Mubarak cut off the entire country's cell phone and internet services for a few days. Believing that this would intercept the call to join the demonstrations, Mubarak did not imagine his plan would backfire. By cutting off all communication, he also interrupted communications between security forces and the ministry, making people worldwide more interested in what was happening. People from around the world started travelling to Egypt to observe the chaos and disorganization, resulting in a greater spark. Videos, pictures, and additional information began swarming Twitter, YouTube and Facebook walls, providing updated newsfeeds

on the rallies and events. After viewing the devastating pictures and videos of the internal chaos on the internet, even more Egyptians began organizing meeting places.

Egypt isn't the only country in turmoil, however. Tunisia was the first nation to erupt, with a January 14 rebellion that resulted in dictatorial President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali stepping down. Libya followed fast on the heels of Egypt and Tunisia after with an outbreak of riots. Like the Egyptian's desire to overthrow Mubarak, the Libyan natives looked to make their leader of 40 years, Muammar Gaddafi step down from office. Unlike Mubarak, who ultimately stepped down as ruler, Gaddafi insists that he will fight to stay in power, and he is following through on his promise. He ordered mercenaries to shoot the people, who continue to fight back by shooting machine guns at overhead airplanes. Thousands of Libyans have died so far, and the numbers keep increasing. The entire city ruined, fires are burning and spreading rapidly, and the streets are covered with corpses of innocent protestors who were killed by Gaddafi's orders.

The protests are continuing to spread and have surfaced in places like Algeria, Bahrain and Yemen, where civilians are being killed by policemen and officials.

Freshman Kendra Deschamps says "I feel as though they (Libya) have seen the accomplishments of the democratic government and the efforts in Egypt persuaded them to take action themselves. I think the situation in Libya will be resolved quickly due to the high demands for oil."

We take for granted the right to vote and freedom of speech, when other countries are struggling to gain those basic rights. It makes you realize that freedom is not always a given, and it makes you thankful that we live in the land of the free.

Ethiopia's Tomorrow brings hope today

Helina Dawit

Staff Writer

According to indexmundi.com, 38.7% of Ethiopia's population is living under the poverty line. This means that 217,960,526 people in Ethiopia are suffering daily. A great majority of these people are located in rural areas of the country, making it even harder to get them the necessary supplies and support. Poverty is passed down from generation to generation there as part of what seems an endless cycle. The parents are unable to pay for the material and fees to send their kids to school, so instead the children work on the family farm or business from a young age. Kids and adults alike are starving and freezing in Ethiopia now, but a new organization seeks to offer assistance.

Ethiopia's Tomorrow is a non-profit organization that supports children from Abune Andreas Orphanage in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, by providing food, clothing, medicine (first aid kits, vitamins, over the counter medicines) and school supplies. The organization was first created by Emmebeth Mischel, who was raised in that same orphanage after being given up by her then teenaged mom. Today, Ethiopia's Tomorrow provides hard to find supplies for the orphanage, and also pays the necessary educational fees for children orphaned by death or poverty. Through donations from generous individuals and the support of her family, Ms. Mischel is able to educate, medicate, and feed the orphans of Abune Andreas.

Emmebeth "Emmy" Mischel was brought to Abune Andreas when she was three days old by her teen mom. She was the youngest baby at the orphanage, but her mother's age and living conditions made it impossible to support her new child. Living in Abune Andreas till she was 15 years old, Emmy then was taken from Dire Dawa to live with her grandfather. When she graduated high school at the age of 18, she was able to meet her true birth mother and

then came to the United States. Still considering the nuns and priests who ran the orphanage as her parents, Emmy kept Abune Andreas close to her heart. Considering the way she was raised, she had always wanted to adopt an orphan child of her own. So in 2008, she took a trip back to Ethiopia for the first time in 20 years. When visiting, she adopted her three-year-old boy, Jason Belay.

"I've never been there, but I know it's a poor third world country and the things Emmy is doing will at least change one person's life," said freshman Meghan Molloy.

Growing up in an orphanage gave Emmy Mischel a different outlook on the world. She appreciated every little thing she had and wanted to give back to those who helped her. In March of 2010, she started Ethiopia's Tomorrow.

According to the organization's website, a fateful accident played a part in things as well.

"After coming the previous year to adopt my son, I was volunteering when I got into a car accident," said Ms. Mischel. "When they took me to the hospital, I noticed the lack of medical supplies to treat my injuries as well as all the little children who were there needing help. I decided to create Ethiopia's Tomorrow to help these kids. I didn't do it just to help them medically, but educationally and nutritionally too."

Emmy Mischel and her organization have been raising money and sending critical supplies in order to keep the 41 kids they now support healthy, educated, and happy. All this remains possible the generous donations received by sponsors. For as little as \$15 a month, you can sponsor a child, or any donation (even a single dollar) is welcomed. For more information on how you can help, go to ethiopiastomorrow.org and make a difference in the life of a child.



Ousted ruler Hosni Mubarak.

Courtesy of Most Important News

Quake raises nuclear concerns

Clarissa Karantzis

Staff Writer

On March 11, 2011, Japan encountered a horrible disaster. The country was hit by one of the strongest earthquakes in history. The earthquake measured 8.9 on the Richter scale. This devastating earthquake triggered a 23-foot tsunami, which soon followed after. People watched as their houses, cars, and possessions were swept away by the great wave. But to top it all off, Japan was faced with the worst possible news: the nuclear power plant in Fukushima exploded.

This disaster is not going to resolve soon. It will affect Japan for a long time. The amount of radiation in the country right now is tremendous, and it is affecting thousands of people. For example, the radiation is affecting the water in Japan. According to www.pisqa.com, there is twice the amount of radioactive iodine in the tap water than what is considered safe for children. Even just washing a fruit or vegetable with tap water could contaminate the food. There has also been radioactivity found in raw milk and some vegetables. This contamination could affect thousands of people, especially infants. The U.S. government alerted U.S. citizens living within 50 miles of the plant to evacuate. The death rate from the earthquake and tsunami has surpassed 10,000, with over 17,000 people missing, according to Japan's national police agency.

A similar explosion happened in Russia. On April 26, 1986, reactor four in the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded,

due to an extreme power surge. Following a string of explosions, highly radioactive material was ejected into the air. The fire in Reactor 4 continued to burn until May 10, 1986, but even though the fire was out, the disaster wasn't over. The cloud of radioactive smoke stretched as far as Western Soviet Union, Eastern, Western, and Northern Europe. Most affected areas were Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. The death rate connected with the Chernobyl disaster was never an exact number, because the long term effects, like cancer, deformities, and disorders of muscle, bone, and digestive system affected a generation that was not yet born. According to a report by the United Nations Chernobyl Forum Expert Group and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, an estimated 4,000 to 10,000 cancer-related deaths will occur in that region over the next 70 years.

Indian Point, our local nuclear power plant, is located in Buchanan, NY. Many are wondering now about its close proximity. Indian Point's Reactor Three was rated number one by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as most likely to sustain damage from an earthquake, according to Peekskill.Patch.com. This is because this nuclear power plant is located right on top of two fault lines in the Ramapo Seismic Zone.

With a risk of an earthquake, there is much controversy over whether Indian Point is in a safe location. If the nuclear plant

were to explode, it could cause incomparable damage to a densely populated area. Located just 24 miles from the Bronx,

there are approximately 20 million people living within a 50-mile radius of the plant. Indian Point is said to be able to withstand an earthquake that measures a 6.1 on the Richter Scale. Although we aren't expected to get such a severe earthquake, Japan's quake was unexpected too. Governor Andrew Cuomo stated on March 16 that "Indian Point should be closed, that its proximity to the city was never a good risk."

According to Officials of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Indian Point is safe and the risk of an earthquake in the Northeast is low. However, the plant is one of 17 that has to reassess and review seismic issues. Even with a low chance of an earthquake of this magnitude ever hitting New York, what could happen as a result is devastating.

"I think Indian Point is definitely a concern of ours. The situation in Japan has made us more aware of the safety issues of Indian Point," says ninth grade biology teacher Mrs. Wilson. "More precautions may have to be taken in order to avoid anything as terrible as what is happening in Japan right now."

The Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant may have to be buried in concrete in order to contain the radiation, Japanese engineers acknowledged. An



A safety official examines plans from the reactor.

Courtesy of Guardian UK
American team of advisers is already in Fukushima to assist in any way possible. The severity of the crisis has been raised from a 4 to 5 (on a 7-point Nuclear Event Scale) by Japan's nuclear safety authority. Chernobyl was a 7.

The disaster in Japan is affecting the U.S. as well. There has been an increased amount of radioactive iodine found in the rain water in Massachusetts.

Although this amount will not harm any citizens, it is still a concern that needs to be addressed,



Indian Point has many concerned.

Courtesy of Treehugger
as it shows the magnitude of this nuclear disaster.

Harrison High School is doing a lot to help Japan. On March 25, the school asked the students to wear red in honor of those who were devastated by the disaster in Japan. The Literature Club currently is calling all students to "Read for Japan."

Freshman Stepheny Ordonez, a member of the literature club, says "Find sponsors who will pay you for your reading, and that way, you will be able to raise money for Japan." Every charitable gesture, no matter how small, can add up to a major relief effort.



The damaged reactor.

Courtesy of the New York Times

TOMS puts best foot forward

Jessica Olivier

Staff Writer

How would you feel if you bought a pair of shoes and knew that another pair was going to someone who doesn't have the advantage of having any shoes at all? TOMS Shoes does just that. When you buy a pair of shoes, another pair is guaranteed to go to someone in a country where shoes are needed, places like South Africa, Haiti, Cambodia, or one of twenty others.

In many developing countries, children grow up barefoot. But with the help of a cause like One for One, shoes are being put on children's feet. As of September 2010, over one million pairs of new shoes were given to children through TOMS and Giving Partners around the world.

The primary reason why TOMS Shoes gives to these children is because of the severe risk of diseases and injuries when children don't wear shoes for extensive amounts of time. There are soil-transmitted diseases that can penetrate a foot's bare

skin. Shoes prevent these diseases and the long-term harm they cause. Wearing shoes also prevents cuts and sores, painful injuries that can be dangerous when wounds get infected. The final reason why TOMS gives children shoes is that quite often children can't attend school, as shoes are a required part of their uniform. If they don't go to school, they can't realize their potential.

TOMS Shoes sponsors an annual event called "One Day without Shoes." The point of the event is to not wear shoes for an entire day. This year that specific day was April 5. By participating in this event, people can experience exactly what it's like to not have shoes on one's feet and the dangers that can occur from it. This event can be done anywhere and everywhere. In fact, you can create your own localized event and send out



Courtesy of Treehugger

invites for participants among your friends on Facebook -- it's to support a good cause.

Treehugger Radio recently interviewed TOMS founder

Blake Mycoskie to determine the difference that TOMS brings to the shoe business.

"TOMS is really simple," he said. "For every pair of shoes that we sell, we also give a pair away to a child somewhere in the world that doesn't have shoes. It really came from an idea that I had when I met some children down in Argentina a couple of years ago that didn't have shoes. I wanted to give them shoes, but I didn't just want to give them shoes once. And I didn't want to start a charity, because I had no background in charities."

"I decided to use my entrepreneurial background and create a business model that would give one-for-one," he said, "so we could build a business by selling

shoes and, at the same time, give them away."

"It's very generous what Blake Mycoskie has done with his business and how it has impacted kids all over the world," noted freshman Meghan Molloy. "I can't imagine myself without shoes."

"I really like TOMS Shoes and want to buy a pair, especially since they send a pair to someone who doesn't have shoes," said fellow freshman Helina Dawit. "That's really generous and more businesses should participate in 'One for One.'"

The TOMS mission has attracted other brands to join in. Some, such as Ralph Lauren and Element Skateboards, are actively collaborating with TOMS shoes. The impact of this has influenced other companies in a positive way. Maybe it's how organic and fresh the shoes are or maybe it's just because of the One for One Movement...either way, people love TOMS shoes.

SAT = Stressing About Testing

Matt Cysner

Staff Writer

Many of us here at the high school feel the pressure of the college process. Whether it is in class or preparing for the standardized tests, stress is constantly building up in almost every single student's life. The SAT is a task that is extremely overwhelming. Most students subscribe to the thinking that if they do not get a perfect score, then they will not get into the college of their choice. This is not true. The fact is, statistically, that approximately only 100 people per test receive a perfect score on their SAT exam. According to newsmax.com, only 107 received a perfect score on the recent March 2011 exam.

The test itself is extremely difficult because it tests your knowledge and it also makes you rush to complete it. Part of the strategy of taking the test is just being able to finish all of the questions within the time limit. For many people, the content itself is not too difficult. The trickiest part

is being able to work quickly and accurately. If you take your time to increase your accuracy, then you will not finish in time. But if you rush through the test, then your accuracy will go down. The solution to this problem is to find the balance between speed and accuracy. However, this balance is much more difficult to achieve than it sounds.

The perfect score is achieved by very few people out of the hundreds of thousands that take the exam. The test consists of three sections: math, writing, and critical reading. The writing section includes multiple choice questions and an essay that is factored into your overall score. In theory, to get a perfect score, you would need to get every single math question right, every critical reading question right, and every writing question right. However, this varies from test to test. On some tests, you might be able to get one ques-

tion wrong in a section and still receive a perfect score. Also, you can get a perfect score on the writing without a perfect score on the essay.

The national average on the SAT is a 1500 out of 2400; 500 on each section. Harrison High School comes in statistically above the national average with an average score of 1638: 534 on critical reading, 565 on math, and 540 on writing. Harrison High School junior Emma Adler received a perfect score on the March 2011 exam. This is the first perfect score for Harrison in several years.

However, many critics contend that the SAT test itself is flawed. It is designed to test how well you could do in your first year of college, but it is not very accurate. Many outside studies have proven that the writing section is the best predictor of how well a student might do in his or her first year of college. Still,

many colleges do not even look at the writing score. They break the score down into just the reading and math sections, accepting students on their performance out of those 1600 points alone. Remember, colleges do not use the SAT as a final judgment for applicants. It is used as part of the application process, along with several other factors including grade point average, the college essay, recommendation letters, activities, and more. Some schools are trending away from using SAT scores as a decisive factor. Rather, some colleges use it as a means of filtering down a large pool of applicants.

For those of you that are very stressed by the SAT, relax, it is not the biggest test that you will take in your life. Prepare appropriately and try your best, you may be surprised by your score.

Double trouble

Sarah Mazza

Staff Writer

Many people are misunderstood when it comes to someone being double jointed. Being double jointed implies that you actually have twice the number of joints as the average person. Being double jointed could also mean that you have double the range of motion as a normal person, but in actuality both of these statements are just really myths. Every human on the planet has the same number of bones and joints, which all of them have the same capacity for movement. The meaning of being double jointed is actually very simple, but far from what people think.

Being double-jointed means that your joints and surrounding structures, also known as ligaments or tendons are just unusually flexible. Because of this you are able to twist and stretch your ligaments to a greater extent than the common person. An example of an extremely double-jointed person is someone who works in the circus, the people that can bend their bodies to fit in a box, these people are called contortionists. According to worsleyschool.com, a famous Cirque de Soleil contortionist, when chal-

lenged for a description of what she could do with her body she stated that, *"We are four little girls who fold and bend our bodies"*.

Not everyone has the same flexibility as these contortionists but some of the less double-jointed people can simply bend their thumbs back until the tip of the thumb is touching their hand. Most people think that people who are double jointed over extend their joints, but are rather allowing their joints to work to their fullest capability; it just so happens that their capability is beyond one of the normal persons.

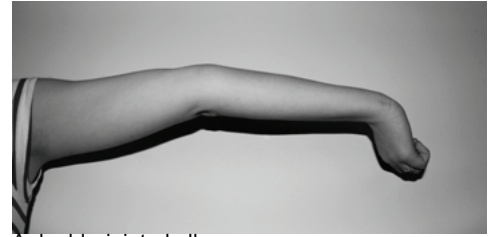
So how does one become double jointed? Well the joints are like hinges that connect two or more bones together so they are able to move naturally in a particular direction. Ball-and-socket joints however are joints that the rounded end of the bone fits into the socket of another. The depth of the person's socket determines how flexible or not flexible the person will be. People who are extremely double jointed such as the Contortionists have very deep sockets, where someone who is very not flexible have very shal-

low sockets.

What does it mean to be hypermobile? People with abnormal flexibility of their joints are considered to have Hypermobility, which simply means their joints are able to bend farther than normal.

Is being double-jointed a genetic trait? If parents are double-jointed, their children have a better chance of being flexible. Children are generally more flexible than adults and are more prone to having looser joints that will end up getting tighter as they get older.

Can being double-jointed lead to anything serious? Yes, being double-jointed can lead to illnesses and sometimes even arthritis. The most common illness that people obtain from being double-jointed is Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (EDS). According to nlm.nih.gov, a medical information website explained that, EDS is a condition of a group of inherited disorders that weaken connective tissues. Connective tissues are proteins that support skin, bones, blood vessels, joints, and other organs and EDS affects all of those. Symptoms



A double-jointed elbow.

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

for Ehlers Danlos Syndrome include loose joints, fragile blood vessels, abnormal scar formation and wound healing, stretchy skin, and bruises easily. There are several types of Ehlers Danlos Syndrome that range from mild to life threatening. There is no cure, but according to medicinenet.com doctors are recommending working out and strengthening bones and joints daily.

This reporter took the time to interview Olympic gold medalist, Michael Phelps. Michael Phelps is well known in the swimming world for being "the greatest swimmer of all time", but even Michael has Ehlers Danlos Syndrome. "I am different than other swimmers," says Phelps "I am tall and I have what is called a wingspan body shape of almost 80 inches which gives me an advantage in the water. I also have double jointed elbows, knees, shoulders, and ankles, which allows me to hyperextend all of my strokes," says Phelps. "My stroke is the butterfly, which is the most complex for the shoulders.

Burn, baby, burn!

Alex Psaros

Staff Writer

The American Academy of Pediatrics wants teenagers banned from tanning salons. And they aren't the only ones. Illinois and New York are among states considering bills banning anyone under 18 from indoor tanning. The World Health Organization, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Dermatology are also pushing for a ban. John Overstreet, executive director of the Indoor Tanning Association, says he believes the indoor tanning industry is under assault.

The controversy has flared due to the recent surge in popularity in indoor tanning among teenage girls. For some, going to a tanning salon is a big part of their senior prom ritual. Oth-

ers tan in preparation for beach season, or just for fun. Many of these teens are unaware of just how risky indoor tanning really is.

The dangers of actual, outdoor tanning are well known. The sun's UV rays damage epidermal cells, triggering enzymes that race to repair the damage. However, these enzymes do not always repair the DNA successfully. This can lead to mutations that increase one's risk of skin cancer. Unprotected sun exposure can also have aesthetic repercussions: wrinkles, sagging skin, and skin spots are all associated with sun damage. Proponents of indoor tanning often advertise indoor tanning as safer than outdoor tanning on the grounds that tanning booths

use mainly UVA rays, and offer more "controlled" UV exposure. However, we know now that UVA is a carcinogen, and investigations have revealed that tanning salons frequently exceed "safe" UV limits. Most importantly, study after study has shown that indoor tanning increases one's risk of contracting both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.

There is no such thing as a harmless tan. However, a safe alternative exists in sunless tanners. Tanning lotions temporarily dye the top layer of skin. These tube-tans, which typically fade within a week, produce an effect that can be indistinguishable from an outdoor tan, and come in a variety of tones. Best of all, they are completely UV free. Some



A tanning regular at HHS.

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo
even contain sun screen!

It remains to be seen whether or not tanning salons will be forced to shut their doors to minors. But even if they remain accessible, teens would be well advised to stay away. An indoor tan may look good now, but a couple of weeks on the beach is not a worth a lifetime of consequences.

Foster homes for four-footed friends

Rachel Breslin

Features Editor



Many people may not be aware of the current situation in which most animal shelters, not just the ones in Westchester County, find themselves. Shelters are overflowing with animals because of people not being able to afford them. The chances of an animal getting out of a shelter once they arrive are very slim. The shelters therefore are forced to turn most animals away, or put current residents down to make room. Even once animals are in the shelters, the facilities struggle to make ends meet. While people still can donate money or adopt these animals, both of which are greatly appreciated by the shelters, there is more that can be done. For instance, there is animal foster care.

Foster care for an animal is very similar to adopting. Just like when you adopt, the animal lives in your household and you do have to pay for food and medical needs. One main difference is that this animal is probably not

going to spend the rest of its life in your house, unless of course you choose to adopt him or her. When the animal is fostered, the owners are given the opportunity to help and find the perfect home by finding a family that will fit perfectly with the animal's personality.

Foster care is very beneficial to the animal. Instead of staying locked up in a crowded shelter for who knows how long, the animal learns important social skills by constantly interacting with humans and other animals in a positive environment. Also, the animals get all of the attention they could possibly need, instead of being neglected in the shelter.

No matter how old the animals are, they will greatly appreciate the opportunity to stay with a family. Sadly, there are some animals that go into shelters as babies and never come out, which is why puppies are great for fostering because they will greatly benefit from the

experience. Also, they will get the training they need that is not available to them in shelters. Old animals also benefit greatly from the opportunity because, even though they may not be adopted from their foster family, they will not have to spend their final days in a shelter; they will spend it instead with actual, loving people.

Any type of household would greatly benefit from fostering an animal. Newly married couples or families with young children would be able to learn what it is like to own a pet before they fully commit to one. How about a family that just lost a loved pet? To cope with the loss, they may want to foster a pet to help ease the pain.

One main similarity between adoption and fostering is saying good-bye to the animal. No matter the situation, saying good-bye is hard, but when you own the pet, unless nature takes its course, you will have to decide

when it is appropriate to put the animal down. When you foster the animal, chances are you will never have to decide when the animal has to be put down. When a family says good-bye, they know they are sending the animal to a wonderful family where the animal can live a happy life.

There are many programs in Westchester County that offer fostering programs. If you are interested in participating, please contact them. Two are listed below:

New Rochelle Humane Society,
(914-632-2925)

Yonkers Humane Society, Inc.
(914-377-6730)

These are not the only shelters in Westchester County that offer fostering programs. Call a local shelter to find out if they offer similar fostering opportunities. Even if they don't, they most likely can refer you to another shelter that does.

MoCo grabs UPenn honors

(Continued from Front Page)

nent seat on the UN Security Council. In the Green House, a bill to legalize medicinal heroin was discussed. Closing ceremonies began at noon in Irvine Hall. Following closing remarks delivered by members of the University of Pennsylvania Model Congress came the presentation of awards. The Harrison delegation waited with bated breath as the award winners were announced for each committee.

In the Blue House, sophomore Thomas Lovinger won a best in committee gavel, sophomore Lauren Jacobowitz received an honorable mention, and junior Robby Tiburzi took outstanding delegate in full session. In the Blue Senate, junior Juuli Huutunen won a gavel, and junior Jacob Tempkin earned an honorable mention in his committee as well as in full session. In the Green House, junior Lexi Rubenstein won an honorable mention

in committee and freshman Ben Adler won a gavel, making him the first freshman delegate to do so in the history of Harrison High Model Congress. In the Red House, Sam Colangelo, also a freshman, won an honorable mention in his committee. In the Red Senate, junior Angela Troia and sophomore Hayley Kronthal both won honorable mentions in committee. Rounding out the accolades was Rajan Mehra, who received an honorable mention in Special Programs for his work in the Executive Branch as well as in the National Security Council.

Given the number of delegations and level of competition at the conference, the Harrison delegation was stunned and elated at their enormous

success. Asked to comment on their record-shattering take, Vice President Zach Mandell

commented "This was our first conference ever where we were considerably better than most of the other delegations. We won so many awards that it became borderline obnoxious. The whole experience was absolutely incredible, and I am extremely glad that I had the opportunity to be a part of it."

As the Harrison delegates clambered onto the bus which would return them to New York, clutching plastic bags heavy with snacks for the ride, the mood couldn't have been better. The Harrison High School Model Congress's 2010 to 2011 season may have come to an end, but if their success at the University of Pennsylvania is any indication, there will be much more to say for the club in the years to come.



Freshman phenom Ben Adler brings home a gavel.
Courtesy of Ms. Makarczuk

opinion

editorials

It's All About the Grades

Izzy Sheck

News Editor

School used to be about learning. Now, the only thing that seems to matter in high school is grades. This is something that a lot of people accept, but why grades are so important in a student's life? The bottom line is that grades are the most important factor in the college application process. This is a fact of life which has some awful consequences. Many students are reluctant to explore their talents and try new things out of fear that if they take a chance on a class they are unsure of their abilities in, their grades will suffer.

In most high schools, so called elective classes like art, band, photography and workshop give students an opportunity to try their hand at a new skill and stretch their boundaries. The problem with electives is that, just like academic classes, at the end of each quarter you receive a grade that goes on your report card. Teachers in an elective class will encourage you to take chances and try things that might not be in your comfort zone, and they have the best intentions,

but when push comes to shove your work still needs a grade. It is difficult for students to try things that might not work because no matter how many times teachers stress that students shouldn't worry about their grade, a student has to worry. The way things work currently creates an environment where creativity and bravery are sacrificed at the altar of the all mighty GPA. Students should be graded on the effort of their work in elective classes, not the quality. This is especially true in art classes, where a student could try as hard as possible and still not get a good grade simply because he or she is not a gifted artist! On the other hand, a natural artist could put a minimal amount of effort into the class and still get a perfect grade just because of their innate talent. For the student who is naturally gifted, whether at art or writing or music, taking chances is a whole lot easier than for the student who is struggling just to complete the original task. The same principle applies to gym classes, but is handled a little bit better, at least at Harrison High.

If a student isn't the best athlete, but comes to class prepared and participates to the best of their ability, he or she can receive the same grade as the starting quarterback.

Art classes in particular should be assessed differently, because what constitutes art is different for everyone. You could either love a piece of art or hate it, depending on your personal taste. It just doesn't make sense to grade someone's artwork the same way you would a test or an essay. In all classes where it is impossible for a teacher to be objective, a pass/fail type system should be used. Unfortunately, this style of grading is rarely seen in high schools.

There are some teachers in this school who get angry with students who "grade grub." This occurs most frequently with students who are in advanced placement classes, but can happen in any class with students who are worried about their grades. Using a pass/fail system of grading would limit the amount



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo
of grade grubbing that goes on in the school, as the level of competitiveness would necessarily decrease. The number of students suffering from anxiety over grades would also go down.

School is the main source of stress for many students, and the pressure only increases as the college admissions process begins. In a perfect world, college admissions officers would see the amount of effort an applicant put into a class. But the fact of the matter is they don't. Using a more objective method to grade students in elective classes would give students more freedom to explore as well as allow them to relax a little about their grades. The worst thing a school can do is allow grades to get in the way of education.

Charlie Sheen is trying to trademark 22 different catchphrases, including "winning." What would your trademarked catchphrase be?



"Hey girls!"
- Freshman Angelica Bogdany



"Check out our cheer-cabulary!"
- Sophomores Bre Sgro and Caroline Gaeta



"All glory to the hypno-toad."
- Junior Matt Dire



"How do you sound?"
- Senior Chris Woodford

How Tweet It Is

Danny Glass

Staff Writer

Twitter is the new thing, period.

With a recent surge of users, it seems like everybody and their mother is using the social networking site. For a bit of historical perspective, Twitter was started by Jack Dorsey as a way to get short thoughts out to friends, families, and whoever. Mocked by some, Twitter exploded in users as celebrities started spreading their inane and

sometimes insane comments. It became a method for people to get rescued after earthquakes and other disasters, as well as a way to spread videos of protest in Iran and Egypt. Most importantly Twitter became a method to coerce a response from your favorite celebrity, to let them know how you feel about their actions.

Twitter has a certain lingo and it is vital to know it to stay relevant. A "tweet" is a mes-

sage 140 characters or less, sent out to one's followers. A "re-tweet" is when a person receives a tweet and decides to send it out to all of his or her followers. A "top trending topic" is a topic that multiple people have put a hash-tag before. The hash-tag symbol (#)

is a symbol when a person wants to categorize his or her topic so it trends faster. For example, Charlie Sheen might use the hash-tag symbol to discuss tiger blood, ergo he tweets #tiger blood. There is additional lingo, but it is easily picked it up.

The real reason for all of this Twitter talk is its sudden growth at Harrison High School. Everyone seems to be making an account. Yet the problems with Twitter are numerous. First, it is an incredible distraction during school. Second, information over the site can spread like wildfire. Harrison has already had problems with negative information being disseminated at an alarming rate. And finally, Twitter promotes fights and violence, in the sense that, if a person feels threatened over the social media site, he or she may feel the need to settle the conflict in real life.

In order to figure out why people were getting Twitter accounts, this reporter located several students who had opened up an account in the last month. The main reason given as to why they had joined the fray was conformity. Juniors

Emily Chestler and Jared Cummins had similar responses. The former wanted to follow the hit show *Glee*, while the latter wanted to follow *BBC News* reporter tweets. Ahmad Ali opened up his account because he was bored.



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo
Michael Ladore opened his account merely because "he wants to connect to the world." Never has conformity been so defiant.

Twitter is by far the most egotistical site in the world. It can be said that Twitter is literally designed for the spreading of one's own mundane thoughts in the setting of a public forum. How a person can be entertained by it baffles many. This reporter recently attempted to give Twitter a second chance, and found it quite addicting. Such notables as Kanye West, James Franco, and even Matt Shaffer and Kevin Vendola find it a way to make time killing a little more bearable.

Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Youtube, LinkedIn, and hundreds of others vie for our attention every single day. These billion dollar companies represent the future of world society, as we break down emotions, thoughts, and feelings into analog signals and wall posts. The tweets we make represent us. As such, it is vital that we continue use our requests, subscriptions, follows, and other methods of staying caught up correctly in an intelligent manner.



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

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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.

Gym Must Go

The Instigators

Staff Writers

Physical Education, a class students have participated in since elementary school, is becoming the class no one wants to attend. Physical education, more commonly referred to as "gym class", used to appeal to students because it temporarily took their minds off stressful academics. However, students are now complaining about going to gym class and feel it is more a waste of time than anything else. This may seem surprising, since most students would rather play outside than go to math class. But as teenagers begin to take on more difficult classes and are hit with heavier workloads, they find a 40-minute period of study hall more useful than gym. The question is whether or not schools can realistically get rid of physical education.

Getting rid of gym classes would cause several problems. Currently, over 70 million Americans are suffering from obesity. Of these 70 million, twenty five percent are under nineteen. This shows that a lot of work needs to be done regarding health in American schools. There are plenty of parents who stress good eating habits and encourage their children to exercise daily. However, there are plenty who don't. If parents aren't doing their jobs, who else will make sure their children are eating the right foods? For this reason, many parents are in favor of physical education since it is guaranteed their children will get at least some exercise each day.

But how much exercise are students really getting in gym class?

Gym isn't the way it used to be. Students aren't running laps and doing sprints for the dura-

tion of the period. Gym is now a lot more fun, and students have more options for which sports or games they want to play each quarter. I am not suggesting that gym classes should consist of intensive, track-like activities, but I do think students are justified in thinking it is a waste of time.

Children and teenagers today feel much more pressure to reach and exceed academic expectations. For the highly-motivated student, every minute

class. There are several athletes who have sat out of their after-school sports for weeks due to an injury in gym. Coaches hate nothing more than athletes telling them they are out for the season because of a stupid injury from gym class. The coaches become frustrated because they feel the injury was avoidable.

For athletes who feel that gym class is a waste of time, I suggest a solution. If the athlete is in season, they should be able to request a free period instead of gym class in order to finish some of their homework. If the athlete is not in season, they will have to participate in gym class whether they like it or not.

Student athletes would appreciate the extra time that they would have to finish school work, and would be able to focus on their athletics when the school day is done. This solution would also encourage students who have not participated in school sports in the past to try them out. Many teenagers probably choose not to play an after-school sport out of the fear that they will not have enough time to finish their homework afterward. However, these teenagers would feel more inclined to join sports if they knew that their gym class could be changed into a free period.

Although gym class seems like a good idea to help increase students' levels of physical health, allowing students to make the choice for themselves is more effective. Staying in shape is very important to many students, and if they feel that playing a sport after school would be more beneficial and useful than having gym every other day, they should have the right to request a free period in its place.

of the school day is packed with studying and finishing their homework - even lunch and free periods. Gym class just represents another 40 minutes when they could be working. These students feel they would be able to get more studying or schoolwork done if they weren't in gym class. Exercise isn't on their minds because, in their eyes, exercise is not what matters. Even if these students are dedicated athletes, they are not worried about missing gym because to do so would not "hinder" their athletic ability.

The most popular argument for getting rid of gym class is that many students already get their exercise from daily after-school sports. These students have a valid point, since they are getting a good workout for at least two hours anyway. Why needs a gym class? Students who engage in after-school sports don't have as much time to do homework. Gym class would be a perfect opportunity for these athletes to get more homework done while not having to jeopardize their fitness.

It is also possible for athletes to injure themselves in gym



Students in gym await instructions.

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo



Courtesy of Google Images.

Sound off!

President Obama recently announced his candidacy for the 2012 presidential election. How would you rate his performance in office thus far?

"I think given the economic mess he was left to clean up, Obama has done the best he could with respect to the economy. He has also achieved significant social reforms, such as the repeal of DADT. This gives me hope for what he could accomplish with another four years."

- Senior Rachel Kaplan

"I think four year terms make it difficult for politicians to make any significant progress without being reelected. So we really can't judge Obama's success, unless we give him a chance to follow through over another four years."

- Senior Eva Mangone

"Obama has helped to revitalize the economy, and has ensured all Americans' access to affordable health healthcare. He has done an incredible job cleaning up the Bush administration's mistakes."

- Junior Richard Haddad

Scheduling: A Time For Change

Izzy Sheck

News Editor

Teachers are always complaining, claiming that they don't have enough time with their students. Although forty minutes every day might seem like a lot to the students, for the teachers, it seems like forty seconds. So do teachers have a point? Should they have access to their students for a longer period of time? These questions suggest that, in order for teachers to get what they want, the school day would have to be extended. Realistically, a longer school day is the last thing that our school needs, unless the faculty, staff, and students want to come into school at 6 a.m. for class. Still, there are several options that our school has for scheduling in a different way, especially a way where teachers will be able to teach their students for a longer period of time.

One of the ways that we can solve this problem is by changing the entire schedule of our school, so that instead of having nine, forty-minute periods every day, there would be four, eighty-minute periods. Since the periods would be longer, students would only attend that class every other day instead of daily. This way, students would be able to stay in their classes for a longer, more continuous time period every other day. Students would be able to absorb more information at one time without any distractions.

We all know the feeling of being "saved by the bell," and although it is a feeling of relief for the students, for teachers there is nothing more frustrating than finally getting to the point of the lesson and being cut off right when the class starts to learn something important. It takes

most classes at least five minutes to get settled down when class begins, because teenagers are going to act like teenagers. You cannot expect 16-year olds to just sit down quietly in their seats



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

and wait for the teacher to start talking. Students want to talk to their friends, and get the newest gossip that's been floating around in the hallway. Here is where having a nine period schedule also hurts us.

When students leave one classroom, the assumption is that they are going to walk to their next class and start the whole cycle over again. However, only a small percentage of students actually do this. Many students end up in the cafeteria getting a mid-day snack, running around trying to find their friends, or straight up cutting their next class. Having students in the hallways at nine times during the day is just a recipe for disaster, even if it doesn't seem like it.

If students were to stay in their classrooms for eighty minutes at a time, there is less of an opportunity for them to wander off into the hallway. Although students would still be allowed to take a short break from class, it would be the equivalent of having a student in a science block period leaving after the first period, and cutting the second period. There still is a possibility

of students cutting classes, but it is much easier for a teacher to notice that a student is deliberately cutting class if they were in the class a mere forty minutes before.

Having a class every other day would also lessen the stress that students have because of a large workload. Teachers of course would still assign homework to their students, but their students would have an entire day to complete it. Having a class every other day would allow students the choice as to when they want to complete their work. If they are extremely busy on the night when they are meant to do their homework for a certain class, they can always wait until the next night (since they won't have the pressure to hand in homework the very next day.

For students who are taking all AP classes, the workload can be overwhelming, yet with an extra night to complete all their work, it is a lot easier to handle. For students who feel that they must get their homework completed the day they receive it, life only gets easier as they can relax each night knowing that they only have homework for two classes to complete.

The other option that our school has for scheduling is very similar to the four class period system, but with one small twist. Instead of taking a class for eighty minutes every other day for the entire year, another option that is available is taking two classes for eighty minutes every day for only

half the year. Once that portion of the year is over, the class will also be over. Students could have half of their classes completed after only one semester.

The 4x4 scheduling system has often times worked very well in smaller schools, where classroom space is limited. Although Harrison is not considered to be a small school, we recently have been experiencing a larger student population- and unfortunately we are quickly becoming too big for our school. This new system would therefore be perfect for Harrison High School, because it would require less classroom space. When there are fewer classes requiring a longer period of time in each class, not as many classrooms are needed. Teachers and students can remain in the same classrooms, eliminating the need to switch classrooms after every forty-minute period.

Using the 4x4 schedule will help our school in many ways. Not only will it benefit our



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

students, but it will also help our school to better utilize the space we have. Harrison needs a change, and a different schedule could be the change that makes our school a better place for teachers as well as for students.

The SAT questions reality

Rachel Breslin

Staff Writer

"Do we benefit from forms of entertainment that show so-called 'reality,' or are such shows harmful?"

This was one of the essay questions from the March 12 SAT test. It caused much controversy because some students and administrators felt this question goes 'against' what students are taught in their SAT preparation courses, which is to always try to relate the essay question to something learned in school or a school-related outside experience. By basing the question on reality television and thus making it impossible to relate it to anything associated with school, people felt this provided an easy answer for those who waste time watching such shows instead of say, studying do better on an SAT essay question.

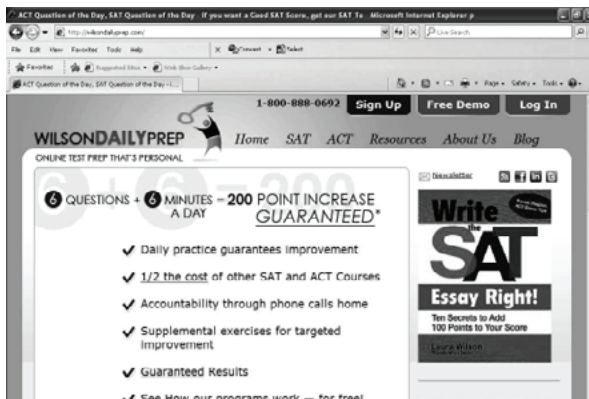
This reporter disagrees that there is any real controversy here. The main point of the SAT essay is not to see how well one can relate a topic to something school-related, the main point is to see how well one can state his or her opinion and support it with facts (much like the opinion pieces in this very newspaper). In this way, colleges can get an idea as to how a student might do when writing papers in college classes. These SAT prep classes tell students to use school-related material as evidence in the essay only because students will know how to apply such information to many topics, having gone over such things in-depth in school classes.

Another reason that many

people are upset with this essay is because it is not a scholarly topic. These people feel that the essay needs to be a 'smart topic' so that 'smart' people taking the exam will get a good score, since they are the ones that truly belong in college, as opposed

relatively easy to write, because sadly, reality television shows can be considered current events (and thus, fit well as a subject appropriate for an SAT essay). Reality television shows have become so popular that they define our generation. Even if one doesn't watch them, one hears about what happens on those shows from friends and opinions about them are easily formed. The events and people featured on such shows are there to get you talking and thinking. This is how they get such strong ratings.

In this modern age, students need to know more than what is in their books to get into a good college. They need to be able to talk and form an opinion about the world around them, which is why students without televisions or who do not watch reality television shows were not really at such a disadvantage with this particular essay question. So



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

to the people who waste their time watching reality television. This is a fallacy; just because someone does not spend all of his or her time studying, does not



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

preclude them from deserving to go to college. Sometimes people need a break from studying, and watching a favorite TV show, even a favorite mindless reality show, might be the perfect way to unwind.

This reporter is not a fan of reality television, per se. What I disagree with is the idea that students who do not watch these shows are at a disadvantage. Even without watching any reality television shows, this article was

long as one pays attention to the outside world, one will hear about these shows and should be able to form reasonable opinions about them. If one wants to be successful in life, one should take one's head out of books once in a while and start listening to the surrounding world. How helpful can people be to society when they leave school if all they can do is recite facts like a walking encyclopedia, instead of being able to contribute ideas?

SAT greatest hits

Some SAT essay prompts from years past:

Prompt:

"A little inaccuracy saves a world of explanation."

C.E.Ayers

Assignment:

Is it always essential to tell the truth, or are there circumstances in which it is better to lie? Plan your response, and then write an essay...

Prompt:

If we are afraid to reveal our lack of knowledge we will not be able to learn. In order to make progress we must admit where we are now. Such an admission of ignorance is not easy. As Thoreau says, "How can we remember our ignorance which our growth requires, when we are using our knowledge all the time?"

Assignment:

Does the present system of education encourage us to admit our lack of knowledge, or is there too much pressure to demonstrate the acquisition of knowledge? Plan your response, and then write an essay...

Prompt:

"That which we obtain too easily, we esteem too lightly. It is dearness only which gives everything its value."

Thomas Paine

Assignment:

Do we value only what we struggle for? Plan your response, and then write an essay to explain your views on this issue. Be sure to support your position with specific points and examples. (You may use personal examples or examples from your reading, observations, or knowledge of subjects such as history, literature, science.)

arts & entertainment

Millie reviewed, thoroughly

Emma Adler

Editor-in-Chief

The title of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at first appears ill-conceived. Clad in a floor length dress, unfashionably long hair tied back in a bow, the girl we meet as the curtain rises does not look like anybody's idea of modern. But by the end of the exuberant opening number, our heroine has swapped her drab duds for a bright yellow sheath, her lengthy locks for a bob, and her ragged suitcase for a purse which is promptly stolen. The year is 1922 and from here on in, Millie is determined to inhabit its cutting edge. The hilarity and heart-break which ensue as a result are exploited to brilliant effect in the Footlight Players' production of the classic musical, which played in the HPAC from March 10 to March 14.

There are two competing narratives in "Thoroughly Modern Millie." The first chronicles Millie Dilmount's quest to find marital (and financial) bliss with her boss Trevor Grayden. The second involves a white slavery ring bent on carting off Millie's newfound best friend, Miss Dorothy, to Hong Kong. The plots operate in their own orbits for much of the play, but come to a head toward the conclusion of the second act. In the interim the characters indulge in the legendary hedonism of the 1920s, frequenting a speakeasy

and putting in an appearance at a hopping, high society bash redolent of those described in *The Great Gatsby*.

At the forefront of all of this mayhem is, of course, Millie herself, played with enthusiasm

the role of Millie's every-man admirer Jimmy Smith, senior Alejandro Azuaje exudes suaveness. Junior Marwan Bishtawi is perfectly puffed up and oblivious as Trevor Grayden. Senior Alexandria Brown epitomizes Jazz

The merits of the play are not limited to its cast. *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is a visually stunning production, featuring glitzy Jazz Age costumes and an equally vibrant set. Particularly eye-catching are the brightly colored flapper dresses worn by Millie and her cohorts, and the intricate, feathered headpieces donned by Muzzy Van Hossmere.

Following the performance attended by this reporter, the lobby where the cast members were greeted by family and friends rang out with praise. Asked her opinion of the play, one audience member shared "It was fantastic! I've seen all of the musicals that the Footlight Players' have done over the past four years, and I think this one was the best. I loved the music, and some of the students who participated this year are exceptionally talented."

The cast of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* seems to have enjoyed performing in the musical as much as the audience enjoyed watching it. Junior Madison Pollack (also known as Dorothy Brown) commented, "The process was unbelievable, and it was amazing to watch the cast flesh out what began as a skeleton of a show, and turn it into something really incredible."



Courtesy of Gary Morgen Photography

and empathy by junior Cayla Pettinato, who taps into the comedic side of the character as occasion dictates, but never loses sight of the vulnerability and flinty determination at the heart of Millie. Madison Pollack, also a junior, is spot on as Miss Dorothy Brown, adopting a resonant tone of voice suggesting perpetual bewilderment perfectly suited to Miss Dorothy's airy innocence and upper crust incredulity. In

Age glamour as retired prima-donna Muzzy Van Hossmere. Freshman Halle Mastroberardino is engaging and devious as slave ring leader Mrs. Meers. Senior Adriana DiFazio serves as resident scene stealer in the role of longsuffering secretary Miss Flannery. The leads are complemented by a large ensemble whose members' enthusiasm lends an indefatigable vitality to the entire production.

Backstage with *Idol* Starr

Amy Carton

News Editor

In spite of some decline in average viewership from previous years, *American Idol* remains the number one-rated show on television (according to Zap2it, a trusted media source). As *American Idol* prepared for its tenth season, contestants and fans braced themselves for several changes that would be made by producers.

Making their debut on the judging panel, Aerosmith's lead singer Steven Tyler and pop sensation Jennifer Lopez joined *Idol* veteran Randy Jackson as the season 10 judges. The show also eliminated its top 24, replacing it with a top 13. In doing so, fewer live performances were needed, allowing for the introduction of "Vegas Week." Occurring after the three rounds of Hollywood Week, Vegas week further distinguishes the unique, versatile performers from the more timid, monotonous artists.

Another change that was made to the show was its age limit. While in the past the show had only allowed auditions for individuals older than 16 years old, the age limit was lowered to 15 this year, exposing the nation to the fresh, young talent of American teenagers. One 15-year-old who made it through to Hollywood after her audition in Austin, Texas, was Ilanna Starr. Although cut after the first round in Hollywood, Ilanna's *Idol* experience was one she will never forget, and it taught her an awful lot about herself and her voice. The Husky Herald was able to contact Ilanna and interview her about her *Idol* journey.

Husky Herald: When did you decide to audition?

Ilanna Starr: I had watched the show for its ninth run and I always knew in the back of my mind that I wanted to audition, but I was

never old enough. I had planned to audition when I was 16, but when they lowered the age limit this year I knew I had to go for it.

HH: Was there anything that inspired you or encouraged you to begin singing in the first place?

IS: I was really into dance before I started singing, and at 7 years old I joined a musical theater troupe. We traveled all around the D.C. area and to NY to perform and we actually went to

think the judges only get to see about 100 people in each city. Before you get there though, you have to make it past singing for idol crew and producers and executive producers

HH: Can you describe the audition process? How long did you have to wait?

IS: The process was long and rigorous with a lot of waiting and a lot of singing. The process starts in a huge stadium where you

so much. You end up waiting the entire day and watching people come out crying, either with tears of joy or with tears of sadness. Then there are those people who, in your mind, are absolutely going to make it and then don't. It really messes with your head. You begin to think, 'Am I really supposed to be here'? But all of those feelings were gone by the time I heard the panel chant together "You're going to Hollywood!" Getting that golden ticket was the first time in my life that I realized that music was truly what I wanted to do with my life. I always knew I loved singing, but it wasn't until those three yesses' that I felt confident in my voice. It was real confirmation, not from my mom or a friend, but from the experts, Randy Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, and the Steven Tyler, that I was and capable of pursuing music. That golden ticket changed the way I think about myself with respect to my music.

HH: You auditioned over the summer and couldn't tell anyone until the auditions aired in January. How did you keep such an exciting moment a secret?

IS: Keeping the secret was probably the most difficult part of this entire experience. At times it was really tough, especially the day I sang for the judges. All I wanted to do was tell my friends that I had made it to Hollywood after being in the presence of Steven Tyler and Jennifer Lopez. I ended up keeping the secret for almost six months. I could really only talk about it with my family, and I had to lie quite often about where I was going and why I was traveling so much. I ended up weaving a pretty nice web of lies, but my friends really didn't suspect anything until about an



Courtesy of Ilanna Starr

Disney World a couple of times too. My dad had recorded most of our performances and when I watched them back, I realized that dancing really wasn't what I was meant to do. The third year we went to Disney, I had a small solo singing "Castle on a Cloud" from *Les Miserables*. Watching that moment on my dad's video camera was when I realized that I really needed to sing.

HH: Does everyone who auditions get to sing in front of the judges?

IS: Actually, not everyone gets to sing for the judges. In the end, I

have to wait for hours in line with thousands of people. I auditioned in Austin, Texas and I think there were about 8000 people there. It was amazing to see all these personalities in line and it was pretty easy to differentiate between the people who truly wanted to compete and those who just wanted their 15 seconds of fame.

HH: How did you feel having the golden ticket handed to you?

IS: I honestly didn't know what to think. I was truly in shock. I just remember trying to keep my cool in front of these accomplished, amazing judges whom I look up to



Courtesy of Ilanna Starr

hour before the Austin episode... I just couldn't hold it in any longer.

HH: Since Hollywood week was pre-recorded, you also had to keep from people that you had been cut. What was that like?

IS: After the episode aired, a lot of people approached me asking questions and unfortunately, because the Hollywood week episodes hadn't aired, I wasn't able to tell them much. What's really difficult about the whole situation is that, I was cut even before the people saw me on TV, and then I had to continue to pretend that I was still in the running, until the Hollywood rounds aired, and only then could I break the news that I was cut. As an ex-contestant, it almost felt like I was cut twice- it's certainly not the most exciting part about being on American Idol.

HH: Being that you were one of the youngest contestants, did you feel any additional pressure or intimidation from the older contestants?

IS: At first I definitely doubted myself. I didn't have as much experience as the older contestants, but I had to remind myself that I'd made it this far because the judges and producers saw something in me. I was there for a reason. There was always a level of intimidation. After all, I was surrounded by some of the most talented contestants *Idol* had ever seen. With that came a lot of pressure to kill it every time I performed, but I don't think any

additional pressure was created by the older contestants. I think the additional pressure was actually created by kids my age because *Idol* was only going to pick a few really talented kids under the age of 18 to be on the show.

HH: What memorable events and moments occur behind the scenes?

IS: During Hollywood Week we were waiting to be called into the theater and a whole bunch of people gathered around a piano and started singing Ordinary People by John Legend. I had never heard so many powerful voices in such beautiful harmony. It was such a special moment.

HH: During which round of Hollywood did you get out? How did you feel afterward?

IS: I was unfortunately cut in the first round of Hollywood week. It was really disheartening. I had worked really hard to get to where I was in the competition and watching all of the contestants sing-

ing and getting cut before me really messed with my head. Before I sang, I had this feeling in the pit of my stomach that was telling me that it wasn't my time yet, that I didn't need it quite as much as other people did. I would have loved to see myself go farther, but I think in the back of my mind, I knew that this year it

wasn't meant to be.

HH: How do you view your experience now that your season 10 journey has ended?

IS: I'm lucky to have had this experience at such a young age. Not only will I be able to try out again in the years to come, but over the past months I've learned a lot about music and myself. My

Idol experience has confirmed my love of music and has made me realize that singing is my true passion and what I want to do with the rest of my life.

HH: What do you think of the changes that the show has made this year (new judges, stage, age limit, vegas week...)

IS: I really love the changes. After nine seasons of the same, it was time for changes to be made. The stage, the age limit and Vegas week are all fantastic changes, but I absolutely love the new judges! Their dynamic and chemistry is wonderful and they truly care about each contestant. To me, it's become a much more intriguing show to watch, as you're really seeing the development of new artists.

HH: How did you manage your school work while you were in Hollywood?

IS: The stress and excitement of being in Hollywood was really overwhelming and didn't leave much time for doing work. I decided to be home schooled this year so I could fully prepare myself for Hollywood. We planned the semester so that my winter break would be during Hollywood week. I still did a little bit of work on the plane, but it was a real relief to not have to worry about schoolwork.

HH: How did your friends and family react when they saw you on the Austin Episode?

IS: It was so overwhelming, but at the same time so exciting! People who I hadn't talked to in years were contacting me and congratulating me. Within two hours of the show's airing, I had at least 200 posts on my wall on Facebook. My mom and dad also received tons of emails from their friends. My brothers even said that people they hadn't seen in ages were contacting them, it was just mind blowing...so crazy!



Courtesy of Ilanna Starr

From mixtapes to mash-ups

JT Nangle

Staff Writer

Music is one of the most popular aspects of American culture, and access to music for high school students is a given. Almost everyone at Harrison High School owns an iPod, some containing over 20,000 songs. Over the past decade, music has become more popular due to the internet and the ability of artists and producers to distribute new tracks to a wider audience than ever before. This has led to a sharp decline in the sale of CDs and the closing of thousands of retail record stores. Websites have sprung up discovering new artists, and release hundreds of free songs almost daily.

At the start of the decade, companies took an aggressive stance against file sharing websites like LimeWire and Napster, which have long since been shut down. There are of course, other media for downloading free music. These sites allow users to download a specific song, rather than buy the entire album. According to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, music revenues in the U.S. dropped from a high of \$14.6 billion in 1999 to \$10.4 billion in 2008. *The New York Times* reports that the downward trend

is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, and some research suggests that by 2013, the music industry will gross only \$9.0 billion dollars. But in spite of declining revenues, artists are more popular than ever due to wide exposure on Facebook and Twitter.

"Lady GaGa is the most followed person on Twitter and the most liked person on Facebook," noted junior Lindsey Barnett. "She is probably more popular than Madonna."

Still, these artists no longer depend on CDs for the majority of

their income. For most, the major revenue stream now comes mostly from live performances and merchandise, which makes them much more dependent on concert promoters like Live Nation. Tours have become increasingly more important for artists accustomed to formerly earning obscene amounts of money. An increase in the number of concerts is a delight to fans now able to see their favorite artists live.

"Once 50 Cent reinvented the mixtape game and literally made the hip-hop or 'urban' industry ever dependent on 'free-music,' the music culture was never the same," according to Jeremy Yudkin of GoodMusicAll-Day.com (GMAD).

In the beginnings of hip-hop music, songs only existed in the live form. They would then be distributed via tapes of parties and shows. Mixtapes first appeared in the mid-1970s in New York City, featuring artists such as Kool Herc and Afrika Bambaata.

As more tapes became available, they began to be collected and traded by fans. In the mid-1980s, DJs such as Brucie B. began recording their live music and selling their own mixtapes. In the present day, artists use mixtapes to release free music to the public and generate excitement around their work or upcoming album. Oftentimes artists will release many more mixtapes than true studio albums.

For instance, popular hip-hop artist Lil Wayne has put out eight albums from 1999-2010, but almost *eighty* mixtapes.

Typically, artists will feature themselves over other artists' beats, and will often-times employ a sample of other popular music. On one of his most recent tapes, *No Ceilings*, Lil Wayne created songs over the Black Eyed Peas' "I Gotta Feeling," and Jay-Z's "Death of Autotune."

There are many websites that distribute free songs and mixtapes. They target primarily college students who control the trends in music amongst young people. Goodmusicallday.com (GMAD) is a website started by a few high school students, who now are attending various colleges and universities throughout the nation. JT Newton, the website's contributor and co-founder along and Tim Webber, the website's founder and CEO (who currently attends The University of Notre Dame) started GMAD as a means of showing friends what they were listening to. They explained to the *Husky Herald* that GMAD quickly gained a small following from people who knew Tim directly and through word-of-mouth. The website is designed to post new tracks that are available as free, legal downloads. They frequently sponsor an artist when they release a new mixtape. They post the mixtape on their website and it soon becomes more popular. In a world where colleges monitor most, if not all, downloads made by students on their network, GMAD is truly a vice for students looking to satisfy their musical cravings. Not only does GMAD release music, but they hold concerts featuring their sponsored artists and other popular artists and DJs.

Tim Webber, JT Newton, and the rest of the GMAD crew have inspired other "college music" sites such as FreshOnCampus.com and TheCollegeCartel.com. These websites are



A dying commodity?

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

designed for the same purpose.

The internet's influence on the music industry has also inspired an entirely new genre called "mash-ups." A "mash-up" is when an artist splices together two or more songs, typically over a techno or dance beat. Wildly popular mash-up DJs like Super Mash Bros., White Panda, and 5 & A Dime, have become some of the most desirable concert tickets in the world.

"I'm not sure if Super Mash has ever come to the U.S., but if they did I would spend any amount of money to see their show," said junior Jacob Temkin, who raves about the group.

TheHoodInternet.com is a website entirely dedicated to creating and releasing free "mash-ups". They also release free mash-up mixtapes that are free to download.

Many times artists will release a new song, and it will be featured on several different websites. This provides students a wide array of options from which to receive new music.

As technology continues to progress, the music industry should follow suit. Pioneer DJs like Tiësto, Deadmau5 and Rusko have influenced popular music to become more electro/techno based. These changes are evident in Britney Spears' new song, "Hold it Against Me," which features a heavily Dup-Step influenced hook. It's obviously an industry in transition. These new trends dictate that artists will be forced to release more "free" music and change their current business plans to focus less on record sales.



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

Got Tunes?

Cherry Aung

Music Editor



Courtesy of Mtv.com

Britney Spears
Femme Fatale
March 29, 2011

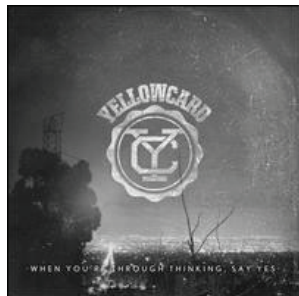
Oops she did it again!

It's been ages since Britney Spears first became a household name, and now, one decade and eight albums later, she proves she is as relevant as ever with her latest release, *Femme Fatale*.

This new album has sound very different than that featured on all of her prior CDs. Following a recent trend of popular music, *Femme Fatale* updates pop for the twenty first century, fusing the genre with electronic dance music, techno and even dubstep.

The album has some phenomenal, heart pounding and catchy beats that will have you bopping along and itching to dance. But while the songs are bubbly, sassy and infectious, it does bring to light a major flaw of modern music: the Rebecca Black-booster known as auto tune.

It seems that nowadays every new chart topper is perfected using auto tune, and Spears doesn't seem eager to break the mold. Let's face it – Britney is certainly not the best singer, nor the best dancer, but what she lacks in talent she makes up for with the famous charisma and glamour that have made her the princess of pop. Auto-tune notwithstanding, *Femme Fatale* is fun and entertaining, and definitely worth a listen.



Courtesy of Mtv.com

Yellowcard
When You're Through Thinking, Say Yes
March 22, 2011

Yellowcard has reemerged on the scene (following a self-imposed hiatus beginning in 2008) with their seventh studio album, *When You're Through Thinking, Say Yes*. This newest release proves that a comeback is right around a corner for the band, and that despite their recent absence from the charts, they are just as good as ever.

This romantic yet fast paced album has been lauded by critics and fans alike. A reviewer for Metacritic noted "The record bleeds with the best that Yellowcard have done thus far, yet in a fresh context, bursting with newfound energy..."

A favorite on this album is "For you and your denial," which opens with a violin riff that meshes well with a powerful drum and guitar. The track has all the goodness of a classic pop punk song. Other standouts include "Hang you up," "Life of Leaving Home," "The Sound of You and Me" and "Hide."

The lead singer Ryan Key has a great voice, and his lyrics are easy to relate to, keeping with the band's penchant for memorable songs that you can sing along to.

The quality of some bands' music decays with time, but Yellowcard seems to be getting better and better. Check this album out because Yellowcard is back!

Total Fiasco

Meghan Molloy

Staff Writer

Who is Wasalu Muham-mad Jaco? Maybe you know him better by his stage name, Lupe Fiasco.

If you don't know him yet, get ready to, because this critically acclaimed rapper just released his third album entitled *Lasers*, which was released March 8, 2011. Lupe Fiasco is an American rapper, artist, and producer. He rose to fame in 2006 following the success of his debut album, *Food & Liquor and The Cool*. This up-and-coming artist was born February 16, 1982 and was raised

in Chicago. After being inspired by rappers and hip-hop stars like Ice Cube, Fiasco decided to be his own person and started to write lyrics. Pretty soon, he was signed to Atlantic Records, and shortly after that

started producing songs. After the success of his first album, he started writing more songs and the rest is history. For the first time, fans finally catch a prolonged glimpse of the person behind the Fiasco through his lyrics and messages he conveys in his songs.

The reason why people love Lupe Fiasco's songs is because they can relate to his lyrics and the messages they contain on levels beyond what goes on with other songs. For instance, Fiasco's lyrics jab at recent political corruption and the current situation in Iraq. That's the reason why people enjoy his lyrics, because he takes chances and puts his career at risk by approaching touchy subjects in his songs that others won't. It gives him an edge that sets him apart from other singers and rappers, which is a good thing.

The two favorite songs of most fans seem to be "The Show Goes On" and "Words I Never Said," because each video has over eight million views on You-

Tube. Although all of his songs have great lyrics and good music, these two songs stick with many because of their lyrics and catchy tunes. For example, check these lyrics from "Words I Never Said": "I really think the war on terror is a bunch of bullsh*t/ just a poor excuse for you to use up all your bullets / How much money does it take to really make a full clip/ 9/11 building 7 did they really it pull it /Uhh, and a bunch of cover ups." In the same song, Fiasco goes on to say, "Gaza strip was getting bombed, Obama didn't say

sh*t/That's why I ain't vote for him, next either/I'm a part of the problem, my problem is I'm peaceful / And I believe in the people." These lyrics tell who Lupe Fiasco is, his beliefs and values. It also shows what he thinks about recent events occurring throughout the world.

What makes Fiasco's third album different from the rest is how he performs duets with critically acclaimed stars. These duets help make his songs even better, such as Skylar Gray who is featured along with P. Diddy in the hit single, "Coming Home."

Trey Songz also contributes on a few number one hits. Many here at the high school enjoy Fiasco's musical stylings.

"His music is upbeat and fun to listen to," says freshman Tyler DeRaffele. "My favorite song of his is 'Daydreaming.'"

Fellow freshman Jessica Olivier agrees. "His lyrics are so meaningful, unlike rappers these days," she said. "I like how his songs have meaning and each one has a different message."

Check out Lupe Fiasco's songs on his official YouTube page: www.youtube.com/user/LupeFiasco.



Courtesy of Bing Music

Nickelodeon to revisit the '90s

Nikki Muto

Staff Writer

Remember when you were younger and your favorite show was "The Amanda Show" or "Clarissa Explains It All"? Remember how you felt when they pulled it off the air? Well, you don't have to miss these amazing shows any longer because *Nickelodeon* is doing us all a favor and playing them again! Starting in the fall, *Nick At Nite* will have a four-hour block called "The '90s Are All That" and your favorite shows will be back. Shows like "Kenan and Kel," "Rugrats," "All That," "Adventures of Pete & Pete" and many more. In case you don't remember these fantastic shows, here's a brief refresher.

"The Amanda Show" was like an SNL for younger kids. There were multiple sketches and a funny opening each epi-

sode. Amanda Bynes starred in all of them, along with Drake Bell and Josh Peck most of the time. Some of the best bits were 'The Girls Room,' 'Judge Trudy,' 'Moody's Point,' 'Blockblister,' 'Totally Kyle,' 'Hillbilly Moment,' and many others. 'The Girls Room' was a sketch about four girls who met in the bathroom to give people swirlies.



Courtesy of Connected In

There was the popular girl – Tammy, the threatening girl – Sheila, the stupid girl who constantly reminded viewers of her love for eggs – Debbie, and the egotistical girl – Amber. 'Judge Trudy' was a spoof of the popular court TV show 'Judge Judy.' In this sketch, Amanda played the judge who didn't listen to the defendants, dismissing their cases and yelling

at the bailiff to bring in the dancing lobsters. 'Moody's Point' was a fake soap opera that starred Moody (Amanda) and her friends dealing with tons of 'drama.' For example, Moody's father lost his toe, her mom was somewhere in the sky, her friend was part ape, and the guy she liked always responded to questions by asking the opposite. 'Totally Kyle' was a bit that starred only Drake Bell playing Kyle. Kyle was a less than smart kid who explained pointless stories, adding totally to every sentence. All the bits on "The Amanda Show" were funny and enjoyable. Viewers can't wait to see their favorite episodes air again.

"All That" was a sketch show just like "The Amanda Show" that helped build up "Kenan & Kel." Kenan Thompson and Kel Mitchell starred on both "All That" and "Kenan & Kel" – a show dedicated to the both of them. Kenan played the scheming best friend who always had an idea

in mind. Kel was the less than intelligent, orange soda-loving best friend who went along with whatever Kenan wanted. Kenan always had a plan that got them both in trouble. The show ran from 1997-2000, ending with a made for TV movie called "Two Heads Are Better Than None."

With shows like these, it's a surprise *Nickelodeon* didn't bring them back earlier. They will definitely bring up ratings. People are already excited to see the shows they grew up with back on television. Disney Channel is also working on bringing back an old show – possibly. It's been reported that a "Lizzie McGuire: The College Years" is being worked on, but reports have not confirmed or denied this rumor. Keep an eye out for promotional ads that will come out as these shows begin to be broadcast again. You wouldn't want to miss this great chance to re-live some fun from the past.

Human race in *Jeopardy*?

Danny Glass

Staff Writer

Ever since I was a mere lad, I watched *Jeopardy*. The show intrigued me because it pitted people against each other in a clever fashion. In *Jeopardy*, contestants are given the answer and then they need to figure out the question and buzz in quickly. My dad, my mom, and my sister would watch almost every night from seven to seven thirty, on ABC. In my mind, it is the greatest quiz show ever.

Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter are arguably the two greatest competitors on *Jeopardy* ever. Ken won over seventy matches in a row, while Brad is the all time money winner. In terms of trivia, these men are gods.

Recently, IBM (a technology company) decided to create a machine that would challenge the likes of Jennings and Rutter. To clarify, this machine does not have a lot of stored information, nor does it have access to the

internet. Watson receives an electronic message with the *Jeopardy*

question and then formulates an answer. It then uses analytical software to decode the weirdness of *Jeopardy* and measures out three answers. Then it uses statistics to rank these three answers.

Furthermore, Watson actually physically buzzes the same type of button as Jennings and Rutter. But after watching the episodes that aired featuring the supercomputer, my entire family came to a singular conclusion. Watson has an unfair advantage. It is able to buzz in faster than Jennings and Rutter. The questions were not impossible; in fact, it appeared that both Jennings



Courtesy of ABC TV

and Rutter knew the majority of the answers.

This is not the first time humans have been defeated by computers. Gary Kasparov was defeated at chess by the IBM machine Deep Blue. But similar to the Watson experiment, Kasparov called foul-play. He believed the machine had cheated. It is definitely possible for there to have been foul play in both cases.

Of course, others are of another mind about Watson's impressive performance.

"I think Watson is fair, and besides, it's for a good charitable cause," remarks junior Ryan Molloy. "It's a science experiment."

Others simply do not watch Watson, or watch *Jeopardy* at all. I suggested that they start watch-

ing as soon as possible.

Either way, Watson is off to bigger and better places. According to IBM commercials, he is the future doctor, engineer, and problem solver. His analytical structure will allow him to diagnose problems in a rapid and efficient way. This was the true purpose of Watson all along, to systematically eliminate delay in certain fields.

Watson can be beaten, though. Rush Holt, a congressman from New Jersey, was able to hold his own against the computer. But it appears one needs to have been a professor of plasma physics and a master of trivia to achieve this victory. Other competitors in the past beat Watson in its alpha and beta stages. But to those who live in fear of some future computer domination scenario: we built Watson, we can surely destroy it.

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. This issue, we caught up with AP Physics whiz Mr. McRae and HHS's resident polyglot, Ms. Battipaglia.



McRae



Battipaglia

Favorite color?
Red.
Favorite movie?
"Lawrence of Arabia."
Favorite TV show?
"In Treatment."
First car?
A Nissan Pulsar.
Do you have any siblings?
One younger brother named Hamish.
Hometown?
Ottawa, Canada.
Weird habit?
Chewing my tongue.
Hidden talent?
I am a fairly good carpenter.
Favorite cartoon character?
Marvin the Martian.
Favorite vacation spot?
New York City.
Celebrity crush?
Hellen Mirren.
Favorite song?
"American Tune" by Simon and Garfunkel.
Favorite book?
Middlemarch.
Favorite country?
New York City. I think it qualifies as its own country.
Favorite candy?
Dark chocolate coffee crisps, which you can only get in Canada!
Guilty pleasure?
"Glee!"
Favorite musical?
That's easy. "Sunday in the Park With George."
Fun fact?
The universe is expanding a lot more quickly than we thought. Something seems to be pulling on it from the outside.

Favorite color?
Blue. Sky blue!
Favorite movie?
"Cinema Paradiso: Uncut."
Favorite TV show?
Shows on RAI International.
First car?
A Toyota.
Do you have any siblings?
One sister.
Hometown?
Salerno, Italy, near the Amalfi Coast.
Weird habit?
If it is mine, why would I think it is wierd?
Hidden talent?
If it's hidden, how do I know? I haven't discovered them yet.
Favorite cartoon character?
Topo Gigio. He is the Italian version of Mickey Mouse.
Favorite vacation spot?
There are so many, but one special place is my home in Italy.
Celebrity crush?
Massimo Ranieri, when I was younger.
Favorite song?
Arias from *Nabucco*.
Favorite book?
La Certosa di Parma (The Charterhouse of Parma) by Stendhal.
Favorite country?
Italy and America! Then, Tunisia and Turkey.
Favorite candy?
Does Nutella count as a candy?
Guilty pleasure?
Going to Europe on the weekend.
Favorite musical?
"Grease!" it was the first American musical I saw that I understood completely.
Fun fact?
I like to travel, especially to third world countries.

sports

JT Nangle Goes Into The Record Books

Nick Puliafico

Staff Writer

Despite finishing 4-6 on the year, the Harrison Huskies' swim team sent seven swimmers to the Section 1 Swimming Championship. One of them was junior JT Nangle, who along with fellow junior Matt Carducci, sophomore Bryan Pon and freshman Reo Mukadi, set the school record for the 200 Medley Relay, which also qualified for the NY State Championship. Luckily for Coach Dearstyne, he'll have the same group for next year, most notably JT Nangle, who has achieved more than he even imagined he might at the start of this junior year. JT also was awarded All-Section honors.

"We were really excited and felt we were ready to take on states," related Nangle, talking about the relay team prior to attending States. "I myself was confident in that I would do

great."

The team wound up as thirteenth best relay team in States, even without a senior on the current team.

But JT has been even more involved in his swimming career outside of school. Along with Bryan, Reo, and Matt, JT swims competitively on the Empire swim team. With all of them being together, it's given JT a chance to adapt to fellow members of his relay team.

"This experience has really helped us bond," he said. "It has not only made all of us better, but it also has made me a much better swimmer."

Along with his achievements on the relay team, JT has mastered his backstroke, having finish seventeenth in States for this event and setting a school record and a personal record.

"It was great breaking the record for the relay team, but it's another thing to break a record by yourself," he noted. "I'm happy to see that my hard work paid off."

While JT's achievements have impressed his teammates and Coach Dearstyne, they are not the only ones. Coaches from Lehigh and Boston College have had their eyes on JT, since he professes an interest in pursuing swimming into his college years.

Perhaps what really makes JT stand out from others is his accomplishments outside of the pool. Despite the many rigorous hours spent training and competing in the water, JT has been able to maintain a high grade point average, even with his taking numerous Advanced Placement level courses. Al-



JT in action. Courtesy of JT Nangle

though it seems tough, JT enjoys the challenge.

"It can be hard sometimes to juggle school and athletics," JT said. "But I've been successful and feel like the challenge makes me a more mature person."

JT also competes on the school's Mock Trial team, where he assumes the role of a lawyer, along with competing as part of the school's Model Congress roster. As JT makes the transition into his senior year, all are eager to see him continue his winning ways in the pool.

Promising Varsity Tennis Squad Hits The Courts

Logan Schwartz

Staff Writer

The Harrison Varsity Tennis Team, though somewhat young, comes into the season with high expectations. Led by Coach Sam Fishman, and Captains Brandon Ellis and Bennett Wissak, the team features only one senior. In addition, it is in perhaps the toughest division in Westchester, which means facing annual powerhouses such as Byram Hills, Blind Brook, Horace Greeley and Fox Lane High Schools.

Perhaps the toughest task in the season ahead belongs to first singles player junior Michael Chen who, match after match, must play the opposing team's best player. Often, this means challenges against some of the best players in the state; yet

Chen manages to hold his own in such matches. His grit and will to win sets the tone for the rest of the team. The 2011 season is Chen's fourth season on the varsity tennis team as a singles player.

This is not to say that second singles player junior Andrew Smithline's job is any easier. While he must play the opponents' second best player, many of those are still often ranked high in the state. This is Andy's third year on the varsity squad, and second season as a singles player. The third and final singles player is still only a sophomore: Kosta Teverovsky. Kosta played doubles last year, but has worked on and improved his game enough in the offsea-

son to earn himself a spot on the team as a singles player.

Kosta had some help obtaining the third and final singles spot, as an injury prevented Captain Brandon Ellis from retaining his third singles title. Ellis, who will have limited use of his left wrist for much of the season, deferred his spot to Kosta, and is instead playing first doubles with Co-Captain Bennett Wissak.

Although being a doubles player may not sound as impressive as being a singles player, doubles is just as important to the match as singles is. Other double pairings include Charlie Hayden and Grant Wissak, Daniel Morgen and Lucas Pettinato, and finally, Sanaam Patel and Logan Schwartz. Each doubles

pairing has its own unique style of play and chemistry, which makes communication vital to the success of the pairing.

Exhibition players include Matthew Weinreb, Adam Kothutnicki, Danny Johanson, and Angelo Nardulli, who are still important to the team as they factor in to help boost the team's overall morale. This young team has high hopes, and now it is up to the team to execute well on the court.

"We're a very young team, trying to build talent for future years," said Brandon Ellis. "We are trying to improve every day, even though I'm very confident we can go far in the Section tournament this year."

Twin Wins Start Husky Baseball Season

Ray Corona

Sports Editor

After an impressive season last year finishing 15-9 and making a deep run into the playoffs, the boys of the 2010-2011 Varsity Baseball Team have high expectations.

"When you lose a power hitter like DeLacy and an ace in Eklund, it hurts," says senior shortstop Michael Jacobson, "But we really have developed and grown. I know that these new players can make an impact."

With the new squad consisting of three sophomores, seven juniors and seven seniors, it will be a test for the Huskies to see how the chemistry flows. But many believe that despite the wide range of age, the Huskies can use that as a benefit down the stretch.

Senior pitchers include Mike Jacobson, along with Brian Lobel, who has become a key contributor late in games. Also in the mix is the elite Max Bruckner, who pitched a complete game shutout against Keio on April 4, and southpaw Michael Forgione. Brian Lobel feels confident with this new and improved rotation.

"It's great to know that these guys have your back when

lation of over 200 hits. This year, the Huskies must overcome the loss of Mike DeLacy who hit .431 for the season, and Goh Ogura who was in the top three for the

arella have recorded an RBI and a stolen base. Senior Brendan O'Shea too has contributed to this 2-0 start with a game winning RBI-single against Pleasantville.

Against Keio, the Huskies would be in a different situation. Unlike their high scoring opening day game, this one turned out to be a pitching duel. In this one Max Bruckner took the mound against the Unicorns and had to be lights out in order to lead the Huskies to victory.

In the top of the fifth, senior Nick Lovinger would drive in Peter Viscogliosi to give the Huskies a 1-0 lead. From there the Huskies never looked back. Bruckner would go on to pitch a complete game shutout, picking up six strikeouts along the way.

As the Huskies get ready to face the Sacred Heart Irish on April 13, it will be important that they continue

with their hot start.

Alex Beckett who was part of last year's Huskies roster, sees a positive change this year.

"Everyone is just so confident right now, which is making us play better," Alex noticed. "When we started 6-7 last year, it was a challenge for us to rebound. Now with a head start, there's no catching up."

The Huskies have much to looking forward to this year. The team will play in Disney against Byram Hills, Rye, and John Jay during the break week of April 17-19. Other notable upcoming games include their season finale against Rye at Silver Lake Park.



This year's talented Varsity Baseball team.

Courtesy of Peter Viscogliosi

Huskies in doubles. But as those players leave, new arrive such as sophomore Austin Pollack, who went 2 for 5 against Pleasantville April 2, and outfielder Nicholas Pipitone.

"I love the intensity that this team plays with," said Nick Lovinger, himself a part of this strong lineup. "We don't take any game for granted, whether the team is undefeated or hasn't won a game; we play at a very, very high level."

The Huskies have started the season with two victories, winning their season opener for the first time since the 2007-08 season. Against Pleasantville, who finished 11-4 the previous year, the Huskies struggled early on, as the Panthers started the game off with a 5-0 lead. After cutting the Pleasantville lead to four after scoring in the third inning, the Huskies found themselves in a hole as they went deeper in the game. In the bottom of the fifth, the Huskies erupted to score 3, cutting the Panther lead within one. But the Panthers responded with two runs in the sixth and seventh, and the Huskies trailed by three. As the bases were loaded with two outs and two strikes, Alex Beckett was able to deliver with a bases clearing double. The Huskies ultimately would prevail with a game-winning single by Brendan O'Shea in the eleventh.



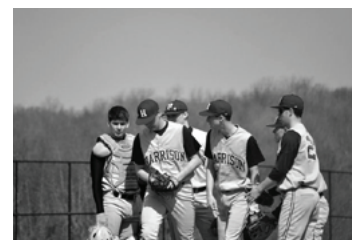
Bruckner delivers the heat.

Courtesy of Max Bruckner

you're struggling," he said. "I know that we have the experience and confidence to be efficient. If we can all contribute, we will definitely be successful."

But what brought success to the Huskies last year was hitting. The team was able to have an average of .306, a .427 slugging percentage and an accumu-

Along with these rising prospects are the stars of the lineup. Already, catcher Alex Beckett has made an impact after his bases clearing double with two outs and two strikes to tie that game against Pleasantville. Similar to Beckett, many of the seniors have started off hot. Both Michael Jacobson and Mike Chi-



Infielders meet Jacobson on the mound.
Courtesy of Michael Jacobson

Laxmen Looking for A Championship

Danny Cuneo

Staff Writer

It's a new year, which means a new season for the Harrison Lacrosse program. Despite the Huskies' 5-11 finish last year, optimism fills the air as the Huskies look to claim a winning record, and hopefully a Sectional championship.

Last year was one of both great highs and lows. Early in the season, the Huskies gained some ground overall and went on a three game winning streak, starting the season at an impressive 3-1. The Huskies' winning ways soon faded, though, as they finished the season on a six game losing streak, finishing six games under .500 and 3-5 overall in the league.

Yet the Huskies are looking to avenge the turmoil of seasons past and they begin this new campaign with high expectations. Veteran head coach Bruce Kinisky has brought Harrison lacrosse to its current state of success and popularity. He's a coach who combines discipline and a commitment to the sport that he instills in his players to get his team to perform at an optimal level. The Huskies are helmed by senior leading goal scorer Alex Acompora, who had 35 goals in 2010, and senior Brandon Bonistall, who led the team with 18 assists and also added 32 goals. Both Acompara and Bonistall have unprecedented quickness and high powered shots that are bound to lead the Huskies' scoring efforts again this upcoming season. They lead by example, as they both are prominent leaders who perform well.

The Huskies are bringing back a very capable offense, along with returning goal scorers Jake Marino, Rob Mulderrig, and Sam Gioseffi, all of whom had ten or more goals last year. They return

to provide an additional spark to an offense that should be formidable this upcoming season.

On the defensive side, the Huskies are loaded with talent. Seniors Duke Alvora, Mike Callari, James Tirella, and Nick Puliafico lead a stout defense, which, if not for Alvora's severe knee injury last season, would surely have improved in most defensive stats. Sophomores Robert Waldman and Robert Mackenzie also bring some young varsity experience



The Laxmen take the field.

All photos courtesy of Tony Conigliaro

into the lineup, along with freshman Mike Amicucci. Goalie Tony Conigliaro, a three year starter, will be steadily entrenched in the Huskies' net this season, and will be accompanied by competing junior Zack Davidoff. Both of these young men are talented defensemen who should be able to replace the departing seniors that flood the Huskies defensive lines of 2011.

No season comes without adversity, and the Huskies already are facing a heavy injury front. Senior Duke Alvora and Junior Brian Lauro both will be out for multiple weeks to deal with respective injuries. Charlie Shugrue, the

very talented offensive threat who played for Harrison briefly before being struck with a shoulder injury, is now at Salisbury, which is a blow to the Harrison offense. Although this presents a challenge to the Huskies, the incredible depth the team has on both

offense and defense should allow the Huskies to right the ship until these two key contributors can return from injury.

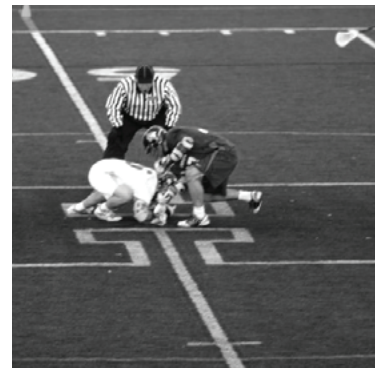
The best quality about this Husky team is that it responds well to adversity, especially with its deep class of seniors. The Huskies, with that senior leadership from the likes of Alex Acompara, James Tirella, Spencer Klein, as well as other experienced players, will aid the Huskies' season-long

journey. These seniors have fought the varsity battles before, and their insight and experience will be crucial to the development of younger stars on the team.

The new feeling around this year's effort is not only attributed to the change in the calendar, but the addition of incoming talent. The newcomers to this varsity team have the skills to provide the Huskies with quality minutes this season. Juniors Jacob Temkin, Jared Cummins, and

Luke Wolf are all highly capable members of the team who performed well in their roles on defense at the JV level. Temkin in particular stands out, considering his size and prominent physical play at the JV level. Look for that to continue on varsity. Long-stick middle Eric Fuerst is also a great addition, as he adds phenomenal versatility to the middle lines as a quick defender patrolling the middle of the field.

When Brian Lauro returns from injury he also will be a phenomenal player, with his quickness and size. Three additional guys who really excelled on the JV level were goalie Zack Davidoff, attackman Dean Brancucci, and middle Kevin Imperia. Davidoff, who was a veritable brick wall in goal his past two years as a JV goalie, will compete for the starting spot in goal with senior Tony Conigliaro, who has been ensconced in goal since his freshman year. Dean Brancucci is an attackman people should know about; he destroyed JV competition last year as the leading goal scorer on a successful JV team. Dean's left-handed



Sam Gioseffi facing off.

snapshot is a force to be reckoned with, and will add even more offensive firepower to the Huskies' deep offense. Kevin Imperia adds a physicality to the midfield lines that is unmatched. Imperia also shows great scoring ability that complements his quickness when breaking away from defenders. This should suit him well on the varsity level.

So far this season, the Huskies have started off 1-2 with their only win against Stepinac, 6-4. Impressive performances were seen from freshman Jake Marino scoring 4 goals, and Sam Gioseffi winning 9 of his 14 face-offs. After their 1-0 start, the Huskies have dropped 2 straight against Byram Hills and Fox Lane. Although the 1-2 start, many of the Huskies are still optimistic about the future.

"Our team this year has a lot of potential," said junior Brian Lauro. "We have a very good senior lineup and two new coaches that should help us do very well."

Matt Karpf agreed.

"I think we have a chance to go pretty far," he noted. "Coach K has turned around the whole program and we look like a really solid team, so we just need to put the pieces together and execute."

The players' optimism will be a key in their success this year, particularly in handling whatever adversity arises throughout the season. It's a necessary attitude that elevates a team to the top of its section. A good turnout from fans would also boost the team's spirits.

The Huskies should be better than ever this year, and with a fresh group of underclassmen joining a talented and experienced senior class contingent, they should surprise a number of Section 1 competitors with their performance this season.



Nick Puliafico and James Tirella on the attack.

Zaid Speaks

(Continued from Back Page)

The harder you work during a workout, the better your times will be.

HH: Has anyone inspired you to keep up with the sport?

ZAD: My friends have definitely inspired me. Watching pro-

how I felt. You have to go where you are going to be comfortable.

HH: In Binghamton, what are you planning to major in?

ZAD: I'm not sure yet, maybe engineering.



Zaid sprints to the finish.

Courtesy of Coach Zanot

essional athletes and seeing the times they have has definitely kept my motivation up.

HH: What events do you typically run in?

ZAD: I usually run the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, the 300-meter dash, and the 400-meter dash.

HH: What made you choose Binghamton?

ZAD: Binghamton is just one of those places where, as soon as you step onto the campus, you know that you belong there, and that is

HH: What are you looking forward to most next year, both in school and track?

ZAD: Well, I hope that I can get better at both! I really hope that I can make the Track and Field Youth Olympics team in 2012 for Iraq. For those of you that do not know, I am originally from Iraq.

HH: Where do you see yourself in five years?

ZAD: I wish I knew, but my dream is to be a professional athlete. I don't know if that dream is even possible, but I really hope it is.

Who's Your Caddy?

Alexa Coloccia

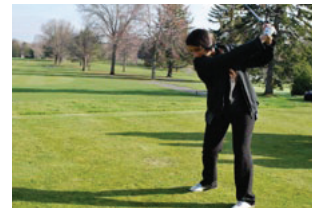
Staff Writer

Although most of the attention for golf has been on the boys' side, fans of Harrison golf should shift gears to the new and improved girls' golf team. With Mike Callaro, a worker and player at Westchester Hills, leading the way for these girls, the team hopes that its drastic improvements can result in immediate success. The girls are also lucky to have a proven leader in senior Lily Aslanian, who was the sole member of the girls' squad last year. Although it will take some time, the team hopes that they can work hard this year in order to prepare and pave the way for future success.

"It's important that all the girls get a feel for golf," says Aslanian. "Depending on the group though, we could have some success later into the season."

Ever since tryouts, the girls' squad has been working hard. The team of 13 has practiced three days per week, working on all the major aspects of golf such as driving and putting. The team is very fortunate to be able to practice around some of the best golf courses in Westchester.

"I love how every day we work on a new thing," said



Lily Aslanian perfects her swing.

Courtesy of Lily Aslanian
sophomore Olivia Manley, reflecting on the practice schedule. "We are very successful at multitasking at all aspects of golf and because of that, we've really developed."

The increase in play for these girls has truly been a benefit. Many made the transition from relaxed golfers to serious competitors. Taylor Gillespie has seen an increase in her quality of play this season.

"I've really elevated my game from the countless hours of practice," Taylor said. "I just can't wait to play other schools so that I can get the full experience of competitive golf."

The biggest thing to watch for this year's girls' golf team is the progression. Many of these girls have potential, but now it is just a matter of seeing if they can use it.

Coach Callaro has been impressed.

"It's always tough to have some of these girls just start competitive play when they've played for fun their whole lives," he said. "I see a positive attitude in the girls and know that they all are capable of success. They have the skills; it's up to them now."



The Girls' Golf Team
Courtesy of Lily Aslanian

Golfers Driving For Success

Matt Cysner

Staff Writer

The Harrison High School Boys Golf Team is not a team that is always on people's minds. However, it is improving each year and this year looks promising. The team is made up of 13 boys, 11 of which are in the high school (two are middle schoolers). The boys on the team are Michael DiTursi, Nate Berman, Matt Shaffer, Kevin Dario, Anthony Brown, Jeff Ebert, Brett Saviano, Greg VanTongerren, Kyle Martino, Andrew Clokey, JT Nangle, Jake Trotta and Phil Milana. The captains, Michael DiTursi and Nate Berman, are

the team's top two players. Both think that the team will do better this year than last. Last year the team did well; however, they did not win the league. They beat Rye twice during the season, one time by a single stroke.

This year the team expects to outperform last year's team. Although the team lost quite a few seniors to graduation, the current lineup remains strong.

"A goal of the team is to win the league, and also to beat Rye the both times that we play them," said Captain Michael DiTursi. "It

should be a very exciting season."

The season has gotten off to a rough start thus far. As of this writing, the team has lost its first two matches against Rye Country Day and John Jay. Still, the team remains optimistic, expecting to improve as the season continues. The team has practiced at Westchester Country Club and the Westchester Golf Range in Elmsford, but now the team has matches to be played.

The top three spots on the team are secured by Mike DiTursi, Nate Berman, and Matt Shaffer,

but the rest of the spots are up for grabs. The spots are dependent on how well each person plays in the match before and in practices.

"Golf is exciting because we get to compete against some of the best golfers in the area," says Junior JT Nangle, "plus we play on a lot of different courses."

The golf team has a lot of prospects and with that kind of upside, a promising season is ahead.

The Rundown On Spring Track

Ray Corona

Sports Editor

In what may be the most underrated spring sport, the spring track squad has plenty of potential to make a run for States. The bounteous talent from this group, on both the boys and girl squads, makes it quite a memorable group for Coaches Mr. and Mrs. Zanot, Coach Simon, and Coach Pellet. This group makes it mark on events such as the triple long jump, the 100-meter dash, and the 400-meter hurdles. But what most people should look out for is the boys' 4x1 relay team, featuring the elite group of seniors Zaid Al-Doori, Rob Merritt, Joe Papa with Gary Castelli and junior Jacob Seidman.

Even with all this talent, this team will still need to work hard in order to get back to their winning ways.

"It's just great that we've bonded so well throughout our years together," says Joe Papa. "I really can't complain and no matter, win or lose, I'm going to remember these guys."

On the boys' side, the track squad has been depending on its seniors to lead the way, while also getting lucky with new stars. During the winter season, the boys' 4x2 relay team came within one meet of heading to States, losing to Mount Vernon by a mere .05 seconds. Now, with an energized group that's loaded with extra motivation, the

boys' squad should be more than ready for the new season.

the 100-meter dash and the 400-meter hurdles. As for the

in the long jump, where his talents were quickly recognized by his coaches and peers. Underclassmen such as sophomore Ryo Inkyo have been impressive also in the 400-meter race.

"We really know that we're capable of great things," says Ryo Inkyo, exuding confidence. "There really is no excuse for us to fail this year."

On the girls' side, several have made their mark on what is a talented squad. Junior Nina Sarmiento has taken charge, leading with her strong performances in the 400-meter hurdles, one of the toughest events. Similar to the boys, the girls have depth. Sophomores Hannah Hochman, Erika Gunderson and Ashley DelliPaoli have

done their jobs competing in the 100- and 200-meter races, along with the 400-meter event.

"We are just so motivated with a great coach and great teammates," says Hannah, adapting well to her second year on spring track. "Although we are working hard to win, we are also having fun."

It will be exciting to see how the season turns out for this talented group. Although it seems like many of these stars are destined ultimately for States, the hard work must still continue in order to make the hype into reality.



Nina Sarmiento takes the relay from Hannah Hochman

Courtesy of Coach Zanot

"It's tough to come so close," says junior Jacob Seidman, "All we can do now is pick ourselves up and keep on running."

But the boys can have high hopes to not only make it to States, but to win it all. There's a new setup this spring: now the top two teams qualify for States, whereas former it was just the top 4x1 relay competition. Besides competing in this event, the various relay team members also compete in other events. Both Papa and Seidman compete in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, while Rob Merritt competes in

team's star Zaid Al Doori, he has competed in many of these same events, but specializes in the 400-meter, the race for which he went to States.

What truly makes this boys' squad impressive is the talent beyond these four. Ben Konigsberg was part of the 4x1 relay team in the winter, but now focuses on the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Seniors Steve Ricciardi and Gary Castelli have made their mark in other categories. Steve has been impressive in his competition for shot-put, while first year member Gary Castelli has been superb

An Interview With Zaid Al-Doori

Meghan Molloy

Staff Writer

The chances of a high school athlete getting a chance to play at the varsity level in college are very slim and those chances get even slimmer when you talk about getting a scholarship. Track and Field is one of the hardest areas in which to be awarded a scholarship from the NCAA because there is so much competition, especially amongst boys. Only a handful of scholarships are handed out per year, yet this year, Harrison High School senior Zaid Al-Doori was

one of those selected. In the fall, Zaid will be attending SUNY Binghamton on a track scholarship. The Husky Herald recently caught up with Zaid to get his feelings about Track and Field, the future, and what it takes to get a scholarship.

Husky Herald: Why is it so hard for men to get scholarships for Track and Field?

Zaid Al-Doori: Well it's very competitive and there are many track athletes that need the money to go to college. Also, colleges are not

just looking for the best athlete; they are looking for someone that will best represent their school at competitions, which is why not every great athlete can get a scholarship.

HH: What do you like about running?

ZAD: The first thing that I say is that it is very tiring, but in the end, it is all worth it because it gives me the motivation to be better and to achieve my goals of running faster times. It just feels good when I am running. Also, running is the main

reason I got accepted into college.

HH: For how long have you done track?

ZAD: I first started track and field when I was a sophomore, but ever since I was a child I was very active. Soccer was one of my favorite sports and I still play from time to time.

HH: Where do you find the strength to keep running when the workouts are hard?

ZAD: I get the motivation from knowing that in the future, it will all pay off.

(Continued on Page 35)