

# Husky Herald

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Harrison High School

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## Huskies Take Chicagoland

Emma Adler

Editor-in-Chief

The Harrison community is already kicking up a fuss over the band's upcoming journey to Hawaii, but this year's music department trip to Chicago, Illinois proved newsworthy in its own right. On April 11, over one hundred members of Harrison High School's band, chorus, orchestra and auxiliary teams boarded one of three buses, and headed to the Windy City to compete at the 2012 Chicago Heritage Festival. Following an approximately fifteen hour drive which senior trumpet player Daniel Morgen described as "just about the longest fifteen hours of my life," the students disembarked at Chicago's famed Navy Pier, where they enjoyed a couple of hours of well deserved fun. Junior flute player and chorus member Elizabeth Crozier took in a panoramic view of Chicago from atop the Navy Pier Ferris Wheel. She shared, "It was very rewarding to see the city from every angle, after we spent so much time getting there!" Following their time at the pier, the students checked into the Double Tree Hotel where they would be staying for the duration of the trip. Then, it was off to dinner at Gino's East, a renowned Chicago eatery serving up the city's culinary staple: deep dish pizza. Sophomore band member

Daniel Maldonado had this to say about Gino's: "I liked the deep dish pizza! It can't beat New York style pizza, but I'm glad I tried it." The group's final stop of the day was also their most thrilling. The

of several glass boxes that peer out over the ledge of the building. It was an unforgettable night for sophomore chorus member Kyle Lefkowitz, who shared, "Willis Tower was so amazing! We got



Students pose outside the Shedd Aquarium. *Courtesy of Nicole Barletta* students packed into elevators, and ascended 110 stories to the top floor (known as the Skydeck) of the tallest building in North America, Willis Tower. Once there, they dared to step into one

an incredible view of the whole city of Chicago! The coolest part was stepping out onto a box that was suspended from the building. It was definitely a unique experience."

The Harrison group's second day in Chicago was just as jam-packed as the one that preceded it. The students woke early, and made their way over to the Magnificent Mile: a ritzy stretch of Michigan Avenue featuring some of the best shopping the city has to offer. Following an hour or so of browsing, the group enjoyed a performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The performance, which featured the music of composer Claude Debussy, struck a chord with many of the students. Sophomore clarinet player Sarah Crozier commented, "I love classical music. It was a privilege to hear an entire program performed by a professional orchestra. I'd never listened to Debussy before, but I definitely will now!" From the symphony, the group traveled to Bolingbrook High School. Over the course of the evening, each of the music department's instrumental and auxiliary groups performed before a panel of highly qualified judges.

By the time the students piled back onto the buses, the wind ensemble, the marching band, the jazz band, the percussion ensemble, the majorettes, the color guard, and the orchestra had all had their time in the spotlight. The wind en-

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# NEWS & FEATURES

## Art students are best in show

Amy Carton

Managing Editor

The Harrison High School art students have had an exciting past few months, having their artwork displayed in public galleries and entered in county-wide competitions.

Early in February, four HHS photography students had their work displayed at the High School Invitational Small Works Exhibition at Pace University. The gallery was held at the Choate House Gallery in Pleasantville and was on display from February 6-11. There were 28 high schools from across Westchester County represented in the gallery, with over 130 pieces ranging from drawings and paintings to digital and chemical photography, as well as mixed media. Sophomores Michelle De Leo and Alessia Solimeo and juniors Erik Johansen and Amy Carton had photographs displayed in the gallery.

On Tuesday, March 13, the photography students, accompanied by teacher Mr. Petrillo, attended the Youth Media Art Show at Westchester Community College. The show featured the work of various HHS photog-

raphy students, as well as that of high school art students across Westchester County. In addition to digital photography, the show also featured student work in chemical photography, com-

puter arts, film and video. Prior to attending the show, students were invited to submit their pictures to the show's general display, and were also given the opportunity to submit their photos to be considered and judged for an exemplary award.

Awards were distributed to the students at the event, and the winning artworks were shown in a video reel to those in attendance. Seven Harrison students were selected for exemplary awards, bringing home a total of 15 awards. Junior Erik Johansen walked away from the event winning four exemplary awards, and sophomore

Office.

In addition to the Youth Media Art Show, various HHS students also had their work displayed at the Municipal Building of the Harrison Public Library in honor of Youth Art Month. Youth Art Month, now in its thirty-second year, was sponsored and hosted by the Harrison Council for the Arts, and open to the public from March 4-30. In addition to displaying the artistic talents of HHS students, the exhibit also featured the unique artwork of art students throughout the district, from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Students, families, and community members were invited to attend

an opening reception on March 4, which featured the students' display of artwork, as well as refreshments and entertainment.

The Harrison community is proud to have such a wonderful arts program at Harrison High School, and is extremely impressed with the fantastic work produced by its students. Be sure to keep an eye out for future recognition of these students' ongoing incredible work.



*Environmental Self-Potrait 'Summer Camp,' by Amy Carton.*

*Courtesy of Amy Carton*



# GSA speaker shares his story

Sara Purinton

Staff Writer

In 1968, Jim Arnoff graduated from Harrison High. He was class president, editor of the school paper, captain of the soccer team, and at the time, unaware that he was gay. He explained that, when he was young, the possibility of being gay was not one that crossed his mind. It wasn't until he had gotten married (he now is happily divorced), had become a lawyer, and had a daughter that he realized it.

Harrison High School's GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) was happy to invite Mr. Arnoff back to our school to talk about his time at Harrison and his experience of coming out to himself and to those around him. On March 21, the health room filled up with interested students and staff, looking to learn more about the message Jim Arnoff had to give. Through pictures of his life, many of which reflected his time at Harrison, Arnoff gave listeners a window into Harrison High School 40 years earlier.

His message was a strong one, and one that was received well. He showed students at Harrison that being gay could be a part of who you are, but that it

doesn't necessarily define you. He showed students that being gay didn't mean that his life was radically different. It was refreshing for many students to see that Jim Arnoff was just an ordinary guy - one who happened to be gay.

His story of discovering that he was gay is an interesting one, because he didn't come out to himself until his 30s. Before that, he had just thought he had a lot of 'boy-crushes.' When he talked of his years at Harrison, he explained that, despite being involved in so many extracurricular activities, he was very lonely. Questions like, "Where did you draw support from while you were coming out?" and, "Was there anyone who took the news negatively?" kept the conversation lively and moving.

Arnoff explained that he attended group sessions for gay men in straight marriages, and that this support group helped him to finally come out to his wife

and family. Jim said that his wife was not surprised when he did come out, and that she took the news well.

Now Jim Arnoff is committed to sharing his story by volunteering as a peer counselor of Identity House for the Gay, Lesbian and Transgender and Bisexual Community, and is talking to high school students the way he did here at Har-

rison. Arnoff sees the difficulty faced by high school students who are trying to come out, and he hopes that, through his efforts, he can help make the world a more accepting place, so that fewer students have to try to hide their sexual orientation.

Even though he wasn't ashamed of being gay, he says he just didn't know it. By sharing his story, he is helping to break down barriers to being silent about being gay. When asked if there was anything that

he wished Harrison had done to make it more open to gay students, he said that he wished there had just been more consciousness of the possibility of differences in sexual orientation. For example, today in health class at Harrison, teachers don't assume that all students are heterosexual. Even though this might not have made a difference for Arnoff in high school, since he says that he was unaware he was gay, it might have been different if this awareness was present. Perhaps Arnoff was not aware because, at the time, admitting to homosexuality was considered deeply aberrant behavior.

This need for acceptance is what led to the national "Day of Silence," observed at Harrison High in April. On this day, students take a vow of silence to bring attention to those students who have been bullied or harassed into silence about their sexual orientation. This is a day for people to reflect on how they treat others, and to think about how they can try to help make the world become more accepting of peoples' differences.



Jim Arnoff. Courtesy of nywift.org

## *Come si dice, "Congrats?"*

Amy Carton

Managing Editor

On Tuesday April 17, Harrison High School students were recognized for their outstanding performance in the foreign languages. Parents and community members were invited to attend the 2012 induction into the Foreign Language National Honor Society. Several students given double recognition were inducted into the Honor Society for two languages other than English. The night featured senior speeches, musical performances, and the night's main focus: the students' induction into the Honor Society and the distribution of their certificates.

The evening began with the students entering the auditorium and walking onto the stage. This noble procession

was accompanied by a piano selection played by senior Cayla Pettinato. Once the inductees



Students await their certificates.

Courtesy of Harrison Central School District  
took their seats on stage, foreign language supervisor Mr. Gallivan welcomed the audience to the event, and Dr. Ruck shared his brief thoughts and congratulations. The evening continued with senior speeches.

One senior representative of each language reflected on his or her experience in the foreign language program. Speeches were given by Maddie Pollack for French, Cayla Pettinato for Italian, Marwan Bishtawi for Latin, and Adriana Nocco for Spanish.

Following the speeches came a musical interlude during which seniors Maddie Pollack and Marwan Bishtawi entranced the audience with cultural song selections. Maddie sang a French song entitled "Youkali." Marwan sang two songs, one in Latin and one in German. He was ac-

companied on the piano by his own personal maestro, his voice teacher from outside of school. Both Maddie and Marwan's performances received rave reviews from the audience, which erupted in applause. Next came the distribution of the awards. Awards were given out by language, and each name was announced by a teacher of that particular language. Upon hearing their names called, students walked across stage, shook hands with Dr. Ruck and Mr. Gallivan, smiled for their families in the audience, and returned to their seats. The evening concluded with a brief reception outside of the HPAC which included cultural refreshments and desserts.

# Going Jamón in Espana!

Amy Carton

Managing Editor

Over Spring Break, 30 Harrison High School students, accompanied by Spanish teachers Senora Garcia and Senora Surace, traveled to Spain for an experience of a lifetime. The tour was organized through travel company EF Tours, and the group visited six cities over the course of eight days.

Upon arriving in the country's capital, Madrid, the students met their 24/7 personal tour

guide, Laia, and began their journey. Having this native Spanish resident made adjusting to the Spanish culture easier.

"I definitely had culture shock at first," said junior Peri Mendelsohn, talking about the arrival in Madrid. "I was thrown off by the time difference and didn't know what to expect with the food, but eventually I became more comfortable and adventurous."

The journey continued right from the airport as the group boarded the bus, dropped their bags at the first of four hotels, and embarked on a scenic tour of the country's capital.

"My favorite part was having free time in Madrid because it was just like New York City, where there are many stores and fun things to do," said sophomore Sarah Mazza. "Also in Madrid there were these funny statues that would come to life if you gave them money."

While in Madrid, the students visited historic landmarks, including: the Prado Museum, Plaza Mayor (the city center), and the King and Queen's palace. The group then stopped at *Museo De Jamon*, where many were exposed to traditional Spanish foods for the first time. This

reporter and many other students on the trip were surprised by the extreme amounts of ham served in each meal, and were thus ap-

memorabilia.

Next the group traveled to Granada, and while en route, stopped to see Don Quixote's

famous windmills. Students got off the bus, walked around the historic windmills situated on a hill, posed for pictures, and resumed their travel to Granada.

Once in Granada, the students toured the Alhambra

fortress, taking in the breathtaking Moorish architecture and beautiful gardens. Of all the cities and landmarks visited throughout the trip, the tour of the Alhambra definitely stood out for the students and teachers, especially Senora Garcia.

From Granada, the group traveled south to Seville, but the day did not end there. Upon arriving mid-afternoon in Seville, the group washed up at the hotel, dressed in their most glamorous and sophisticated clothing, and headed to an authentic Flamenco show. The students, seated in the first and second rows of the theater, were captivated by the array of colors embedded within the traditional flamenco garments, and were left speechless by the intense passion exuded from each performing dancer.

The group's next stop was Torremolinos, better known as Costa Del Sol, where they remained until the end of the trip. Their stay began with a day trip to Morocco, where students were exposed to African and Muslim cultures.

"It was interesting to see the differences between the African, European, and American cultures and how they come together in one community," shared junior Jake Lerner.

On the final day in Torremolinos, the students were given a free day to explore the city, relax on the beach, and do some last minute gift shopping for mom and dad.

Overall, the trip was an incredible experience for the students and teachers, and provided amazing exposure to the Spanish culture and language.

"I thought the trip was so much fun!" shared Sarah Mazza. "It was an amazing experience to get to travel to Europe with my friends and get to meet new people from school that I hadn't known before the trip."



All together, in front a bull ring.

Courtesy of Amy Carton

prehensive to explore new foods.

"The food was definitely the hardest to get used to," noted junior Sarah Berman. "There was a lot of ham."

As the trip went on, however, and the students became more acclimated to life in Spain, they began expanding their palates and exploring foreign delicacies.

Following the two-day stay in Madrid, the group traveled to Toledo where they visited the Church of Santo Tome, an ancient synagogue, and the old religious quarters of Toledo. Another memorable experience in Toledo was an exciting visit to a traditional sword factory, where the students watched

a sword-making demonstration and were then given the opportunity to buy swords and other handicrafts from the factory's gift shop. Junior Chris Morris particularly enjoyed this visit, and left the factory with assorted



Learning the Flamenco!

Courtesy of Amy Carton

"There are no words to describe the beauty and all that this place represents: not only for Spain but for the history of various countries and cultures. Absolutely no words. Truly incredible," she said.



# REEF has high hopes for Rocket

Angela Troia

Arts Editor

Harrison's Rescuing Earth's Environmental Future (REEF) Club is looking beyond just adding recycling bins to the school hallway. It is currently working to bring an innovative composting rocket to the high school.

The Rocket, a composter that recycles vast quantities of food waste, may be the answer to how Harrison can reduce its large carbon footprint. The composter uses nature's own processes and some of its own clever technology to turn waste into lovely compost in a mere two weeks. Its ability to transform waste into usable fertilizer makes it seem an investment worth making; however, a high price may be standing between the high school and its purchase of the Rocket.

The REEF Club first found out about the Rocket when they were researching ways to make the school more sustainable.

"We really want to make an environmental impact that would be long lasting. The Rocket isn't just a quick fix, it's a piece of technology that can be used

well into the future and holds the potential to educate the entire student body on environmental awareness," says REEF Club President and senior Melissa Goldberg.

Unlike other composters, the Rocket holds the ability to consume meat, protein, and other food waste, as well as transform waste into viable compost in only 14 days. Typically, composters are limited to recycling vegetable trimmings, fruit, grass clippings, and other earthy materials, and can take months to turn these into compost. The Rocket's wide range of consumption and short conversion period makes it stand out from the other contenders in the world of composting.

"When I first heard about the Rocket, I assumed it was a typical composter that only takes in natural and earthy materials," says REEF Vice President, junior Daniella Castillo. "Such a run-of-the-mill composter wouldn't really work in our environment because it would be too difficult to separate the different types of food products. The Rocket's ability to



*Courtesy of news.pcc.edu*  
take in such a wide variety of materials makes it easy to use and a perfect fit for our environment."

If Harrison were to purchase the Rocket, we would become one of the first public schools in the nation to use it. Last April, Chatham High School in New Jersey became one of only six schools in America to have invested in the Rocket. According to the area's local paper, *The Chatham Patch*, the district is saving about \$4,000 to \$6,000 in mulching and landscape fees as a result of the composter's presence. The Rocket has also taken center stage for the school's environmental studies and has become a focal point for several environmental organizations within the community. Such positive feedback regarding the Rocket has brought high hopes to the REEF Club, as they present

their proposal to the school board and search for grants.

"We are well aware that the Rocket is a hefty investment, especially for a public school," says Melissa Goldberg. "However, we are hoping that the school board doesn't just fixate on the price of the composter, but rather on whether or not the end justifies the means. We really want to focus on the overwhelming number of benefits the school will receive from purchasing the Rocket."

This is not the first time the REEF club has tried to bring a green change to Harrison. Over the past three years, the organization has transformed the courtyard through a beautification project and created an Earth Period in which the entire school occasionally agrees to turn off energy sources for a designated period. To say the least, REEF Club has made Harrison a much greener environment. But whether the Harrison Educational Foundation will support this new endeavor is still pending, as the club currently works hard to refine its grant proposal.

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## APES trip receives mixed reviews

Danny Glass

Opinions Editor

On March 5, the students in Mrs. Cain's AP Environmental Science class went on a field trip to the Water Treatment Facility in Stamford, Connecticut. This field trip was designed to enhance the students' understanding of how water is treated, and filtered enough to comply with the Clean Water Act, and other federal and state regulations. This field trip also provided students with opportunities to interact with professional chemists, biologists, and others employed in science.

The trip began when the students were let off the buses near the center of the facility. Every single student was hit almost instantaneously with the most vicious and disturbing scent known to man. According to students it was a mixture of feces, spoiled food, dying animal carcasses, and pure sewage. In caused kids

to gag, cover their faces; breathe only through their mouths. It was truly a sight to see (and an agony to smell).

The tour began with an informational session in an air-conditioned room that did its best to mask the center's odor. The session began with a presentation that covered the basics of water treatment (settling tanks, biological clean-up, UV ray filtering, etc). A staff member at the facility presented samples of water which showed the students what the liquid looks like after going through each step. At first, the water appeared little clearer than sewage, but its drinkability improved as it progressed through the various steps.

After the information session the group was led on a tour of the facilities. Sites visited included the settling tank area, the

UV area, and the pellet producing machine. This machine uses the waste produced by water purification to make highly profitable mulch that is sold to a variety of companies. It also produces the worst smell in the entire facility.

Following the tour, the students were led back into the air-conditioned and (mostly) smell-free room, where they enjoyed an informational video and waste management jeopardy. This concluded the tour and the trip.

Senior Kevin Song chose not to go on the field trip. He explained, "I didn't go to the waste management facility because I felt that I already had a clear and coherent understanding of garbage. I have watched many documentaries on garbage and waste alike through my Netflix account. I don't think I would have benefited from the trip

because I would not have been able to focus, due to the facility's overwhelming stench."

One student speaking anonymously understood the merits of the trip, but was skeptical as to its necessity. The student shared, "I just don't see why we had to use a full day on the trip. I would have preferred to learn about the waste management system in a classroom environment." The student went on to say that the trip may have been more worthwhile if it hadn't fallen during a week when so much work was being handed out in different classes.

But regardless of students' personal opinions about the trip, this reporter cannot deny that the waste management facility is a vital part of the community which should be better understood.

# HHS Band to march in Hawaii

Alexandra Sanchez

Staff Writer

The Harrison High School Marching Band will travel five time zones and nearly 5,000 miles next December to represent New York State at the Pearl Harbor Memorial parade in Honolulu, Hawaii on December 7, 2012.

Although the band has never before been invited to Hawaii, the group has traveled numerous times to places like Disney World, San Francisco, and (this year) Chicago. These trips typically include a judged performance or a competition, educational outings, and a college visit. When they are not jetting off to far flung locations, the band represents the school at parades and ceremonies.

This will be the first time that a New York school participates in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade. The parades committee first noticed Harrison after the band was recognized in two articles in the National Association for Musical Education. The articles described the growth and success of the band program.

Freshman Catherine Rocchi had this to say about the upcoming trip that she will take with more than 100 other band members, color guards and majorettes: "This is such a meaningful thing to be a part of. I can't wait to represent New York State. It makes you feel very important. Something as big as that makes everything else seem like a little rehearsal."

The one-mile parade route will take the band, majorettes and color guard along the coastline of Hawaii to the Waikiki Shell for an evening concert. The Harrison High School band is one among 15 top high school marching bands that have been selected to participate in the parade, which commemorates those who were lost during the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, and honors all United States war veterans. The 2012 parade will be especially significant, as it will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the USS Arizona memorial, which was dedicated in 1962 in honor of the

ship destroyed during the Pearl Harbor attack. The band will depart from New York on December 2, and return on December 9.

Charles Briem, the band's co-director, said of the trip, "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to do this. The weeklong field trip will include visits to numerous historical sites, and Hawaii University." Briem went on to state that he hopes to set up a meeting between the Harrison students, and World War II veterans who attend the parade. He finished, sharing, "This is an opportunity many of our students will never have: to see this fiftieth state."

The Harrison Board of Education approved the trip, which will be paid for through donations, and fundraisers organized in the months leading up to the trip. To cover some of the costs of this expensive trip, band members plan to raise between \$75,000 and \$100,000 through a variety of events. The first of these have already occurred. On March 27, the band hosted a "Field of Honor"

event where donors sponsored flags to be placed on the lawn of the High School.

The director of the Harrison High School band, Dr. Fred Pasqua, is thrilled that the band has been asked to take part in the parade. He is even more excited by the prospect of his students meeting the heroes involved in Pearl Harbor and World War II.

"They're fortunate at their young age that they'll be able to see them," shared Pasqua. "They'll get a feel for history that they can't get through books."

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs estimates that by 2021, there will only be about 158,000 World War II veterans still alive. Over 16 million men and women served in the U.S. Armed forces during World War II. The opportunity to meet some of these veterans will make the trip that much more special.

This reporter wishes the band the best of luck next year. We know you will make state of New York, incredibly proud!

## Pasqua receives prestigious honor

Sarah Camillone

Staff Writer

Dr. Pasqua, the director of the Harrison High School Band, is the 2012 recipient of *Take Note: The Berklee Award for Innovative Teaching!* According to the Harrison High School PTA, this award is designed to "take note of music educators who have contributed to the advancement of music education and inspired their students to reach for their dreams. The recipient represents the highest standards of teaching and brings distinction to his institution." Dr. Pasqua was first identified as a contender from a pool of many other teachers. He was then selected as the winner of the award by a panel of experts at Berklee College of Music. The panel cited Dr. Pasqua's "demonstrated excellence, commitment, and innovation in the teaching and development of contemporary music education at Harrison High School" as reasons behind their choice.

Over the past few years,

the Harrison High School band has had many notable achievements and has participated in a variety of events and parades. These events include marching down Main Street in Disney World, and participating in Stamford's annual Balloon Parade. This March, the band participated in New York City's famous St. Patrick's Day Parade. In April, they competed in the Chicago Heritage Festival.

Those uninformed with the Harrison band may assume that "band season" ends once the football season does. In fact, the band remains active all the way from band camp in August, to graduation in June. The band meets during ninth period and students attend weekly music labs where they refine their skills.

Dr. Pasqua is a very important part of the band. The amount of preparation that goes into organizing band events is far greater than one might think. His

Courtesy of Gary Morgen Photography



Pasqua conducts the band. hard work throughout the years is evident to all who know him, particularly his students.

"Dr. Pasqua is very enthusiastic," said freshman Catherine Rocchi. "You can tell that he is really invested in the band."

This year, the band chose, "Bewitched" as the theme for their stadium show. The show includes music from "West Side Story," "Wicked," and "The Wiz." During band camp in August, the band began learning the show, memorizing notes and learning formations. Of course, Dr. Pasqua played a huge role in instructing the students. A lot

of work had to be done before football season, and many thanks are due to Dr. Pasqua.

But perhaps Dr. Pasqua's greatest accomplishment is creating an environment that is exceptionally welcoming. For many students feeling unsure about where they fit into the high school, band has been the perfect medium for meeting friends and getting involved.

Freshman Alexis Shannon shared, "When I walk into band class, it's like walking into a family. I feel comfortable with my band 'brothers and sisters.' My experience in band has been amazing and inspirational."

Without question, Dr. Pasqua is truly deserving of the *Take Note* award. One hopes that the whole band will achieve an equal level of recognition with successes in Chicago and beyond!



# Wins galore in the Windy City!

(Continued from Front Page)

semble's program included "Belle of Chicago," "George Washington Bridge," and "Dixieland Jam." The marching band marched around a track while playing "Knock on Wood." The jazz band performed three big band tunes: "No Holds Barred," "Quintessence," and "Land of Make Believe." The percussion ensemble played "Shakafunk," "Get on Your Feet," songs from "The Legend of Zelda," and various street beats. The orchestra performed "Peer Gynt Suite No. 1 Opus 46," "Transylvanian Tango," and "When the Summer Comes." The majorettes and the color guard completed routines which showcased their technical skills, and cohesiveness. Senior Jacob Seidman, who competed with the marching band, the wind ensemble, the jazz band, and the percussion ensemble, had this to say about the experience as a whole: "It was a little exhausting performing with so many groups, but I tried to do my best. My favorite part was probably playing 'George Washington Bridge' with the wind ensemble. It's a really tricky piece, with a lot of dissonance, but I think we pulled it off."

The third day of the trip began with the choral competition. From another Chicago-area high school, the chorus performed "Beautiful City," "Omnia Sol," and "For the Beauty

the auditorium by a cheering audience of instrumentalists. Junior chorus member Mikie Sakanaka gushed, "I had an amazing time singing our program for the judges. After working so hard on those songs, it felt great to perform them in competition. I like 'Omnia Sol' the best of the three – it's such a pretty melody!" Following their performance, the chorus members swapped their concert attire for street clothes, and made their way with the rest of the Harrison group to the John G. Shedd Aquarium. Billed as Chicago's number one cultural attraction, the aquarium provided the students with plenty to amuse themselves with. Senior percussionist Matt Dire shared, "My favorite part was the beluga whale exhibit." Next on the agenda was a three-hour bus tour. Guides stationed at the front of the buses

at it for hours!"

Following the tour, the students returned to their hotel rooms to freshen up before heading out to the Chicago Heritage

rewarded bronze. Such recognition was extremely rewarding for the Harrison students. For some, the awards received by their performance groups repre-



The chorus, in action!

Courtesy of Sarah Curtis

Festival awards ceremony. This was not your typical white tablecloth affair. For whatever reason, it was held at a Medieval Times.

sented the culmination of years of hard work. Senior drum major and trumpet player Rachel Oestreicher reflected, "I couldn't have asked for a better senior trip. I am so proud of every single person who contributed to our success at the Chicago Heritage Festival. I think anyone who saw us perform would agree that we are a force to be reckoned with!"

Alarm clocks sounded early the following morning. Band members, chorus members, majorettes alike zipped their duffels, wolfed down breakfast, and, Pillow Pets in hand, piled onto the buses.

Over the course of the drive (which clocked in at a whopping eighteen hours), students shared memories of their time in Chicago, and offered thanks to the parents and faculty (Dr. Pasqua, Ms. Fusco, Mr. Briem, Ms. Mackey, Coach Parise, and Coach McNamara) who made the trip possible. The anecdotes varied, but all supported a general consensus that the Chicago trip had been a resounding success. Sophomore chorus member Laura Noejovich summed it up well: "It was amazing to experience all the city of Chicago had to offer, and show off our skills as a group. We definitely gave it our all!"



The marching band prepares to compete.

Courtesy of Madison Pollack

filled the Harrison students in on the history surrounding Chicago's most famous monuments. Most students were in agreement that the highlight of the tour was viewing "Cloud Gate," an enormous sculpture located in Millennium Park. The reflective surface of "Cloud Gate" (known to locals as "The Bean") creates fascinating visual illusions. Senior drum major, flutist and chorus member Jenna

Prior to the announcement of awards, the Harrison group was treated to a jousting tournament, and a silverware-free dinner. "I don't know why the ceremony was hosted by Medieval Times," said freshman chorus member Rachel Stagg, "But I definitely enjoyed being there! The show was a little corny, but really fun." The show clocked in at approximately two hours. Then, came the moment the students had all been waiting for: the meting out of accolades. Each award announcement was preceded by the sounding of bugles. When all was said and done, the Harrison High School music department had amassed a cache of shimmering placards. The marching band, the percussion ensemble, the chorus, the majorettes, and the color guard each earned silver awards. The jazz band and the wind ensemble were

Clemens declared, "Visiting 'The Bean' was definitely my favorite part of the tour. I could've stared



All smiles at Navy Pier!

Courtesy of Sarah Curtis

of the Earth." Theirs was the only competition of the day, but the chorus students were joined in

# Cheerleading scholarship for Captain Suozzo

Nicole Golino

Staff Writer

Christie Suozzo has worked long and hard during this, her senior year, not only on her schoolwork, but also on co-running a very successful cheerleading team. Of course there were some challenges along the way, but she managed to overcome them with a smile. Not only has she made it into what she refers to as her 'dream school,' the Fashion Institute of Technology (F.I.T.), but she has been awarded a \$2,000 Cheer Scholarship from the Liberty Team Association.

The process of acquiring the scholarship some might say was a little nerve-racking, but Christie worked hard for a long time, making herself a very eligible candidate. After all, she had devoted four years of her life to eating, sleeping, and breathing cheer, so she was a perfect applicant for this type of scholarship. She first had to sign up and send in a short essay to the Liberty Team board granting the scholarship. If they liked this, then later she would appear in front of a large group of people, who would consequently decide if she was eligible, and how much money they were willing

to grant her.

After weeks went by, Christie received the desired call and was informed that she had indeed



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

won a scholarship from the Liberty Team to be applied toward any college she chose to attend. Although she now knew she won, she remained unsure as to the amount of the scholarship. The awards given ranged from \$750 to \$2,000. Christie was then invited to the annual Liberty Team dinner, where the awards were being announced.

On the night of the Liberty

dinner, many varsity cheerleaders attended, not only to support their title as a Section One large varsity champ, but also to cheer

Christie on for achieving something so wonderful. The scholarships were divided into three categories. The first category was those being awarded \$750. The second category was the people being awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. As soon as those names were finished being called, Christie was surprised and very happy. She could not believe that she was one of the two who were given a scholarship for \$2,000. She was relieved that all her hard work had really paid off. Christie's name was called for the \$2,000 scholarship and she went up, shook hands with many

of the ladies who had once been judging her, and took a picture with the rest of the hard working cheerleaders.

"This is a great achievement for Christie," says sophomore Alex DelTufo. "I always knew she had it in her to get into a great college and now that she has won an opportunity for a scholarship, I am just doubly as proud for her!"

"Christie is an all around amazing girl, and I think she is going to do great in college and have a many fun experiences," says junior Katie Fanelli. "I know they do not give scholarships out to everyone, but it is fair to say that Christie definitely deserved one after all of her hard work and effort."

"I know she has worked really hard for the scholarship," says senior Allie Fuller, "and I can't think of one person who deserves it more. Everyone is so happy for her!"

Now that Christie has strived for and achieved everything that she had wanted, she is trying to have a great time enjoying the rest of her senior year with all her friends and family.

## Seidman is "Triple Threat"

Izzy Sheck

News Editor

Harrison High School's very own Jacob Seidman has earned a well deserved spot on the list of '20 Westchester Teens to Watch' by Samantha Kantor and Katie O'Donnell. The 'Westchester Teens to Watch' feature was published in *Westchester Magazine* in March, and praised high school students from all over Westchester County for their tremendous achievements. One interesting aspect of the article is that each student was given a different title based on their specialty skills. Jacob was awarded

possibly the most prestigious title of all: "The Triple Threat." Jacob, who will be attending Harvard University in the fall, stands out for his efforts on the Varsity Track Team, and for his achievements in both music and science research. Jacob's interest in music landed him the Maestro Award for Best Jazz Soloist at the Heritage Music Festival in Atlanta. On the track, Jacob continues to work to beat his own record in pole vault. Jacob recently competed at Penn Relays against 22,000 entrants from over 60 nations around the

world. Finally, Jacob has excelled in science research, as he was accepted into the Rockefeller University Science Research program. Despite Jacob's many successes, he is known for being an incredibly modest and genuine person, who is a role model for underclassmen at school. Anyone who knows Jacob would say that his place on 'Westchester Teens to Watch' is most fitting, based on his achievements in three different fields.



Courtesy of Westchester Magazine



# Junior Class Auction proves cash cow

Amy Carton

Managing Editor

Come one, come all! On Monday, April 16, the Junior Class hosted the annual Junior Class Auction. The event took place over the course of two hours in the high school cafeteria and all profits went directly toward the Junior Class in preparation for their senior prom.

The evening was planned and run by the Junior Class Student Government, who worked for months advertising, receiving donations, purchasing decorations, and planning an entertaining night for all. The cafeteria was transformed into gallery fashion as tables covered with husky-colored decorations and silent auction prizes lined the perimeter of the room. Appetizers, desserts and refreshments were scattered throughout the middle of the cafeteria, allowing community members to walk freely and talk to friends without disturbing the determined bidders. Upon entering the event, attendees were given a brochure with descriptions of each prize, as well as an individual bid number. With each bid number distributed, the auction was underway!

First came the silent auc-

tion. During this first hour of the event, parents, students, teachers, and community members alike browsed the prize-covered tables, seeking out items of interest. When these desirable items were found, attendees wrote their bid number and their starting value on the corresponding sheet. With the writing of this two to three digit value, the competition began! While some accepted the fact that their offer had been outbid, others fought until the last minute of the silent portion of the auction. Some parents even hovered over their desired items, watching for potential threats that stood between them and their prize. As the first hour of the evening came to a close, bidders frantically scribbled their final bids in hopes of securing victory. Bid sheets were then collected and calculated, and the silent auction was over. Winners of each item were announced, and vouchers to claim prizes at evening's end were distributed.



The most anticipated part of the evening was the live auction. Live auctions are infamous for fostering cut-throat competition and placing intense pressure on bidders to increase their offers, and this year's Junior Auction did not fall short.

Led by an enthusiastic Mr. Mastrotta, the live auction began with items left over from the silent auction. Once these items were sold, Mr.

Mastrotta moved on to the big ticket items, which included priceless experiences, themed baskets, and the most sought after item: four VIP parking passes for underclassmen to park on campus for a month. The competition got heated very quickly, as parents, and even Ms. Hoover's fiancé, battled one another in an intense bidding war. There was even a phone-bidder who called in to place her bid on a particular item! As a result of Mr. Mastrotta's convincingly authoritative tone of voice and intense pressure, almost every item was sold at a higher price than its listed starting val-

ue. One by one the prizes were auctioned off, and finally four remained: the esteemed parking spots. In past years these spots had gone for hundreds of dollars, catching the eyes of many envious underclassmen. These four spots are not just any spots -- they are the parking spots of Dr. Ruck, Mr. Mastrotta, Mr. Elder and Dr. Miller, respectively. Even more enviable is the location of these spots. Situated in their own small lot, the parking spots are literally steps away from the school's entrance. Talk about special treatment and bragging rights! Congratulations to the four lucky students who now own the privilege of parking on campus for the month of May!

Overall, the auction was a huge success, bringing in over \$9,000, and helping the Junior Class in their efforts to raise money for the senior prom! Thanks to the families and faculty members that donated items to the event, as well as the custodial staff who helped decorate and set up. Lastly, thanks to Ms. Hoover, Ms. Columbus, and the HHS administration for their help and support with the auction.

## Who's got #HarrisonProblems?

Sarah Mazza

Staff Writer

Do you have Harrison Problems? Do you hate Harrison, love Harrison, or just have an opinion about your hometown? Well if you do, then you're in luck, because the latest sensation to hit Twitter is an account called @HarrisonProbs. The account, which was created by an anonymous Harrison High School student, began releasing tweets on February 8, and has been dishing them out ever since.

Unsurprisingly, it did not take long for @HarrisonProbs to become popular among Harrison High School students. The account gained many followers in a short amount of time. Retweets are frequent, as are hashtags referencing the account. And current Huskies aren't the only ones getting in on the action. Many

followers of @HarrisonProbs are people who have graduated from Harrison High School, or just live in Harrison.

The account addresses the unique issues that people who live in Harrison encounter on a daily basis. For example: "Line at the bagel store #Harrisonprobs." Issues particular to the high school are also broached. Photo editor of the *Husky Herald* Christie Suozzo (known on Twitter as @haychristaay) recently tweeted, "Wait, pickleball is a legit thing? @HarrisonProbs."

When the account first appeared, it was the talk of the school for a week straight. The only problem was, nobody knew who the account belonged to. To this day, the student behind @HarrisonProbs is a mystery.

"I assume it is a senior," said Harrison High School freshman Emily Giorgi. "The seniors have been in the school the longest and know the most about the school. They also know the most about the teachers, and know things about going out for lunch that underclassmen would not have any clue about."

"The tweets that Harrison Problems posts are actually hysterical," said freshman Emily Coash. "Whoever tweets them really speaks the truth all the time and makes people laugh. I give the creator of @HarrisonProbs major props for making the account."

"One of the main reasons why I have a Twitter is because I enjoy reading @HarrisonProbs," shared sophomore Eli Barich.

"When everyone was talking about it, I decided to get an account. I don't follow anyone else but @HarrisonProbs!"

Sophomore Breana Coash had this to say about @HarrisonProbs: "Two words. Funny and true. Every lunch period I look to see what they tweeted about!"

"Harrison Problems can literally get you out of a bad mood," exclaimed sophomore Paige Brabant. "My basketball team and I read them on the bus going to games and the person who writes the tweets really knows how to get a laugh out of someone."

As of April 25, @HarrisonProbs has amassed 437 followers. Not so much, compared to Ashton Kustcher or Taylor Swift, but far more than most accounts!

# Rajan Mehra brings civics to HHS

Peri Mendelsohn

Staff Writer

If you have a passion, it's important to spread knowledge and ideas of that passion to others. This is the case for junior Rajan Mehra, who seeks to teach younger children between the ages of 9 and 13 about the rights they have as citizens and the importance of involvement in the community. Rajan has always had a good deal of interest in politics; spreading this knowledge to others has only enhanced his understanding and value of the subject area.

Rajan started advertising his idea about a Civics Class this past September to local schools, communities, and clubs. Recently, Rajan has visited the Carver Centers in both Norwalk, Connecticut, and Port Chester, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Stamford and Mount Kisco, The Dom Bosco Center, and the Rye and

Port Chester Boy Scout troops.

When taken into a group, Rajan immerses himself among the kids and forms a group discussion where he encourages participation and tries to engage all of the students. He usually starts off the discussion with a simple question, such as, "Who can define 'Rights?'"

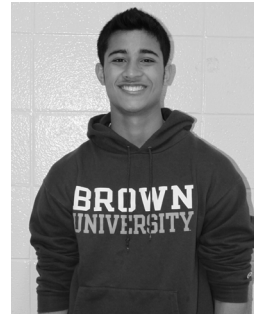
The students can openly share their opinions and ideas with Rajan and Rajan prepares material about the current governmental system. In addition, Rajan informs the students about their roles as citizens in the community, and on a larger scale, in the world. By telling kids which rights are accessible to them and how to exercise their basic liberties appropriately, he hopes to increase involvement and have a more educated voting basis because the cliché is true: kids

are the world's future.

The kids really interact well with Rajan and enjoy the workshop. Rajan recalls one student walking up to him at the end workshop, telling him that the class had really made him think about things differently. He had not previously kept up with politics or been involved in the community, but Rajan's ideas certainly reached him.

Rajan claims that the experience has made an even bigger impact upon him. He really enjoys teaching these kids about human rights because first, it helps him to connect with kids that he normally would not get the chance to interact with, and second, he is helping the future of this country by doing something he actually enjoys.

"This workshop is important to me because over the last



Civics wiz, Rajan Mehra.

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

ten years, the government has become dysfunctional," Rajan states. "This is because much of the population does not make informed choices about who they elect in office. There is apathy in the political process and by getting rid of this apathy, the kids can be aware of their rights and make the right decisions about who they're electing to lead this country."

Rather than being content to merely complain about this, Rajan's strong beliefs about political dysfunction has motivated him to create a program that allows students to engage in discussion about these riveting topics.

# Lisa Marie's serves up Italian ices

Sarah Mazza

Staff Writer

Do you love eating ice cream on a hot summer's day? What about cooling off with a refreshing Italian ice? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then you're in luck, because Harrison has a new shop in town called Lisa Marie's Ice Shop. Lisa Marie's features 20 different flavors that include traditional lemon, blue raspberry, and cherry. The shop is located at 240 Halsted Avenue, smack dab in the middle of town.

In addition to Italian ices, Lisa Marie's serves up cold beverages, candy, cupcakes, and specialty treats like cake pops. However, ices are its specialty. What sets Lisa Marie's apart from all other ice shops is its nontraditional flavors. Sure Lisa Marie's has the fruity flavors to satisfy more traditional customers, but some of their offerings are way outside of the box. Unique flavors offered at Lisa Marie's include cannoli, peanut butter and jelly, m&m, and orange cream.

"I don't know how to describe Lisa Marie's ices. I can't tell if they taste more like ice cream or Italian ice, but they are different from anything I've tasted before," said longtime downtown resident and Harrison High School freshman Emily Giorgi. "I love having Lisa Marie's in town because it's so close by, and accessible."

The owner of Lisa Marie's, Lisa Giullano (the mother of LMK Italian teacher Ms. Giullano) has always dreamed of owning her own business. Now, her dream is finally being realized. She is proud of her accomplishments, but is even more proud of the fact that hers is the only Italian ice shop in all of Westchester. She handpicked each of the twenty flavors offered in the hopes that all of her customers will leave with a smile on their face, and return for more!

Though Lisa Marie's has only been open since January of this year, the tiny shop has already won many fans. A survey

on the *Harrison Patch* voted Lisa Marie's as having the best milk shakes in Westchester County, beating out Carvel of Harrison, Longford's of Rye, and Rita's of Larchmont.

"Even though Lisa Marie's has only been around for a couple of months, I have gone with my family and friends at least seven times," said freshman Kat Ensign. "The ices are so refreshing. It's nice to know that I have something other than Carvel or Casa gelato to eat when I want something cold."

"The flavors are so cool," said downtown resident and sophomore Nicole Ferrara. "Every time I go to Lisa Marie's I like to try a new flavor because she always has new flavors available. I'm starting like it better than Carvel because it's closer to walk to and the ices are just so much better than the ice cream. I can already tell I will be spending a lot

of time there in the summer time."



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

"Even though I live in Purchase, my sisters and I will come up just to have Lisa Marie's ices," exclaimed Paige Brabant. The ices are excellent and very different from Rita's water ice and even Carvel. My favorite flavor ice is the peanut butter and jelly because it's so rich and creamy. Since I am lactose intolerant, I like that most of the ices are dairy free."

People in town seem to love Lisa Marie's, and come summer time it will become even more popular. To help attract summer crowds, Giullano plans to set up chairs and tables outside. So come on down and enjoy one of the many treats Lisa Marie's has to offer!



# Take a stand against bullying

Clarissa Karantzis

Staff Writer

Over 13 million American students will be bullied this year. This number won't change unless we start doing something about it. Bullying is a worldwide problem that has become too common, and not only is it a terrible thing that no one should have to go through, but it can cause serious harm and damage to those who have to endure it. On March 30, 2012, a movie was released aimed at bringing awareness to students, teachers, and families, and to try and make a difference.

*Bully* is a movie that follows the life of five kids who were bullied in school and had to suffer everyday from the comments and threats of other students. The five students featured are Alex Libby (age 12), a middle school student who only wants to fit in, Kelby Johnson (age 16), who has been bullied by students and teachers ever since she came out as a lesbian, and Ja'Meya Jackson (14 years old), who was bullied every day on the bus and now faces charges after she came to school with a handgun to scare off the bullies. The other two students featured, Tyler Long and Ty Smalley, committed suicide because of what they had to go through every day. The movie follows their families and what they've had to go through after losing their children.

*Bully* brings to the big screen what every parent fears for their children, what students fear could happen to them, and what no one wants to believe is true. It depicts the torture, torment, and agony that these students, along with many others, have to suffer through. The movie contains heartbreaking scenes in which these innocent kids are being punched and kicked by their tormentors, and no one does anything about it. For Alex, it all begins on the school bus.

"They punch me in the jaw, strangle me, they knock things out of my hand, take things from me, sit on me. They push me so far that I want to become the bully," he says. When talking to his mom about him being bullied, he continues, "I'm starting to think I don't feel anything anymore."

For Kelby, it's not only students that bully her, but teachers as well. She talks about how, when they call for attendance, they call "boys," "girls," and then "Kelby" separately. Six guys once hit her with a car, and she tried committing suicide three times.

Ja'Meya endures bullying on the bus as well, saying, "It feels like everybody just turned against me. Nine or ten of 'em just calling me stupid, and dumb, and they started throwing things at me." This is what pushed her so far

as to bring a handgun to school.

Kirk and Laura Smalley started an anti-bullying organization, called "Stand for the Silent," after their son committed suicide. David and Tina Long try to hold the school responsible for what happened to their son, and for doing nothing about it.

Harrison High School's "Friends of Rachel" club went to see *Bully*.

"It really opens your eyes," says sophomore Sarah Greer. "It's about five kids from five different states and what they had to endure. Two of them aren't even alive anymore, because they committed suicide. Everybody should see it."

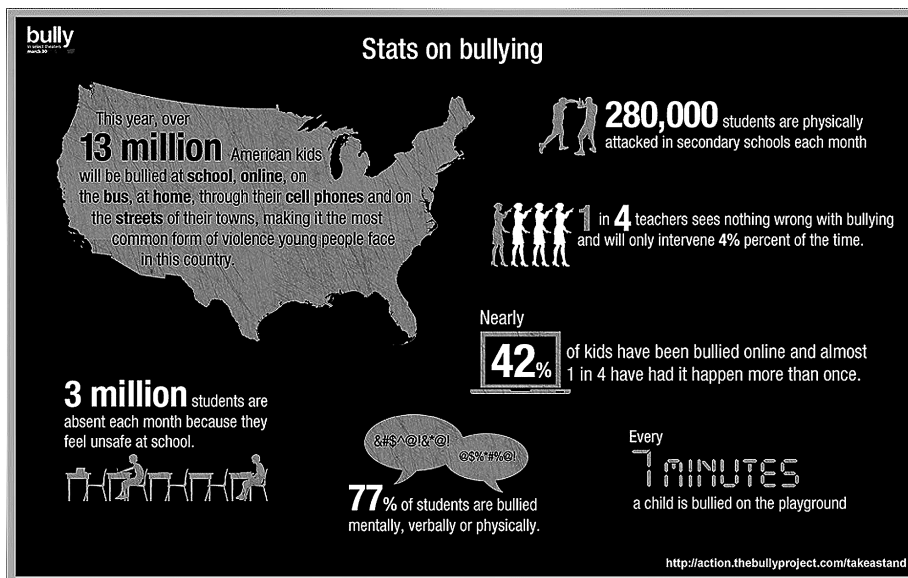
There has been much controversy over the film's rating. It was originally rated R for language, as there are frequent uses of the f-word. Unfortunately, this meant that no one under the age of 17 could watch the film without parental guidance. Teens are the target audience though, since they are the ones who go through bullying and watch it happen in school. If the movie were rated R, it wouldn't be allowed to be shown in schools. Therefore, producers tried to get the rating changed. Recently, *The Hunger Games* has also been released, and people argued that the movie had kids killing each other, yet the movie

Justin Bieber wrote "Born to Be Somebody" for *Bully* and it is the background music for the trailer. After Katy Butler, a victim of bullying, started a petition on Change.org, the MPAA finally changed the rating to PG-13 for "Intense thematic material, disturbing content and some strong language — all involving kids." The movie can now be seen in select theaters.

There are many different types of bullying, including verbal, social, physical, and cyberbullying. There are none of these that are worse than the others, and none less painful. Often times, students realize that one of their classmates is being bullied, but they either ignore it or don't know what to do about it. However, this is a problem that can't be ignored. The victim may act like nothing is wrong to try and avoid any conflicts or problems. The parents of Alex (in the movie) said that they had no idea of what was happening to him, because Alex would say that the kids were just "messing with him."

If you know someone is being bullied and that something is wrong, please say something about it. Don't just assume that the problem will go away on its own. Stand up for the person being bullied, because just having someone say you'll be there for them could possibly save a life. That is something that, unfortunately, Tyler and Ty didn't have.

A bully, by definition, is "a blustering, quarrelsome, overbearing person who habitually badgers and intimidates smaller or weaker people." Imagine having to go through that every day at school, knowing that it's going to happen, and that you can't avoid it. Imagine knowing that others may know, but won't stick up for you. Imagine feeling like no one is there to help you, and that you're suffering through this alone. It's a terrible and horrific thing that no one should have to endure. And that's the message this powerful movie is trying to say to its audience, that such bullying is not okay, that it needs to stop, and that only we can make this happen. It's time to take a stand against bullying forevermore.



Courtesy of The Bully Project.com

# Is Kony Bologna?

Nicole Golino

Staff Writer

Joseph Kony is the leader of a rebel group which has been responsible for countless massacres throughout Uganda, Africa. This rebel group is called the LRA, Lord's Resistance Army, and what they are doing is kidnapping thousands of children from their homes and forcing them to become part of Kony's Army. The children are forced to kill their own parents, then are made into child soldiers and sex slaves. If they do not do what they are told, their faces are mutilated. This has been happening for about two decades already and it now has become a fatal problem for Uganda, where they are unable to stop Kony on their own. It is definitely true that the people of Uganda need

outside assistance to fix this problem. The American non-profit group *Invisible Children* are behind the *Kony 2012* campaign. This organization is trying to get individuals such as the students here at Harrison High School interested in this topic so that they can make the world aware of Kony's actions and to elicit global support against him. They say the more support they get, the better chance there is that the United States Government will keep troops in Uganda, so that they can aid the Ugandan Army and eventually defeat Kony. The group trying to spread the word did so by using social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, creating a 30-minute video which included all the information above. The *Kony 2012* video received over 70 million views by people all over

the world in less than a week and word of Kony and his heinous exploits soon was all over the internet, just as the group had hoped.

"I've watched the video about ten times and each time I watch it I get emotional," says freshman Isabella Carpiello. "I just find it so sad and it makes

communication experiment," the article related.

"This must be a scam!" says junior Melanie Singer. "Kony has been around forever and, although it is a good cause to help the people in Uganda, only 30% of the money is actually going to them. It does not seem very legitimate to me. But it is a very



Courtesy of socialnomics.net

me definitely want to help all the children who are suffering in Kony's child armies."

"I have never heard of what was going on in Africa before I saw this video," says junior Anthony Spano. "I'm really happy it was made and I'm also very happy that it is spreading so quickly and now people will start doing something about it."

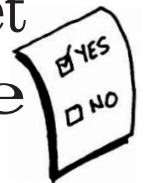
Although very inspirational, this video has received a lot of criticism. Some who have researched the topic more extensively claim the video exhibits poor judgment. In an article on CNN entitled "Why Kony Created the Wrong Buzz," TMS Ruge points out that this was more about publicity and less about action, giving out the wrong message to today's youngsters. "This is just too bad because this campaign has the makings of what could have been a truly transformational development

nice presentation and idea and the first time I watched it, I definitely wanted to be a part of it. That is, until I learned about the problems with it."

"To be honest, I don't really know a lot about it other than what I have heard people say," says senior Charlie Drago. "I've heard many positive comments, but ones that I keep hearing are about it not being true. They say that there is an actual Kony and he is basically destroying Uganda. But I heard the whole set up to help just turned out to be a scam, which is unfortunate."

That is what made Jason Russell, co-founder of non-profit *Invisible Children* and director of the *Kony 2012* viral video campaign, create and release a follow-up video to answer all the critics. The criticism consisting of not using money wisely was addressed and he said that they were not a charity in the traditional ways; they had different ways to get what they wanted done. That is what he also said in an interview for Piers Morgan. Jason Russell and his non-profit group behind the *Kony 2012* video are still working hard and are making controversial but positive strides for the children and the people of Uganda.

## Budget Vote



Peri Mendelsohn

Staff Writer

With May 15 quickly approaching, it is time to think about whether or not to approve the school's budget for the 2012-2013 year. If you are 18 years old or over, you can get out and vote. If you're not, it is a good time to start thinking about these issues. You will be able to vote in the very near future! For those who aren't quite sure what this budget actually entails, here is some basic information to guide your decision:

The school district's goal is to give the students of Harrison an excellent education while limiting the burden on taxpayers. Due to the bad economy, this is not an easy task. The budget, which is the district's annual spending plan, will increase by 1.07% from last year's budget. This is actually not a very big increase if you consider how many expenses the school district has. The school's budget funds all of the amazing programs our school has to offer such as the elementary school foreign language programs, orchestra, dance and music classes, sports teams, and many extra-curricular activities. This budget will keep all of these great programs in our district intact. The Board of Education has worked tirelessly to keep all of the programs in spite of the fact that it costs more to run a school than ever before. It has become increasingly difficult to keep all of the phenomenal programs in the district because of rapidly rising costs and New York State's unwillingness to help public schools financially. All public schools, including Harrison, are searching for ways to develop an appropriate spending plan without asking too much from taxpayers. Voting YES means that you support the school's budget so that we can keep the great programs we currently have in our schools. Last week, the School Board unanimously voted in favor of this new budget. Now it is up to you—the community!

If you're 18 and over, go out to vote at your local elementary school from 7am to 9 pm on May 15. If you're not 18, get ready to cast your vote soon! Remember—every vote counts! For more information on the school's budget, please go to [harrisoncsd.org](http://harrisoncsd.org).



# Vassar College bungles admissions

Melanie Singer

Staff Writer

Getting into college senior year is top priority. The planning begins junior year and goes all the way into senior year. Once acceptance into some college has occurred, it becomes a huge relief that the worrying and stress are over. More and more students are taking the smart way out, applying to their top choice early decision. This enables them to find out if they got into their chosen school before the New Year.

But imagine getting accepted into your dream college and then weeks later receiving an apology letter that states how, instead of getting accepted, you actually got rejected. Many students who applied to Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY, experienced this tragic mishap. Out of all who applied, 76 students were affected by this mistake.

According to *The New York Times*, these students received an e-mail that stated their acceptance and then, hours later, received a letter that there had been an error. Luckily, the school did catch their mistake by Friday evening, hoping to inform students that didn't get in to make sure they did not withdraw applica-



Vassar College. *Courtesy of Vassar* tions submitted to other colleges to which they had applied. After all, most who get into their top choice for college withdraw other applications soon after. Several issues likely arose from this mishap: 76 students were under the false impression that they had gotten into Vassar College.

The president of Vassar College apologized for the "considerable confusion and hurt" caused by the "terribly upsetting event." Due to this mistake, the college would reimburse the students' \$65 application fee.

"I would sue the college if it was my top choice and fight against them until I got accepted," said senior Matt Weinreb. Senior year is stressful enough; finding out your acceptance was a mistake could only make things harder.

Some parents of these affected children even called on Vassar to accept the rest of the

students anyway, considering how early decision applications are binding. They felt that the school should be held to its initial answer, even if there was a mistake made in the acceptances.

Some families brought up the point that this taking away of the school's initial answer due to an error might be grounds for legal action. Still, accepting all the students who were rejected could mess up the whole application process for Vassar. After all, there are only a certain number of freshman slots available, with a certain number accepted for early decision, regular decision, and so on. The process wouldn't be fair to other students applying to the school.

"I would probably be devastated if that ever happened to me," said senior Faryn Brown. "I would think that the school should accept me after messing up the acceptances."

Considering how devastating such news could be (the elation of desired acceptance followed by the disappointment of ultimate rejection), Vassar College seemed to handle the situation quite well.

If the students did in fact withdraw their applications from elsewhere, Vassar offered to contact those schools to right the situation. A student from Somers High School who was affected by this issue stated that, after speaking to an administrator from Vassar College, he felt somewhat consoled.

Apart from the 76 who were mistakenly accepted, only 46 other students who applied early decision were correctly accepted into Vassar College's incoming freshman class.

This kind of mistake has occurred before. In 2009, the University of California, San Diego, sent out acceptance e-mails to all of 46,000 students who had applied, including the 28,000 who had not gotten in. Other colleges such as New York University, George Washington University and Northwestern University all mistakenly have sent out acceptance letters or e-mails to students who in fact did not get in. One can only hope that colleges take more care in correctly communicating the acceptances and rejections sent out.

## Mike & Ike file for divorce

Olivia Manley

Staff Writer

Many businesses are struggling in today's declining economy, especially those that have been around for years. Mike and Ike is an example of these struggling businesses, as its popularity has declined rapidly in recent years. In response to the lack of consumption, the Mike and Ike Company has undergone a major facelift. According to huffingtonpost.com, ad agency Elevator Group chose a progressive tactic to attract young consumers back toward the candy. This idea was the "gay divorce." In launching its new campaign, the Mike and Ike candy company is hoping that their candy will regain its lost popularity.

The campaign focuses on the divorce of Mike and Ike, providing reasons for the monu-

mental split. The divorce will allow Mike to focus on his passion for music, and Ike to explore his interest in art. Senior Jenna Webb stated, "I love Mike and Ike candy and I think this idea will be great to get people interested in it again!" This new separation will lead to a new packaging design of the candy as well. According to *The New York Times*, the packaging will have logos with either "Mike" or "Ike" faded from the label. This ad will be on billboards beginning in July, and will be featured in an animated ad in Times Square, New York City. "I think that the new packaging will definitely draw people's attention and will lead to people loving the candy again," shared junior Casey Rinker.

Both Mike and Ike have

shared their sides of the story online. On April 10, Ike posted to his Tumblr, "I know it's hard to believe, but yes – Mike and I split. It is what it is. We just couldn't agree on stuff anymore. Some call it creative differences? Whatever. The guy is awesome, if you don't count that he's colorblind. Lime is green dude! Cherry is red, not purple. Get it? Go write some songs since that seems to be where your focus is right now."

Mike also commented on the breakup, posting on his social network site, "Heard about Ike and me splitting up? Yeah, it's true. We just don't agree on the candy. My red, his red, my lime, his lime, my box ideas, his box ideas. So over it. Instead of all this hassle, now I'm just gonna jam. Been laying down heat with



*Courtesy of justborn.com* my friend Blaze. Planning to hit all the music capitals in the next few months. No sitting at home solo playing Words With Friends (that's something Ike would do)."

The Mike and Ike faculty have mixed feelings about the split, according to the YouTube video. Greg from productions is excited about the split, stating, "I think it's great. I think they should go pursue their dreams."

This split idea is very surprising. Even those who love Mike and Ike candy realize that the excitement of the candy has died down. Though the divorce is upsetting, it should renew people's enthusiasm for the candy.

# Thinking outside the bottle

Melanie Singer

Staff Writer

Many companies today have been making an effort to think up less costly, more consumer-friendly products with which to boost sales. H.J. Heinz Corporation for Ketchup is at the forefront of this movement, and has created a new item which will be debuting on supermarket shelves shortly. The company is thinking outside the bottle and can, with condiments contained in pouches.

It's not the first time Heinz has attempted to push the envelope. In past years, the company has experimented with brightly-colored ketchups. "Heinz EZ Squirt Blazin' Green" captured the imaginations of kid-consumers with its funky hue and narrow squeeze cap. Sadly, adults were less enchanted. "Blazin' Green" was pulled, and families went back to buying the original red ketchup.

This time, the company has jumped on the bandwagon with many notable corporations by beginning production on condiment pouches. Lessened packing manufacturing costs and improved aesthetics are driving the pouch trend. According to John Kalkowski, editorial director of *Packing Digest*, "Manufacturers can cut packaging costs 10% to 15% by going to the pouch." Pouches are also less bulky, and offer greater portability.

Given that many companies are strapped for cash in the current economic environment, pouches are a great way for them to save cash while also updating their look. Pouches offer benefits to consumers as well. In the case of the Heinz, the squeezable pouch and the thinner nozzle attached to it make it easier for impatient eaters to get the ketchup out. Additionally, Heinz plans on selling the 10-ounce pouch for 99 cents, a marginally cheaper rate than the \$1.99 consumers fork over for a 20-ounce bottle.

Campbell's Soup is another company making good on the pouch trend. This summer,



Courtesy of buzzfeed.com

the company plans on launching a new line of portable pouched soups called Go Soup. Trendy flavors such as coconut curry with chicken and shiitake mushrooms will now be available on-the-go! This fall, Campbell's will follow up Go Soup with a line of pouched skillet sauces. Although officials from Campbell's have made clear that they are not (repeat, **not**) abandoning the iconic can, they recognize the need to modernize, as the company's sales have declined in volume over the last year.

Proponents of the pouch craze believe that pouches have the potential to bring travel-friendly food to a whole new level. And several Harrison High School students agree.

"These pouches seem like a really good idea," gushed junior Daniela Castillo. "They use materials that allow them to be cheaper, and also to fit more easily in people's homes. I wouldn't want everything to be in pouches, but the idea of ketchup in a larger pouch seems to be right up my alley!"

Others are less optimistic about the future of pouched food. Junior Jake Lerner had this to say: "Pouches may seem like a good idea, but I don't think in the long run they will be. They probably aren't recyclable, which is bad for our environment. I'd rather purchase the bigger containers that you can at least recycle."

Jake brings up a good point. Most food pouches are not recyclable. However, pouches have been enjoying success in Europe as well as Central and South America for upwards of five years now and, it seems, are quickly gaining traction in the United States. Whether or not they prove successful in the long run, you can expect a spate of pouches coming your way in the near future!

# The beef with pink slime

Clarissa Karantzis

Staff Writer

Barbeques are a favorite summer pastime. Family and friends come over to spend time together while, of course, eating burgers. But what exactly is inside the beef of this beloved burger? Most likely, it contains pink slime. It has been found that about 70% of ground beef found in supermarkets contains pink slime. This beef filler is being sold in restaurants and schools too.

What is this pink slime that has gotten so controversial? TV chef Jamie Oliver described it as "all of the bits that no one wants." According to *TLC Cooking*, it is made out of fat, sinew, and other ligaments connecting bones and muscles, which are cut from carcasses. These leftovers were originally fed to dogs. Sounds delicious, right? Well, it gets even better. After these remains are taken, they are sprayed with ammonium hydroxide to kill off bacteria, and then added as fillers into the beef we buy from supermarkets. Still want to eat that burger? The USDA claims that "Lean Beef Trimmings" are safe to eat, but many are skeptical.

Sophomore Alba Damaso said, "I heard about it on the news. It's nasty! My mom buys organic beef and she often grinds it herself. I don't usually get ground beef in a restaurant. Who knows what they'll give me?"

Bettina Siegel, a concerned mother and consumer, created a petition on Change.org, asking the USDA to stop the sale and distribution of pink slime in schools. Many parents are concerned about their children consuming pink slime in schools. According to *The New York Times*, the Agriculture Department will allow schools a choice of purchasing beef without the additive, starting next year. Many schools, including some NYC schools, are already discontinuing the selling of ground beef with pink slime in their school lunches. The number of people signing this petition keeps on increasing. As of March 13, 2012, over 200,000 people had signed.

In the United Kingdom,



Slime time.

Courtesy of *The New York Times* "lean finely textured beef" is banned for human consumption, and used solely for dog food and chicken feed, but in America, the USDA considers it "safe and wholesome" for human consumption. The USDA doesn't require pink slime or "lean finely textured beef" to be labeled, as they do not consider it an additive, so it is very difficult for the consumer to recognize which ground beef is free of pink slime. For those who are concerned about consuming this additive, there are stores and supermarkets that guarantee their beef without it. According to ABC News, Costco, Whole Foods, Safeway, Food Lion, Walmart, and Sam's Club promise their beef free of "lean beef trimmings." Certified Angus Beef and Nature's Promise ground beef are also slime-free.

"I feel I need to be more cautious about what I choose to get because it would be risky not to," says sophomore Brittany Wolfe. "Pink slime needs to be labeled to inform the public and prevent possible health hazards."

If you are a lover of fast-food, don't worry. McDonald's stopped using pink slime in their burgers last August. Burger King and Taco Bell are also slime-free.

Media coverage has helped get the "slime" off many shelves. AFA Foods, a major manufacturer of pink slime, has filed for bankruptcy, and blames the heavy media coverage. Many other manufacturers have stopped the production of the additive as more and more supermarkets discontinue the sale of ground beef containing pink slime. In the end, it is up to the consumer to ask what it is they are buying. Whether or not all supermarkets jump on the slime-free bandwagon, the power is ultimately in the hands of the consumer by deciding to "SAY NO TO PINK SLIME."



# Orthodox school bans Facebook

Alexandra Sanchez

Staff Writer

An all-girls Jewish Orthodox school located in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, called Beth Rivkah has been receiving a lot of negative publicity due to its recently implemented policy of fining students who have Facebook accounts. According to isrealnationalnews.com, the anti-Facebook policy was enacted after several Beth Rivkah juniors were found to have what the school deemed inappropriate content on their Facebook pages. The students were reportedly given an ultimatum: delete their Facebook accounts and pay a \$100 fine that they would receive back at the end of the year, or face expulsion.

The situation got even more serious after the administrators got word that the girls were still updating their statuses and posting pictures, and that they had indeed not deleted their accounts. Following this discovery, all 33 girls with accounts agreed to delete the profiles and pay the fine although, according to one offender, the students did not "like" complying.

The school's decision to take such drastic measures is rooted in the Orthodox code of modesty, known as Tzinius. The Beth Rivka administration has

decided that Facebook provides girls with too many opportunities for violating Tzinius.

School officials have tried to counter criticism of the ban, which became a national news story shortly after an article about it appeared on CrownHeights.info, by claiming that the policy has always been in the books. They even claim that the students signed a contract at the beginning of the year stipulating that they would not use social media, and stating the consequences that would attend violation of this policy.

Other officials have publically defended the reasoning behind the ban. "Girls are getting killed on the Internet — that's the reason for it," explained school administrator Rabbi Benzion Stock in an interview with *The New York Post*. "The Internet is a good way to ruin marriages and families. We don't want them there, period." Stock went on to claim that the internet is simply "the wrong place for a Jewish girl to be."

Stock's concerns are not wholly unfounded. The Orthodox

Jewish community in America was recently shaken up by an internet-related incident in Israel, where two girls attempted to commit suicide after being



Beth Rivkah. Courtesy of globetribune.info

insulted by classmates on a social media website, and a man was arrested for harassing these same young girls through Facebook.

The situation at Beth Rivkah has interested many Harrison High School students. Sophomore Hannah Bender had this to say about the school's ban on Facebook: "I think that it is really stupid that they don't allow the students to have Facebook accounts. Facebook is a part of our culture now, and it can be used for good things too. Some of my classes have group pages on Facebook that let us

all communicate and help each other with assignments if any of us have questions."

"I just think it is not the schools place to decide whether its students can have Facebook profiles or not," shared freshman Emily Giorgi. "It is something that should be decided between the student and their parents."

Sophomore Rula Samad commented, "The school should not be able to expel students for having a Facebook, unless the page shows them doing something else that would justify expulsion."

Young adults more closely connected with Beth Rivkah are also speaking out. Chaya Tatik, a former student of Beth Rivkah who was expelled from the school prior to the Facebook controversy, claimed that the Facebook ban is "not right." She explained how Facebook helps her to communicate with her cousins in Israel, and stated, "Everyone uses Facebook. It's a way to communicate."

Whether the students like it or not, and regardless of the potential benefits of social networking sites, Beth Rivkah is sticking by their strict rule of a zero tolerance for Facebook profiles.

## Shooting incites controversy

Ross Cowan

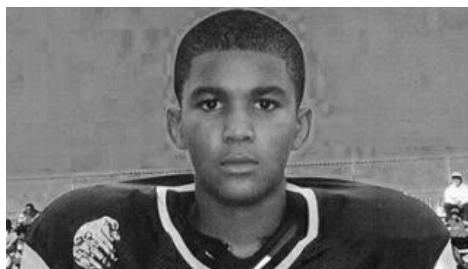
Staff Writer

On February 26, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was shot in his hometown of Sanford, Florida, while walking to his father's house. Martin was shot by twenty-eight year old George Zimmerman, who was the community's watch coordinator at the time. Martin's actions and presence were described as being suspicious by Zimmerman, who then called the Sanford Police Department. By the time the police arrived on the scene, Martin lay dead after taking a bullet to the chest. Martin had allegedly attacked Zimmerman, leaving with him a head injury and bloody nose. This attack, according to

police reports, caused Zimmerman to act out in self-defense, ultimately leading to the shooting of Martin. Despite this, the lead homicide investigator of the case suggested Zimmerman be arrested. However, the arrest did not occur the night of the shooting.

This delay in Zimmerman's arrest caught the attention of people around the country, as racist motivation came into question. Facebook groups organized protests throughout the nation to show

opposition to racism, and finally Zimmerman turned himself into custody. On April 20, his bail



Trayvon Martin. Courtesy of BET.com

was approved at \$150,000 bond. Freshman Matt Rube said that, "This case is astounding and he has to be brought to justice."

What has become perhaps the most controversial aspect of this case is Florida State's "Stand Your Ground Laws." These laws, created in 2005, state that self-defense is a valid excuse for inflicting harm on another person. Whereas in most states these self-defense laws protect people in their own homes, Florida's 'Stand Your Ground' extends this protection to include vehicles and public facilities. These laws have raised several issues and questions regarding racial profiling and gun control, and questions continue to surface as additional details are revealed.

# opinions & editorials

## No gym for varsity athletes?

Lindsey Barnett

Staff Writer

The majority of high schools in the United States have physical education programs very different from the one we have at Harrison High School. The gym program at Harrison requires all students to attend gym class every other day, all year, every year. One 45 minute period every two days may seem like a small commitment on paper, but some students believe that gym is a waste of their time.

"I really dislike gym class," shared senior Ali Paonetti. "The units do not appeal to me, and the last thing I want to do is try really hard and become sweaty for the rest of the day! I would rather workout after school, especially since I do a sport. I think it is unfair that Varsity athletes are required to take gym. I think I'd be much better off if I could take gym out of my schedule."

Many among those who would like to see gym made optional are, like Ali, student athletes. Students who partake in Varsity athletics practice for

three hours every day after school – a much longer stretch of time than your typical gym class! And it is true, allowing Varsity athletes to opt out of gym would give them more time to study, as well as pursue other interests.

"I play Varsity tennis, and I personally think it is unfair that we still have to participate in gym," said senior Rachel Hurvitz. "I work hard for my spot on the team, and I could not take another elective this year without missing my lunch. I really wanted to take some classes that relate to my prospective college major in addition to the core classes I have to take for graduation."

However, there are some students who greatly enjoy gym, and do not want the current curriculum to be changed. Gym classes at Harrison High School are not at all bad, and in addition to teaching athletes and non-athletes alike skills in a wide range of sports, provide students who do not participate in sports

Courtesy of Harrison Central School District



Harrison students at play. with a way to stay active.

Junior Ryan Gutstein had this to say about in-school physical education: "I personally love gym. It is the one time during the school day when you can just run around and have fun. You don't get yelled at for talking to your friends, and it does not matter what your GPA is or anything else. It is just a time when everyone can come together and have fun."

Senior JT Nangle also enjoys gym, but would like the current program to be tweaked just a little. He shared, "Gym is the greatest, but I wish I didn't have it first period. Waking up at 7 AM and going into school to run around early in the morning

is not exactly fun. I would rather just do extra stuff after school for 45 minutes."

Many public schools in New York State do not make students who are Varsity athletes attend gym class. They believe that the reason students take physical education is to learn the core concepts of being an athlete and working out. Varsity athletes, they maintain, are already aware of these concepts, and should not have to attend gym during their seasons.

If Harrison High adopted this system, it would not just benefit Varsity athletes, but the entire school. Currently, each gym class has about 30 students. With so many kids running around, it can get pretty crazy. Allowing on-season Varsity athletes to opt out of gym would result in smaller class sizes. The gym teachers would be better able to control their classes, and provide students with individualized instruction. In the end, it's a win-win.

## *How did you spend the two unused "snow days" that were added on to spring break?*



"I actually spent them doing homework...and unpacking from my spring break trip!"  
- Senior Alexa Nardulli



"I slept."  
- Junior Robert Waldman



"I got some much needed relaxation, and I worked out."  
- Sophomore Max Lukaswitz



"I extended my spring break vacation in Rhode Island!"  
- Freshman Michelle Aguirre



# REALITY Sheck

In "Reality Sheck," Harrison senior and frequent contributor to the Opinions & Editorials section Izzy Sheck tells it like it is. In this installment, Izzy discusses an impactful new book.



The number one thing that people want in life is happiness. In many cases, we are looking for things that will make us happy, when all we have to focus on is being content even when things aren't the way we want. *The Happiness Advantage* by Shawn Achor explains the distinct difference between being happy because you have achieved something, and being happy just because you can. Achor states that if we are constantly trying to gain happiness based on our accomplishments, we will never truly be happy. Happiness, according to Achor, is the ability to be happy without having to do anything at all.

Shawn Achor, a student and later a lecturer at Harvard University, spent much of his time researching what makes us happy. Many people believe that once they become successful, then they will be happy. Unfortunately, this formula is completely wrong, because happiness fuels happiness. In fact, we function better when we are happier. Being happy makes us much more motivated, creative, and productive.

We have been conditioned to only be happy when we have something to be happy about, like getting a good grade on a test, or getting a promotion at work. The behavioral school of psychology says that everything that we do is because we are conditioned to do so based on rewards and punishments. In our society, we are only rewarded when we succeed, and are punished when we fail. Changing our perspective on what happiness is can actually make us more content in our lives, without having to constantly over-achieve.

"The Zorro Circle" is one

theory that analyzes how to channel our efforts on small, manageable goals, to gain the leverage to gradually conquer bigger and bigger ones. This means that we don't have to achieve everything in order to feel accomplished and satisfied with ourselves. We can never be perfect, and there is a



Are you there, Izzy?

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

never-ending list of things that we can do to improve, so continuing to base our happiness on our successes will leave us in a constant state of stress and pressure, instead of positivity.

We can actually re-teach ourselves that it is possible to be happy without having success first, based on "The Tetris Effect." "The Tetris Effect" focuses on retraining our brains to spot patterns of possibility, so we can see and seize opportunities wherever we look.

Some of the easiest ways to obtain the many benefits of *The Happiness Advantage* are by meditating, finding something to look forward to, and exercising. In the book, it tells how neuroscientists have proven that people like monks, who spend much of their time meditating, "permanently

rewire the brain to raise levels of happiness, lower stress, and even improve immune functions." Finding something to look forward to can also help, because anticipation is everything. Most times, the actual event is not as good as you expect it to be, so the

anticipation is the best part. Thinking about plans that you have for the future can give you a boost of happiness in the middle of a difficult day at school or work, and can make all the difference in your productivity. Finally, exercising is even more beneficial than we think. Exercise helps us to feel motivated and

accomplished, in addition to releasing endorphins, which automatically make us feel better. Exercise, as well as meditation, allows us to feel completely focused on one aspect of our lives, which is a major part of what helps with productivity. Getting into the "zone" forces us to put all of our energy into that one activity, therefore getting the most results. Doing these things is fairly simple, but can improve our happiness and our efficiency immensely.

Breaking the formula for happiness is much easier than we think. We have the ability to change the way we think and can decide to choose *The Happiness Advantage* anytime we want. Being happy gives you a competitive edge; so the next time you feel under pressure, smile!



Courtesy of Google Images.

## Sound off!

*How do you feel about Romney's impending selection as the Republican presidential nominee? Who should he pick for his running mate? (Since they will be able to vote in the 2012 election, we decided to ask seniors and staff members their opinions.)*

"Let's not forget it's still a two-man race between Ron Paul and Romney. But, if Romney was the nominee, I'd support him and vote for him because at least he is not a Commie. I think he should choose either Allen West or Marco Rubio as his running mate. And also make Ron Paul chairman of the Federal Reserve."

- Senior Matt Shaffer

"I'm sad that a man like that has come into politics. It would be catastrophic for him to win the election."

- Senior Jose Porretti

"At least he's not Rick Santorum!"

- Senior Maddie Pollack

"I think he's a terrible choice, because he's completely out of touch with ordinary Americans. He also has foot-in-the-mouth disease."

- Staff Member Mrs. Peters

# THROUGH the LOOKING GLASS



In "Through the Looking Glass" our Opinions Editor Danny Glass discusses the world as he sees it through his exceptionally unique lens. In this installment, Danny attempts to answer an impossible question: why do people do what they do?

I like to believe that I am uninfluenced by the stimuli around me, that I remain impervious to environments and subliminal messages, but reality is far more prevalent in my psyche than I would ever admit. The common example I use to remind myself is when a person across from me sings a song that eventually gets stuck in my head. This interaction is indirect and not intended. What I find far more interesting is analyzing the stimuli that we directly observe: the themes in movies that we adopt, the messages in books. We criticize these influences that penetrate deeply. I do not believe that there is a movie or book behind everything; it just seems that true inspiration is but a fleeting message in a sea of ideas. Some argue that video games like *Doom* inspired bullying, and that the film *Natural Born Killers* inspired dozens of prolific shootings. These connections seem tenuous, unfounded by fact, vitriolic in their claims. But after watching one video and one movie, I found an example where the direct inspiration in the infamous failed assassination of Gabrielle Giffords came from a movie. Jared Loughner, her assassin, was so immersed in one film that he attempted to lash out violently to achieve its message. This account conveys how a few scenes in an indie film changed the course of history.

My report begins with a recent *60 Minutes* segment on the infamous Tucson shooting. Scott Pelley, a reporter for the CBS newsmagazine, was interviewing Jared Loughner's friends, and asking about the shooter. The friends initially described an event in which Loughner attended a public Giffords press meeting in which she attempted to answer

questions from citizens. Loughner asked the question: "What is government, if words have no meaning?"

On its face value, this question is not really suitable to answer, and its intellectual merit is debatable. Giffords responded in a way politicians, or more appropriately, average people would -- she did not answer the question. Loughner, most displeased by this event, was even more enraged when he received a form letter thanking him for attending the event. He was so upset that he wrote on the letter "Die Bitch", and "Assassination plans have been made." At this point in the interview, it seemed clear why Loughner had committed his heinous crime, but there was no insight as to his inspiration.

The interview continued and, as I slowly lost interest, one scene caught my attention. Loughner's favorite movie was one called *Waking Life*, directed by Richard Linklater. It is an indie film shot in rotoscope, meaning a sort of mix between animation and live acting. As a burgeoning cineaste, I felt a need to watch this movie. As I searched for a streaming link, I pondered two questions: first, why they would ask about his favorite film, and second, how a movie about lucid dreaming could have anything to do with the attempted assassination. The first question was answered through the interview: *Waking Life* is a strange film, dealing with metaphysical issues. It seemed to be a good way for *60 Minutes* to sum up Loughner's

psyche. The second question was answered about ten minutes into the film.

I do not know if anyone on the *60 Minutes* staff had ever watched *Waking Life*. If they had, they would have seen the direct inspiration for what became the assassination attempt. In one scene of the movie, the main

character has a philosophical discussion about the meaning of words. The discussion begins with how certain words represent tangible ideas, such as water and saber-tooth tigers. These words arose because people needed to communicate these tangible ideas. An example would be one person telling another about a water source in order to survive. The characters then begin to discuss intangible words, such as love or anger, and how these words may have completely different meanings to two different people. How can one person be sure that love to him is the same as love to another person? One of the characters then summarizes her point by suggesting that words are inert, they're dead; they mean different things to every single person, an appreciation and understanding of words shaped by events and individual memories. The character finishes her point that people survive by the shared connections two people have when they discuss something intangible, but both seem to understand what the other is talking about.

So how does that scene inspire the killing? To answer that question, one has to connect

the dots. Loughner watches the movie and hears the discussion on words. His instability and documented delusions leads him to believe that words have no meaning, as he is unable to connect to anybody. The scene right after the one previously described advocates action and speaking out against politicians. In fact, it advocates in certain scenarios for violence. Loughner's taking this movie for pure fact assumes because he cannot connect to anybody and in particular Giffords, he must then eliminate her as she cannot represent people if so isolated. But here is the kicker -- the majority of *Waking Life* is about lucid dreaming (being conscious while dreaming). This same concept is one Loughner was obsessed with, according to his friends. From these facts, I am willing to make a leap that says Loughner, who has been diagnosed as insane, still believes he is dreaming.

Inspiration is never pure: people are amalgamations of ideas, facts, and inputs. Loughner may not have understood what he did, and even when confronted with proof that Giffords survived, he remained adamant that he had finished the job. The point of this article is not to condemn violent movies or videogames, or even condemn potentially inflammatory movies or videogames. In this case, a seemingly harmless film may have been the inspiration for a systematic and horrible tragedy, but labeling Loughner as a psycho or sociopath is a cop-out. This article presents a theory about why people do certain things, and everything that happens is done for one reason or another.



Giffords. Courtesy of [huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com)



# In defense of *Invisible Children*

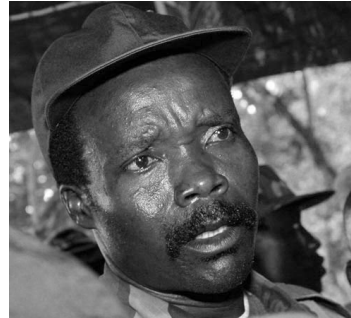
Danny Glass

Opinions Editor

This is not an article about Joseph Kony. In fact, I imagine most people are tired of hearing about him. From the Twitter trends to Time Magazine covers, Joseph Kony has been at the forefront of all sorts of media. This is an article about what is wrong with the cynicism and lack of real action from the American youth generation. It is primarily about how one group attempted to bring a problem to light and how hundreds, if not thousands

of detractors appeared from out of the woodwork to bring them down. I do believe in the right to question and criticize, but when it is concerning a man like Joseph Kony, it is not about how he is brought down, or who brings him down. All that matters is that he is held accountable.

When I first saw the Joseph Kony video, it had less than one hundred thousand views. By the time this article is printed, it may have over one hundred



Kony. Courtesy of The Guardian

million. For those of you who do not know what it is, I will quickly elaborate. *Invisible Children* and Jason Russell in particular made a video about a crisis in Uganda with regards to child soldiers. A man named Joseph Kony has for over twenty years abducted thousands of children, made them kill their parents, take drugs, and kill for his Lord's Resistance Army. The *Kony 2012* video was primarily designed to show Kony off to the world, to make him "famous" or rather "infamous." The video was intercut with scenes depicting Russell's own trips to Uganda while helping a boy named Jacob. The first day the video was out, hundreds of thousands of celebrities, regular people, and politicians tweeted, texted, and called about it. It was the biggest topic on all three of the major social networking sites: Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. I had never taken the use of Twitter in effecting the 'Arab Spring' seriously. In my mind it was hugely overblown, and there are statistics to back this up. But for once in history, it seemed one man with a camera could bring one of the world's worst people to justice, that social networking was not just a forum for cat videos and trolling.

It is hard not to be positive about a video like *Kony 2012*. It is very clear from watching it who the bad guy is and who the good guys are. Yet still, as I looked for more information on the subject and *Invisible Children*, I found some opposition, primarily from a blog aptly (if not a bit condescendingly) titled *Visible Children*. This blog points out all of the injustices *Invisible Children* has committed, from a

misallocation of funds, to pictures taken with our groups known to commit atrocities. I could make a counter-argument for each point that blog listed. I could say that *Invisible Children* does not send all of its funds straight to Africa because they are not a relief aid group. I could argue that *Invisible Children* members working with other possibly negative groups is merely a byproduct of working in Africa, as every militant group in Africa has ties to corruption and criminal activities. But this is not the right tact, because the blogger who wrote this blog is the worst type of person, he is trying to destroy a good cause because it does not perfectly measure up to his standards of action.

If you disagree with the actions of *Kony 2012* or the *Invisible Children*, it is your opinion, and millions of people have died and will die to protect that right. That does not justify you or entitle you in any way to stand on your soapbox and criticize people who are trying to save lives. When you have a man as bad as Joseph Kony it does not matter if the leader of the group trying to stop him is a publicly self-pleasuring



A child soldier in Kony's army. Courtesy of eurweb.com

lunatic. Until that blogger and every other person who tries to defame the campaign goes to Africa and makes a difference, and stops arguing from behind their computer screens, they are just as bad as the uniformed people doing nothing. In fact, they are worse, as they are actively trying to stop a good cause. So the next person who speaks poorly about *Invisible Children* or Jason Russell should take a trip to Uganda, or Chad, or Rwanda, and see how far they get.

## The Husky Herald Staff 2011 - 2012

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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.

# ARTS & entertainment

## 42nd Street lights up HPAC

Emma Adler

Editor-in-Chief

Learning to tap dance is a feat usually accomplished over the course of several years. The students participating in the Footlight Players' 2012 musical, "42nd Street," had three months. But the forty pairs of "dancing feet" which shuffled and stomped their way through the pulse-pounding opening number did so with an adeptness far outpacing their experience. Productions of musicals as beloved as "42nd Street" tend to generate high expectations. The Footlight Players rose to the occasion, putting forth an incarnation which succeeded on all fronts!

"42nd Street" tells the story of Peggy Sawyer, an aspiring starlet from Allentown, Pennsylvania, struggling to make her mark on the Great White Way. Her tale unfolds within the context of celebrated director Julian Marsh's efforts to mount "the greatest show Broadway has ever seen" – a song and dance spectacular entitled "Pretty Lady." That Peggy could carry the show is obvious. "Pretty Lady" writer Maggie tells her, "You're a looker, you can chirp like a bird, and you're pretty hot stuff in the steps department too."

But her ascension to the top is complicated by Dorothy Brock, a fading diva with an attitude and two left feet, who is tapped to star in "Pretty Lady" by the show's bankroller (and Brock's sugar daddy) Abner Dillon.

Anyone who has seen "42nd Street" will not hesitate to deem it a "dance musical." The Footlight Players' production of the show featured nine full-cast dance numbers, and several more which highlighted the skills of featured dancers. Of the full-cast numbers, "The Audition" and "42nd Street" were the most impressive. These numbers incorporated diverse elements of dance, and showcased the cohesiveness of the Footlight Players, as a group. It was clear that each cast member on stage, from the ensemble members to Peggy herself, had worked hard



Barletta leads "The Audition."

Courtesy of Gary Morgen Photography

to master what for some were extremely challenging routines. "Go into Your Dance" was the standout among the featured dancer numbers. Executed under the pretense of Peggy learning a routine from "Pretty Lady," the



The cast and crew of "42nd Street!"

number included advanced tap steps which left the audience spellbound.

The elevated quality of these dances stemmed not only from the talent of the dancers, but also from their deviating very little from the original choreography. That the Footlight Players were able to remain true to the source material was due to the efforts of

the production's director, Harrison High School dance teacher Debbie Totoda, whose careful instruction (and love for "42nd Street") enabled the cast to pull off routines they initially balked at. Chorus teacher Ms. Fusco was also integral to the success of the production. As music director, she worked with the cast to ensure that each number was vocally on point.

"42nd Street" is unques-

tionably most renowned for its choreography, but even shows of this breed must feature impressive acting and singing in order to be successful. The Harrison students who tackled lead roles in "42nd Street" ensured that no component of musical theater fell by the wayside. Senior Cayla Pettinato was stellar as Peggy Sawyer, delivering a powerful performance which left no doubt of her triple-threat status. Senior Madison Pollack was equally moving in the role of Dorothy Brock, convincingly portraying a character who is at once over-the-top and quietly calculating. The strength of Pollack's singing voice complemented Brock's resolute nature. Sophomore Chris Morris played jaded director Julian Marsh with dynamism, subtly modulating his performance as Marsh finds his love for his craft revived by Peggy's earnestness. Senior Adriana Nocco, freshman Roma Scarano, and junior Mikie Sakanaka were charming as Peggy's chorine friends, Lorraine, Phyllis, and Gladys. Sophomore Halle Mastrobardino showed off her comic chops as "Pretty Lady's" spunky lead chorus girl, Anne

(Continued on Page 26)



# Tupac Lives (Holographically)

Jamie DeRosa

Staff Writer

Courtesy of [hollywoodreporter.com](http://hollywoodreporter.com)

Many were blown away when a full hologram recreation of Tupac came out onstage at Coachella in April, 2012. The video has blown up, receiving a ton of attention on the internet, and for good reason. It's almost scary how realistic it looks. Watching Tupac jump around the stage filled with his traditional enthusiasm makes it feel as though he never left at all, especially when Snoop Dogg comes onstage and joins him and they go back and forth. Check it out on YouTube. While this is a technical achievement to be marveled at, it potentially shows us what the future of live music can become: something either very awesome or very frustrating.

Imagine seeing a full hologram recreation of the Beatles performing someday, or even bands like Nirvana and Led Zepelin, bands that can truly be back together again in a way that wouldn't be possible otherwise, due to creative differences or the deaths of group members. It's a really intriguing idea, one that

will undoubtedly be something that excites millions of fans and their wallets.

"If they can get Tupac now, they'll be able to create anyone in the future because the technology is only going to get better," says senior Stephen Stark.

While that all sounds great, there's a flip side to this too. The Tupac recreation looked real, very real. Yes, if you study it hard you can see weird little animations or hiccups, like his body movement not matching his position on the stage, but one has to realize that this is the industry's first major attempt at this, and it was an insanely almost scarily successful endeavor. Go 15 to 20 years into the future and people can figure out ways to master this. It will look real, and telling real from hologram will become a very difficult challenge. Lip synching is something that has been plaguing live music for years now. Many pop concerts especially have suffered from the main attraction, the stars, replacing their voices with recordings. At this

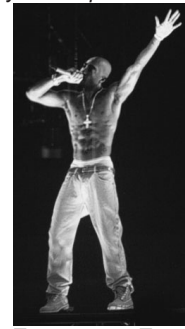
point, it isn't too farfetched to say that sometime in the near future bands and solo musicians could potentially be replaced by holograms in order to keep the bands moving and have them be in more than one place at once (and earning that additional revenue stream).

People have mixed feelings on the matter. It comes with both pros and cons.

"I think that it could be a good experience to see bands that no longer perform; however, I think the idea of replacing modern musicians with computer generated imaging is not a good one," says senior James Nitis.

Only time will tell where this tech goes, but the show hologram Tupac gave was a groundbreaking moment in the music industry, one with the potential to forever change how people experience live performances.

While people have not felt the full impact of this breakthrough, this shows that holograms have the potential to play



Tupac or not Tupac? like a receptionist.

a much larger role in the future of music and live performances. In fact, the use of holograms doesn't have to be limited to the music world. Imagine holograms as tour guides, waiters, even something

While the idea of effectively interacting with such holograms remains only in sci-fi lore for now, it fuels a world of speculation, even if it sounds like something ripped out of *Star Wars*.

There's a very big chance that if this hologram thing works out in the music industry, it will spread everywhere, implanting itself as something we come to view as normal and another part of our daily lives. While this is entirely speculation now, and none of this is concrete, it is a great sign of how the music industry is adapting technology and evolving forward. This hologram performance might just be the next big thing.

## Bieber scores big on 18th Birthday

Jamie DeRosa

Staff Writer

Justin Bieber scored with his eighteenth birthday gift. While on *Ellen*, the newly "adult" pop star was presented with a brand new, very nice (and expensive) Fisker Karma fully electric-powered sports car. While it's all fine and good for JB, the main topic of this article will be the brand new car company, which has come from seemingly out of nowhere with its unique designs and good intentions for the environment.

Fisker Karma is unique in many ways. For one, the driver can either choose to use traditional gasoline to power the car or power it solely on electricity. It's based off two different modes of driving, one being the all electric "Stealth mode, the other the fuel assisted "Sport mode." Both modes provide a low impact on the environment, something the company is using as its main

selling point.

Fisker Karma was created back in 2007 by founders Henrik Fisker and Bernhard Koehler, with the intention of giving American consumers a new environmentally friendly car option that also aesthetically pleases the eyes. The car has been receiving a lot of attention lately, with this recent Justin Bieber event providing to be just what the company needed. Having the vehicle roll out onto the *Ellen* show floor, delivered as a gift to the insanely popular pop star on the occasion of his turning 18 has provided the kind of publicity that new companies dream about. It is being talked about in news outlets everywhere.

Fisker Karma hopes to grow and to be a true contender someday with the likes of automotive industry giants like Ford and Chrysler. This is not a task

easily accomplished. If they're really serious about becoming a true contender, they're going to have to continue to pump out new vehicles and continue to push their "good for the environment" selling point. That angle has many consumers intrigued. If this works out, other car companies will likely follow in their footsteps and produce cars that are better for the environment. In a sense, there's a lot riding on the success of this still quite new company.

The road hasn't been perfect for Fisker Karma, however. On March 7, *Consumers Reports* magazine took the car out for a test drive and ended up having the car break down on them.

In fairness the company recently announced it would provide a free replacement of its high voltage electric drive battery on all 2012 Karmas. The battery supplier found a manufacturing

defect that could result in the type of snafu that *Consumer Reports* encountered.

Harrison High car expert Josh Kaidanow was happy to provide his opinion on the much-touted Fisker Karma: "I don't think they're going to survive. They're a small company and the likes of Ford and Chevy aren't making much profit at the moment right now on cars, especially electric. I do think it's a nice grand touring car when comparing it to the likes of Chevy Volt. It has the same range, but nicer materials in my opinion."

Time and consumer experiences will tell if Josh's prediction for the company will come to pass. For now, the company still is basking in the free publicity of having the world's biggest pop star receive the car on one of the biggest talk shows in the nation.

# How much YOLO is OK?

Sarah Mazza

Staff Writer

Rappers make up new catch phrases all the time, but Drake, a multi-million selling artist, came up with a catch phrase that is spreading like wild fire. "You only live once" has been popularized though the acronym "YOLO" in Drake's song "The Motto."

As stated in the Washington Post, YOLO is becoming the new "Carpe Diem" (seize the day). This catch phrase has influenced teenagers in a somewhat negative way, since it gives them the idea that they can do rebellious things. YOLO has also been sweeping the internet with Twitter pages entitled "YouOnlyLive1nce", "YOLOBoard", "YOLO-Jokes", and "WeTweetYOLO". According to UrbanDictionary.com, YOLO is a phrase used to persuade others to take risks or do something they normally wouldn't do. Overall, this phrase is giving teens an excuse to act inappropriately. They feel that their actions are justified, as long as they say YOLO at the end of each sentence.

YOLO is used in several different ways. One use is as an explanation for someone's crazy behavior. For example, one might say "I just woke up in the police station- YOLO". Other uses are for more moderate occurrences, like deciding to eat a cupcake because you only live once!

Even celebrities are endorsing YOLO, furthering the popularity of the phrase. Zac Effron actually tattooed it on his hand, showing his support for the term, and giving respect to Drake. The initial meaning of YOLO was to give people an extra push to try something new and live every day like it's their last. It was meant to remind people that life is short, and that it is dangerous to get caught up in the stresses of life. Despite the initial purpose of the phrase, YOLO has been taken too far. According to NESN.com, a young fan clothed in only a Speedo, sneakers, and white socks sprinted onto the field of the Red Sox- Blue Jays game with YOLO written across his chest. While this kind of behavior

might be entertaining, it is getting to get out of control.

"I honestly think YOLO is just another way for people to do stupid things," said sophomore Ryan Nangle. "People are taking it too far like when they do things that are dumb and say YOLO."

Isabella Shava, a reporter for statenews.com, discussed her opinions about the term YOLO.

"The idea is correct, but the saying itself is stupid. There are two mindsets you can have when you embrace YOLO: a serious one, where you spend your one life with your family or eating an extra piece of pie because it could be your last; or unreasonable one, where you think living every day like it's your last means making rash decisions which you might regret when you actually live another day," concluded Shaya.

"I think YOLO is a good thing," said freshman Emily Giorgi. "YOLO is a way to express who you are and to just be yourself. It can also be a motivator to do something that you would

never even think of doing. YOLO may be bad for some kids, but to me it is a reminder to do things I have always wanted to do now, because I might not be here tomorrow."

"YOLO got popular very quickly," said Harrison High School freshman Kat Ensign. "I was kind of surprised how it spread to everyone. To me it's annoying how people think it's okay to do risky and potentially harmful things just because "you only live once."

YOLO is leading people to believe that their decisions don't have an impact on their lives, when in reality, they do. Being open to new ideas is not wrong, as long as some amount of common sense is still used in the decision making process. At the end of the day, you only live once, so make sure you are spending your time doing the things that *really* matter to you, instead of acting blindly.

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## Prepare to be Bamboozled!

Allison Fuerst

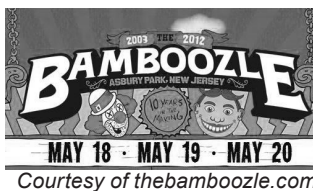
Staff Writer

The dictionary defines the word bamboozle as follows: to hoodwink, or pull the wool over one's head. However, for most, what first comes to mind upon hearing the word is the famous music festival where dozens of bands share their talents with the world. Bamboozle has entertained over one million fans over the past nine years. This year, the three-day festival will be held in Asbury Park, New Jersey, from May 18 to May 20. Of the thousands that will attend, a few will be Harrison students!

The Bamboozle Festival is an artist development resource that is responsible for launching the careers of many of today's top national recording artists and celebrities. According to the Bamboozle website, the Bamboozle Talent Team takes pride in searching the globe for the best talent. While they do not accept any demos, Bamboozle hosts a

break concert once a year. The website explains, "The Break Contest is the official contest for any artist, DJ, band or group to earn a slot on at this year's event." The performances are then judged and critiqued by a panel of industry professionals.

While last year the festival was held in East Rutherford, New Jersey, this year Bamboozle will take place in Asbury Park. Junior Ashley Dellipaoli said, "I went to the festival last year and had a lot of fun! I went mostly because Lil Wayne was headlining it, but I also got to hear many bands I'd never heard of before!" And that's the beauty of Bamboozle. While you may be driven to the event by the prospect of hearing one of your favorite artists, once there you are exposed and introduced to a variety of new musicians. And who knows, one of those



bands may turn into your new favorite!

According to the article "Bamboozle

founder John D'Esposito embraces new sounds," by Tris McCall, Bamboozle is becoming too big to be compared to the Warped Tour, as it once was back in 2006. McCall writes, "The Bamboozle...recently has excelled at identifying acts on the rise... 'Comparing the Bamboozle to the Warped Tour is an insult,' says John D'Esposito, 'We respect what Warped does, but it's a totally different philosophy... we do something a lot grander, and with a lot more diversity.'" The article goes on to describe how Bamboozle's lineups used to be very similar to those of the Warped Tour, a pop-punk institution, but how the Bamboozle

stages now feature music ranging from rock and metal to dance music and hip-hop.

Whatever changes Bamboozle has undergone over the past few years, they appear to be working. Junior Sarina Tassone, who will attend the festival, shared, "I really like the lineup for this year! I can't wait to see some of my favorite artists!" And it's true, this year's festival will feature a number of extremely talented and popular musicians, sure to attract a wide range of spectators. On Friday, May 18, the top three artists performing are Skrillex, Mac Miller and Incubus. On Saturday, May 19, The Foo Fighters, Blink-182, DJ Pauly D and The Maine will headline. Lastly, on Sunday, May 20, the headliner is Bon Jovi, who will perform alongside a special guest to be announced during the show. For the full setlist, visit 2012.thebamboozle.com.



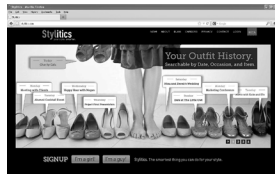
# Virtual closet sites open new doors

Melanie Singer

Staff Writer

We've all dreamed of the day when we could see if clothes look good on us before purchasing them online. Let's face it: the majority of us have been disappointed at some point, when receiving clothes that were purchased online. Whether too big, too small, or simply not what we wanted, we have all wished for a way to know exactly what our outfits will look like on us before buying them. Well, the day has finally come, in the form of a website created by Joseph Einhorn called TheFancy.com. And he's not the only one getting in on the act. Pinterest, Stylistics and Clothia are just a few of the many sites that have recently cropped up which allow fashionistas all over the world to search, buy, and swap clothing and style tips on the web.

Stylistics.com is the brainchild of 29-year-old Wharton graduate, Rohan Deuskar, and 31-year-old University of Iowa graduate, Zach Davis. The website allows users to



*Courtesy of stylistics.com*

create their own virtual closet and chronicle what they wear on the site's "style calendar." The calendar also allows users to see the weather forecast (definitely something to keep in mind when planning an outfit), keep track of how often they have wear particular styles, and calculate how much they have spent on all of the clothes in their closet. In addition, the calendar prevents outfit-repeating, such as wearing the same skirt twice in one week.

With Stylistics, the founders have incorporated an analysis strategy. Real-time market research for labels and retailers can be gathered and applied to the fashion industry. Stylistics business plan is so sound, that it captured the top prize at the 2011 Wharton Business Plan Competition. Given the

advanced nature of their strategy, it is unsurprising that Rohan and Davis like to refer to themselves as the Nielsen ratings of fashion.

Unlike Rohan and Davis, Joseph Einhorn of TheFancy.com did not attend college. However, by age 16 he was already working with Capital IQ in New York, helping to build a data management system for financial companies. While conducting research prior to the launch of TheFancy.com, Einhorn and his group of co-workers studied the evolution of some themes online, which included self-expression, and discovery.

Many Harrison High School students are excited by the advent of virtual closet websites. Junior Sarina Tassone said, "These websites, TheFancy.com especially, sound really cool. I always have the issue of not remembering whether I wore something recently, and people will call me out for it. If I make an account on this website I won't have to worry about repeating an

outfit! I'm definitely going to make an account to help me out!"

Senior Jose Porretti feels differently. He said, "I really don't care about repeating an outfit. I know that I wouldn't wear the same shirt two days in a row but if I wore the same shirt from the week before I'd be fine with that."

Sarina and Jose's differing views illustrate that, in general, these websites are going to attract more women than men. But Stylistics is trying to be gender-neutral. Although the homepage comes off as a little girly, there is a men's option users can select when creating an account.

With so many new websites competing to be the definitive virtual closet, it is unavoidable that some will fail. The real question is, will the trend as a whole survive into the next season? Virtual closets have the potential to revolutionize the way we buy and wear clothing. But whether or not a large number of consumers will see the appeal is, for now, uncertain.

## Sony unleashes the Vita

Jamie DeRosa

Staff Writer

On February 22, Sony unleashed its brand new handheld into the hands of Americans. Originally released on December 17 in Japan, and receiving some disappointing sales numbers, the new and extremely powerful handheld is looking to find a solid footing in the United States. As the spiritual successor to the PSP released back in 2004, the Vita promises to provide console quality experiences with a device you can take anywhere.

When it was first released in Japan back in December, it met with some truly weak and disappointing sales. There are a lot of reasons for this, the primary one being that it carries a pretty hefty price tag. A Wi-Fi model costs \$250. A 3G model (which boosts some pretty limited data plans, courtesy of AT&T) will set you back \$300. This model also requires the purchase of an additional memory card, which can

cost anywhere from \$25 to \$100. It is surprising that Sony is making this marketing mistake again, considering the backlash incurred by the same policy with the PSP. Another factor contributing to the Vita's disappointing breakout was its being released during a surge in sales for the Vita's main competitor, the 3ds. The 3ds has become Japan's fastest selling system of all time – quite an accomplishment, considering its very weak launch.

It's not all bad news for the Vita, though. The biggest advantage the Vita has over its competitors is the simple fact that it is a far superior handheld. Say what you will, the power and features of the Vita rival those of home consoles, and represent a definitive step up for handhelds. The question is whether the Vita will be able to fight off the app store and android market which are easily the kings of the market

at the moment. It is clear that Sony is hoping to offset competition by marketing the Vita to a more hardcore gaming crowd. By offering dual analog sticks, first person shooters like Call of Duty will be able to be contenders on the Vita's system. This is something many fans are excited for.

So far as the system itself, it's quite an impressive piece of tech. The five-inch OLED touch screen fits the device beautifully, and brings out the best in the gorgeous games developers have created for it. Both the front and back of the device are touch screen enabled. Additionally, the Vita rocks an ARM Cortex A9, which is very powerful, to put it mildly. Visually, what has been seen on the Vita blows away and far outpaces previous efforts, both visually and in terms of its audio. If there's any downside to the Vita, it's the battery. It's been reported that the Vita allows for



*Courtesy of hollywoodreporter.com*

about three hours of continuous play time, and requires about an hour and a half to fully recharge. Considering the weak battery in the PSP, this isn't too surprising, but it is an issue nonetheless.

With the Vita now released in the wild, only time will tell if it will prove a success. Sales have been increasing steadily, and this trend appears likely to continue. But everyone this reporter spoke to who has used this beast of a machine has walked away impressed, and eager to play more. "I really like how you can transfer your saves from the PS3 to it," said sophomore Ryan Nangle. As more and more people get their hands on the device for themselves, demand is bound to go up. At this point, marketing is of the utmost importance. The Vita may be a great device, but if it's not plastered on billboards or TV screens, word of mouth will only take it so far.

# Birds: Still Angry in Space

Jamie DeRosa

Staff Writer

The original *Angry Birds* has been downloaded an insane 500 million times since its initial release. It's become a very successful property, spawning board games and tons of merchandise. While there have been many variations of the popular iOS game with multiple expansions that slightly tweaked game play, the series



Courtesy of blogspot.com

hasn't seen a full blown sequel until now, with the release of... wait for it... *Angry Birds Space*. That's right. The suicidal animals are heading above and beyond the stars in hopes of blowing up the sales chart yet again.

One can tell from simply looking at *Angry Birds Space* that the development studio had a lot more money going into it (thanks in no small part to the obvious success of the first one). The game opens with a fully animated cut scene detailing the story of the game. Yes, this destructive romp features a story this time, something that will either excite or infuriate fans, depending on what they're looking to get out of this game.

Something tells me not many are in it for the story. Regardless, the new main draw for this one is the newly changed and innovative game play, which requires much more skill and strategy this time. The reason for this is because of the new mechanics introduced. Instead of just destroying straight up structures this time on flat plains, the player will have to take gravity into account. This time structures that must be destroyed are located on the other sides of planets that the player must work around. The game doesn't just innovate there, it also features multiple "Easter eggs" (secrets hidden throughout the game) with wormhole-like devices that allow the player to move to hidden levels that are references to other popular games like *Space Invaders* and *Super Mario Bros*.

This time around, the game has been heavily marketed. For instance, the studio went so far as to attach a giant replica of an angry bird onto Seattle's famous Space Needle.

It's clear the studio is looking for this to be another smash hit, and so far it is. The new game has been downloaded over 10 million times in less than three days, far outselling the original. But one thing goes against the idea of this version outselling the original – the game is much more challenging than it was before. The glory of the first *Angry Birds*, and the reason that it sold so well, was that it was a game anyone could pick up and play, regardless of age and gaming ability. It was very accessible, while at the same time challenging the player in later levels. This time around the game becomes much more vicious in its design than before, something that could quite possibly turn off many players looking for a fun, simple game to play on the train.

Time will tell if this prediction is wrong, but to say it will beat the original seems highly unlikely. Either way, the new game is being very well-received, with popular websites like IGN giving it a positive score of an 8.5 (out of 10), stating that the zero-g levels make the game feel fresh again. However, it's interesting to note that many people at Harrison High do not approve of the new game.

"I don't think it will be good, no matter what they say," says sophomore Ralphie Tancredi. "It will feel too much like the original, which got really repetitive."

Other students just find the game concept itself to be stupid. "I think the idea of shooting a bird from a slingshot is just ridiculous," says senior James Nitis. Only time will tell what happens to the mega-franchise, but it seems to be off to a good start.

# Playing games "With Friends"

Dylan Manley

Staff Writer

It's no secret that technology has changed the way people interact. Nowadays, when two friends want to speak, they are just as likely to find themselves on Facebook as on the phone, and far more likely to call or IM than meet up in person. Recently, smart phones have brought about yet another way to interact: through apps.

The popular app company Zynga has played a large role in the app revolution. Zynga is behind several app sensations, including "Words with Friends," "Scramble with Friends," and "Hanging with Friends." All of these apps allow people to interact with their friends from their smart phones, via game play. Zynga has of course teamed up with Facebook. This partnership allows smart phone users to find app-game partners through their Facebook friend lists. Zynga apps are spreading like wildfire. Even celebrities have got in on the act. The most famously app-addicted celebrity is Alec Baldwin, who was kicked off an American airlines flight for refusing to shut down his iPad in the middle of a game of "Words with Friends."

Zynga isn't the only franchise helping people do things "with friends" on their phones. The company OMGPOP recently came out with a game called "Draw Something." This game is the smart phone equivalent of Pictionary: you watch someone draw something on their phone, and you guess what it is. "Draw Something" has been at the top of the iTunes app charts for both

iPad and iPhone for weeks.

One would think that the "with friends" game formula needs little alteration, but Zynga is already working to revamp the industry it helped to create. A recent article published in *The New York Times* stated, "The company (Zynga) announced a new gaming platform that will match up players who do not know one another but who have a mutual interest in getting the crops in and spelling words with



"Words with Friends," anyone?

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

J, Q and X." Zynga plans to put an experimental version of the new platform on their website. The company hopes that this measure will help it to become less dependent on Facebook, which currently obtains 12 percent of its revenue.

However, the window of opportunity for brands like Zynga may be closing. The downside of being at the forefront of the technological revolution, is that no one stays there for long. Many users who initially flocked to "with friends" are becoming disenchanted. "The games are addicting for a while," shared freshmen Federica Balboni, "but after awhile, they got old."

# iPad 3 Hits Shelves

Sarah Camillone

Staff Writer

Apple is calling it the new iPad; some call it the iPad 3, but it is the same thing. Released March 16, 2012, this model is the first iPad to have an eagerly awaited feature: a retina display. The retina display has four times the pixels than the previous generation of the iPad. According to Apple's website, the new iPad has the best display ever on a mobile device – with over a million more pixels than a high definition television.

"There's another one?" said senior Sammi Rhodes, "I bet it's high tech."

That seems to be true for this latest iPad. This new iPad is extremely high-tech, with more of the upgrades on the interior, rather than the exterior side of the tablet. Although the many new features are no doubt an improvement, there are some minor downfalls to a few of these features.

The new iPad includes a powerful A5X chip, a new processor that is a big improvement.

Although it might seem that the iPad is perfect from the outside, it is not. The A5X is actually a BIG improvement, also in the sense that it is quite large. *Consumer Reports* has even found that the new iPad can heat up to 116 degrees Fahrenheit when running graphic-intensive games, particularly *Infinity Blade 2*. On average, it runs ten degrees hotter than the previous generation of iPad. This heat-up of the iPad is due to the large A5X chip.

Another feature of the new iPad is the 4G internet connection, the latest in wireless technology. Even this isn't perfect; there is a downside to 4G. An article in *The Huffington Post* explains this small issue very well: "*The Verge's* Dieter Bohn notes that attempting to initiate a FaceTime call over LTE fails out with a message exhorting you to connect to a Wi-Fi network. While it has always been true that FaceTime only worked on Wi-Fi and not over cellular networks, Bohn points out that this is especially



Courtesy of wordpress.com

annoying when you can turn your Verizon iPad into an LTE hotspot, which would allow you to FaceTime on other devices, but not on the iPad acting as the hotspot."

The mind-blowing retina display is amazing, and it looks great on a screen as large as the iPad's tablet. Apple.com shows that the text is razor-sharp, and even colors become richer. It is true that enhanced apps as well as HD movies look astounding, but it's not the same way with non HD-content. Non-retina apps and movies tend to look very similar to the iPad 2, even more pixilated on the retina display.

The new iPad features a better camera- a 5-megapixel iSight camera that shoots 1080p HD video. This is definitely a great upgrade, but the front-facing camera is very similar to

the last generation iPad.

What some people might view as the biggest omission from the new iPad is Siri, Apple's voice-activated assistant. Instead of Siri, there is a voice dictation button on the keyboard, letting the users speak their words rather than type them. This still omits several features included in Siri, such as setting alarms, and looking up calendar appointments.

"I think that the iPad 2 and iPad 3 are basically the same thing, except for some minor upgrades, like the retina display and a better camera," said Karilynn Gomez, owner of an iPad 2. "It shouldn't even be called the iPad 3, it should be called the iPad 2S."

People do have differing opinions and thoughts on this new iPad. Even though there are a few small things that aren't perfect about the new model, many will agree that the good outweighs the bad, and that the iPad 3, especially its screen and speed, are a success.

## Top 5 Procrastination Websites!

Sam Mandell

Staff Writer

There is nothing worse than the feeling of waiting until the last minute on a big project. Procrastinating has become a big part of the daily routine. The Internet poses a serious distraction for students. Facebook is only one of the many sites to visit for something to keep your mind off of homework. Not that procrastinating is the right thing to do, but if you're going to do it, you might as well do it right. In my opinion, the best procrastination sites, in random order, are as follows:

**5. Sporcle:** Sporcle is a site where you choose a basic topic including geography, music, movies or just a miscellaneous genre and then test your knowledge on that subject area by taking a series of quizzes. There is a time limit and some of the quizzes are rather difficult to complete. One quiz may be "Name all Adam Sandler Movies" Or "Can you name the word missing from these baseball themed movies?" The fun part is that you can try

again and again until you master the material. Not only is this fun, but it is also extremely educational. If you're not doing homework, you might as well learn something the fun way.

**4. College Humor/Cracked:** College Humor is simply College Humor. The site releases pictures, videos and articles that capture the attention of young adults with a sense of humor. Every day the staff reviews pictures and videos sent by teenagers worldwide and this updated media is added to the site. The best pictures and videos are featured at the end of the month and year. Some videos are part of a series made by the College Humor staff including "Jake and Amir." Cracked is a lot more sophisticated and more society-oriented. The site contains an array of videos, articles and pictures. However, what you will find about Cracked is that it's much more historical and/or scientific than College Humor. Both sites are en-

tertaining and a good go-to site to visit in between homework hours.

**3. YouTube:** Among citizens of all ages, YouTube is typically visited at least once a day and is extremely well-known. This reporter is not the only one who does his homework, then becomes distracted by YouTube's many offerings. Even if you plan to listen to one song from YouTube, it is very tempting to continue searching for other entertaining videos afterwards. This is the ultimate way to lose track of time. "You can find anything to watch," says junior Pornin Thongkhamyoo, when asked what his favorite site is. "You don't always need a new site to use. YouTube keeps it fresh with its many updates and interesting videos, so it never gets old!"

**2. Stumbleupon:** Stumbleupon is a site that browses pre-set topics that you choose while creating your account. Potential interests include movies, music and extreme sports. Or you can choose

to browse all your interests and see what comes up. When you click the 'stumble' button, the site leads you to a random site. Often you find things that you weren't necessarily looking for. If you're not satisfied with the result, click "Stumble" again. This can go on for hours, and you never know what will come up when you "Stumble." This happens to be my favorite procrastination site.

**1. Reddit:** At the top of the page, there are a number of categories including "Funny," "Videos," "Pics," and "Gaming." If you click on one of them, you get a number of funny videos and pictures on the screen. What's great about it is that you don't waste time thinking of what to search. You just click a topic and it searches for you. "It's got a ton of stuff," says junior Tim Alfieri. "It's great when you have nothing to do, but when you have homework it's awful because you get sucked into it so quickly."



# An end to the Berenstain Bears?

Lindsey Barnett

Staff Writer

The Berenstain Bears, a children's book favored by many in the Harrison High School community, has taught many lessons about safety and morality in each of their stories. The creators of the series are Jan and Stan Berenstain, a happily married couple, who have been working on the series for 50 years. Recently, at age 88, Jan Berenstain suffered a severe stroke and died. The big question now seems to be whether or not the series will continue.

"I would be so upset if the books stopped," says senior Faryn Brown. "Even though I do not read these books anymore, the general idea of knowing that something from your childhood is

gone now would be a sad thing to realize, since being a kid was great."

Some of the fondest memories from childhood are visions of parents or family members reading a favorite book. Most people would love to share that experience with their own children someday.

Although the books that make up the canon of work by Jan and Stan Berenstain will not disappear, it is tragic to think that maybe the creation of these great family stories has now come to an end.

"I loved having my mom read me the Berenstain Bear books when I was kid," says senior Cayla Pettinato, "It is so sad that one of the creators died. Although they made so many great books, it is upsetting to know that there might not be more."

The books displayed the classic family life that most human families experience, except the characters were bears. For those unfamiliar with the tales, the family consisted of Papa

Bear, Mama Bear, Brother Bear, Sister Bear, and Honey Bear. The first book hit the sales market in 1962 and now there are 300 books in the series, which has been translated into 29 languages.

"Those books were a classic, like Dr. Seuss. It is very sad to think these books will come to an end," says sophomore Eli Barich. "Still, there are more than enough books for the kids to read to still experience what we did as kids."

"It is very sad that Jan Berenstain passed away," says junior Rajan Mehra, "I think it will still be okay, though. Maybe Stan will still write more books. I hope he does. Even if he doesn't, they were an extremely successful partnership and manufactured more than enough books for people to read."

The Berenstain Bears went on crazy adventures and always had the silliest problems. These problems that appeared in every book helped children by giving them a solution to these



Stan and Jan Berenstain.  
Courtesy of The Chicago Tribune

common problems that might have apply to their own lives. By connecting to children through helpful problem solving and good decision-making, the books proved popular with parents as well as with kids.

"I believe that no matter what happens, the Berenstain series was a story for little children that will always be around," says senior Rachel Hurvitz, "even if there are no more original Berenstain Bear stories to be made."

These books were something Stan and Jan loved to do together, writing up great stories that helped children every day of their lives. Only time will reveal whether Stan may continue the series on his own.



Courtesy of PBSkids.kids.us

## Spring musical hits all the right notes!

(Continued from Page 20)

Reilly. Junior Andy O'Rourke and sophomore Emma Camillone also won laughs as Maggie and Bert, the writers behind "Pretty Lady." Seniors James Nitis and Marwan Bishtawi held their own beside the indomitable Ms. Brock as Dorothy's long-suffering lover Pat Denning and Abner Dillon

respectively. As choreographer Andy Lee, senior Nicole Bartetta displayed a natural talent for dance. Junior Andrew Butler also revealed rhythmic prowess in the role of Billy Lawler, a Broadway "juvenile" who is an advocate for Peggy.

This reporter was not the only one awed by "42nd Street." Senior Kyle Martino, who saw the show three times, shared, "I can't believe how polished it was. All of the dance numbers were well put together, and all of the leads had their roles down pat." Martino was so impressed by Pettinato's performance, in particular, that he decided to ask her

to prom. "Actually, I was already planning on asking her," clarified Martino "But watching her in the show definitely affirmed my decision."

Junior Hayley Kronthal stated, "I've seen all of the Footlight Players' musicals since I was a freshman, and this was definitely the best yet! I especially enjoyed the big tap numbers. They looked like so much fun. I had no idea so many people in this school could dance!"

"The singing was fantastic!" said sophomore Kyle Lefkowitz. "There wasn't one lead who couldn't carry their solos. My



Sing out!

Courtesy of Gary Morgen Photography  
favorite song was probably the duet between Maddie and Cayla. Their voices are so different, but they sounded so great together! I also really enjoyed 'Sunny Side.' You could tell those harmonies were tricky, but everyone's voices blended really well. Props to Troy for holding his own as the only boy in the song!"

Senior Kevin Song's response was brief, but revealing. "Wow," he said, "Just wow."



Pollack takes center stage in "Shadow Waltz."  
Courtesy of Jacqueline Lesdesma

# The pie, the myth, the legend!

Jenna Clemens

Food Editor

For this issue's food quandary I decided to investigate my long-time favorite and yours, pizza. Let me just take a moment to praise this simple, yet delicious, bread-of-breads concoction. It was no small act of genius when someone decided to put cheese, sauce and delicious bites of treats on top of what might otherwise be flat and boring rounds of bread (if I do say so myself, the Jews really made a great start with matzah).

In light of the recent band trip to Chicago, I started my

has its cheese and toppings underneath its sauce. I would think the design alone would make pizza-eating (pizzeating?) more difficult, but deep-dish seems to keep its renown despite the challenge. Or non-challenge (I wouldn't know, since I haven't had any yet). Fame aside, a band trip insider recently tried to convince me that deep-dish pizza "just isn't that good." Then again, we live in New York, where pizza has a certain expectation, and deep-dish is more of an acquired taste. Or at least a taste you



Chicago deep dish. Look at that crust! *Courtesy of foodbeast.com*

deep-dish pizza seems to have been born a star, even though it is far from the original pizza recipe. Though it is unclear where the doughy delicacy first was prepared (Naples, according to Ms. Battipaglia), it is generally agreed that pizza began as a flatbread prepared by poorer inhabitants of the Mediterranean dating back to the time of Ancient Greece. By the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, peasants living around Naples, Italy were baking a special yeast-based flatbread topped with red sauce and peddling it on the street. The culinary invention attracted many a tourist to the open-air markets of Naples and soon gained popularity, spreading across different regions of Italy and surrounding countries. Yet Naples is said to take its pizza very seriously; traditional pizzerias often serve only the purest form of pizza: the pizza margherita (a flat pizza crust with fresh tomatoes, olive oil and sometimes mozzarella).

Finally in the nineteenth century the pizza found its way to the United States by way of Little Italy in New York City. Chicago and Philadelphia were also among the first cities to offer pizza on menus, usually in neighborhoods densely populated by Italian immigrants. Nowadays, pizza has become a staple of

the Italian fare one finds in the restaurants across the states, and has been perfected over its long history into many delicious varieties, from deep-dish to thin-crust to Sicilian (which actually refers to a type of pizza made in Sicily). The word *pizza* is thought to originate from the Italian word *pizzicare* which means "pinch," but unlike their traditionally triangular cousins, Sicilian slices are generally square-shaped and thick-crust. If you buy a slice here in New York, you are eating something that resembles the type of pizza native to the city of Palermo, in Sicily. Though it may look a lot like deep-dish, the two differ in shape, the way they are baked (deep-dish is usually baked twice, Sicilian just once) and the topping assortment and structure they typically have. If, at this point, you are craving a slice (I know I am), I will leave you with this thought: there is no wrong time to chow down on some good old Neapolitan flatbread. Or a nice grandma slice. Till next time, stay hungry! (And by all means, eat pizza!)



Sicilian slices. "Mouthwatering" is an understatement.

*Courtesy of b52pizza.com*

investigation by looking into the differences between New York's traditionally thin pizza and Chicago's traditional deep-dish style pizza. Despite being in the Windy City twice in the last few weeks, I managed to leave both times without having tasted the famous pies. However, I do plan on one day eating the super-thick pizza, so I did some research in the meantime. The conclusion: the difference between pizza in New York and pizza out (Mid) West lies in the crust. In Chicago, though many pizzerias serve standard, thin pizza, the city's traditional fare is pizza with crust approaching three-inch heights, sometimes stuffed with sauce and cheese (this is called pan pizza), and most recently hot dogs (yikes!). Deep-dish pizza also tends to have its ingredients layered in a different order than one might find if he orders a slice in town at Pizza 2000. Instead of crust, sauce, cheese, then toppings, deep-dish pizza usually

simply have to taste for yourself to understand!

Much to my dismay, as I explored the streets of Chicago, I found that most pizza restaurants did *not* serve the famous deep-dish pies. There are, however, a select group of pizzerias scattered around downtown and around various neighborhoods that give credence to *American Heritage Magazine's* claim that the Midwest is the home of the modern pizza industry. As it turns out, the first deep-dish pizza came from the oven of Ric Ricardo and Ike Stewell in a small restaurant they opened in downtown Chicago and named "Pizzeria Uno" in 1943. Deep-dish immediately attracted fans due to its buttery crust, piles of cheese and fruit pie-like qualities. (There are even several bands who took its name and an Ani DiFranco song titled "Deep Dish," although the lyrics sadly are not really about pizza.) Regardless,



The classic margherita! *Courtesy of buynypizza.com*



# When Four-of-a-Kind is a Full House

## Kyle

I'm not very good at math but I have some pretty heavy math for you: four kids, born on one day, about 40 seconds apart from each other, and 3 minutes in total. A lot of kids at once, but I still am able to be unique, because we have VERY different personalities. As a young kid, the way I was "special" was that I always wore the most ridiculous clothes. Now that I'm older, something that makes me unique is being a thrower for the track team. I also have a huge passion for singing. I feel it's an awesome way to express myself that's different from anything Jenna, Coby, and Trent like doing (sorry Trent, I know you think you have a gorgeous voice!).



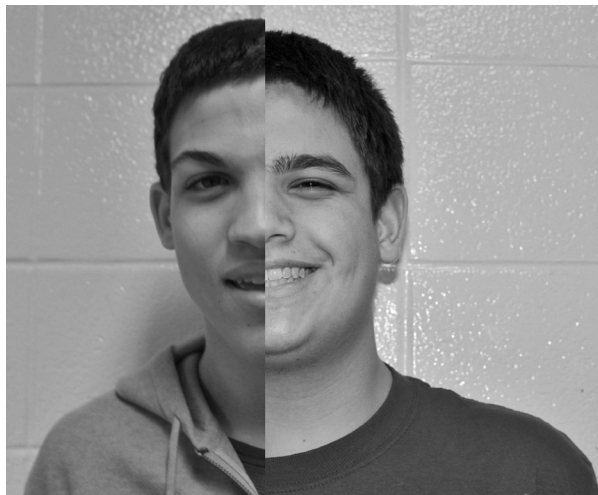
## Jenna

Being a quadruplet is great! I always have built-in homework help; I always have someone to rant to, and I never have to face a scary situation on my own. There are downsides to having three other siblings the same age, like never being able to agree on what to have for dinner, but I can't imagine life without Coby, Kyle, and Trent by my side. Being in the same grade means people mix up our names, but all four of us have talents and hobbies that set us apart. I'm the only one who doesn't play basketball, but I play trumpet in the marching band and jazz band! I also take Latin, and like to write and draw. The four of us "Lefkowitz" are really close, but we'll never be lumped together as the same person!

Here at *The Husky Herald*, we are self-diagnosed Lefkomaniacs! This adorable foursome has charmed us ever since they set foot in the high school last fall. This issue, we caught up with the quadruplets, and found out what makes each Lefkowitz tick! They may share a gene pool, but Jenna, Kyle, Coby and Trent are about as different as they come!

## Coby

Being a quad is exciting, for sure. There's never a slow day in our lives! The four of us do fight a lot, and sometimes in public, but when I think about all the perks that come with being a quad, I wouldn't have it any other way! Something that distinguishes me from my siblings, on the surface level, is that I am the tallest quadruplet! This comes in handy when I am playing basketball, or trying to reach something on a high shelf. Something that distinguishes me, in terms of personality, is that I'm right in the middle on the shyness scale. Kyle is really outgoing, and Jenna is shy. I guess you could say I'm the normal one! Or, you know, the most boring. Finally, I hear Trent has said he's the most awesome Lefkowitz. That's a lie. It's me, all the way.



## Trent

It feels so natural being a quadruplet, that it seems weird when people don't realize we're related (this happens a lot!). Being a quadruplet is great, because I get to meet a ton of people who are friends with my siblings, and because at home, there's always someone to hang out with! But there are many things that make me different from Kyle, Coby, and Jenna. My siblings are known for either playing a sport, or playing an instrument. I'm the only Lefkowitz who does both! I play basketball, *and* I play French horn. I'm also the only quad who has a job (Kyle says she does, but she doesn't.) One last thing that makes me unique is the fact that I am, without doubt, the most awesome Lefkowitz.



# 90-Second Interviews



"90 Second Interviews" is a new feature where we sit down with two teachers and see how many random questions they can answer in just ninety seconds. This issue, in honor of the recent trip to Spain, we interviewed Spanish teachers Ms. Columbus and Mrs. Garcia!

Columbus



**First love?** A book.  
**Favorite language?** Love them all!  
**Favorite meal?** Lomo Saltado.  
**First car?** 1993 Saab.  
**Favorite international destination?** Lake Titicaca.  
**Favorite artist?** Picasso.  
**Favorite song?** "Wake Up Everybody."  
**Favorite Beatle?** Bug or band?  
**Midnight snack?** Oreos.  
**Hobby?** Traveling...is that a hobby?  
**Secret obsession?** Chapstick.  
**Favorite word?** Circumlocution.  
**Hollywood crush?** Gael Garcia Bernal as Che.  
**Fashion staple?** iPhone.  
**Favorite chain restaurant?** Whole Foods.  
**First pet?** My dog, Cupcake.  
**Catchphrase?** OK.  
**Favorite cartoon character?** I never liked cartoons.  
**Personal idol?** Michael Greenfield.  
**Vanilla or chocolate?** Strawberry.  
**Favorite local lunch?** Chop't.  
**Teacher BFF?** The best people I know.  
**Siblings?** My sister Mikki.  
**Best high school memory?** My English teacher passed me a note: AVOID SAYING LIKE SO MUCH.

Garcia



**First love?** The man I married.  
**Favorite language?** Espanol por favor!  
**Favorite meal?** White rice with black beans, steak and onions, tostones, and FLAN!  
**First car?** White Caravan, a Voyager.  
**Favorite international destination?** Europe...I could say Spain, but I enjoy all of Europe.  
**Favorite artist?** Musical? So many...Jade, Ruben Blades, Concha Buika, Susana Baca.  
**Favorite song?** "Amigo"...but there are so many.  
**Favorite Beatle?** They're not my favorite - tells you I'm not from here, right?  
**Midnight snack?** Cereal.  
**Hobby?** Listening to music (Latin Jazz, World Music) and decorating.  
**Secret obsession?** Organization.  
**Favorite word?** Chevere (it means "cool" en Ingles).  
**Hollywood crush?** Andy Garcia.  
**Fashion staple?** ACCESSORIES! You name it, I got it.  
**Favorite chain restaurant?** Pio Pio.  
**First pet?** My dog, Picki.  
**Catchphrase?** MY MOTHER (said in a Spanish accent).  
**Favorite cartoon character?** Mighty Mouse, and I love the Flintstones.  
**Personal idol?** Mom.  
**Vanilla or chocolate?** HELLO, chocolate!  
**Favorite local lunch?** Good old salad from HHS.  
**Teacher BFF?** I can't...I'm going to get in trouble.  
**Siblings?** Two amazing brothers who spoil me rotten.  
**Best high school memory?** When I ran for class president. I lost by the way...but it was a great experience.

# SPORTS

## Lax Team Looks To Rebound in 2012

Zack Davidoff

Staff Writer

It's a new year and the Harrison lacrosse program walks into the season with a different attitude than before. In the off-season there was major upheaval from the resignation of former Head Coach Bruce Kinisky. It cannot be overstated how much Coach Kinisky did for the Harrison lacrosse program. Nine years ago, he started the lacrosse program throughout Harrison, to lead younger kids into the sport. It has continued to grow ever since. With time and effort, Kinisky molded the Harrison lacrosse program into what it represents today.

Last year, the Harrison Varsity Lacrosse team was disappointing. They entered the season with high expectations due to a talented senior class. The team finished the season 5-7, but had the talent to be much better. Many can be blamed for why the team did not reach its expectations. One of the factors was that most of the seniors also played on the football team. That football team had much success in the fall, reaching the state championship game in Syracuse. Many of the lacrosse players played an instrumental part on that football team. Those players were also recruited to play football in college and were not dedicating as much time and effort to the lacrosse team. It was disappointing to see so much talent go to waste in lacrosse games. Still, during last year's season there were many bright spots, especially the emerging talent of the younger players on the team.

The Huskies will have to depend on a young, but very talented team to win games this year. Led by sophomore Jake Marino and junior Robert Waldman, the team is poised to compete with any school. This year the lacrosse team will also experience a full offseason with a steady coaching staff. Coach Jay Rabinowitz and Coach Dan Madigan are returning after completing their first year with Kinisky at the helm. They made their debut in the middle of last season, due to eligibility rulings, and were able to demonstrate their years of lacrosse experience. Coach Rabinowitz was an all-American division one defensive player at Lehigh University. He also was the defensive coordinator for Lehigh for two years. Coach Madigan has much high school experience and was the offensive coordinator for one of the most prestigious lacrosse high schools in the country, John Jay High School. Madigan experienced much success while at John Jay, but now is looking to build Harrison's lacrosse program to the same level.

Head Coach Rabinowitz, says, "I'm really excited for this year. We just need to put in the time and effort to be a great team like I know we can be."

The 2012 Harrison lacrosse team will be spearheaded by middies Jake Marino and Kevin Imperia. Kevin Imperia is a senior and the team's vocal captain. Strong leadership from the team's seniors is crucial for overall success. Imperia has shown strong leadership in the

past, such as when he was captain of the JV lacrosse team his sophomore year and the team had a great 13-3 record. Many of the players on that JV team are on this year's Varsity team. Their leadership and guidance for the young stars on the team will directly relate to the team's success.

That success will rely heavily upon the defense. The coaches and players know that for the team to win games this year, it must be a low scoring bout with their opponents. The Huskies are more than capable of shutting teams down with their athletic and smart defense. The Harrison lacrosse team this year consists of a very strong consistent defense led by goalie Zack Davidoff and D-pole Robert Waldman. The presumed starting defensive players this year will be junior Robert Mackenzie, senior Jacob Temkin, and junior Robert Waldman, with senior Zack Davidoff in goal. But the team has serious depth at the defensive positions, with senior Luke Wolf and sophomore Jordan Russo sure to get playing time. Coach Jay knows his personnel, so he will develop a scheme where Waldman is at all times on the other team's best offensive threat. Zack Davidoff can stop anything from more than 10 yards out, so the defense must do a good job of communicating to prevent any breakdowns in coverage.

"We definitely have a lot of talent this year, but we just have to put it all together and be on the same page at all times to be

successful," defenseman Robert Mackenzie says of the defense.

On the other side of the field, the offense is comprised of players that can certainly score, but have to learn how to play together. The starters are still unsettled and players will have to battle for positions before the season starts. Coach Madigan has a great offensive mind and will try to coach up the young players to fit into an explosive scheme. The offensive is extremely inexperienced. To show just how inexperienced, the player that saw the most time last year that is currently on the team is Jake Marino, and he was a freshman. Now a sophomore, Jake is primed to carry the Husky offense and be the focal point on the other teams' scouting report. On attack, two seniors that are bound to make an impact are Doug Shulman and lefty Dean Brancucci. Both will look to take some weight off of Jake with much needed firepower. All the other players on offense have not played at the varsity level for a consistent amount of time.

Attack player Doug Shulman said, "I'm really excited for this season. It's my senior year and I want to have a lot of fun, but I know we can win too."

There will be bumps in the road for this Husky team, but the young talent present is undeniable. The outlook for the Harrison Lacrosse program is extremely bright and this should be year one of moving in the right direction.

# Spring Track Off and Running

Sara Purinton

Staff Writer

Coming into the start of the winter track season, coaches Mrs. and Mr. Zanot expected it to be a season of recovering and rebuilding. With the loss of many important seniors at the end of the 2011 season, the coaches looked toward strengthening the young team. No one expected to be going to States, but that's just what the girl's 400-meter relay did. Juniors Hannah Hochman and Ashley DelliPaoli, along with sophomores Rula Samad and Samantha Shopovick, were able to crush through qualifiers to go on to medaling at the NYSPHSAA Indoor Track Championships. It was a surprising turn of events for everyone.

"We had been getting beaten by two teams all season long, so none of us thought we had a chance to make it to States," said Hannah Hochman, "but when the coaches told us we had made it, we were so excited! We were all so pumped to get to compete at such a competitive meet."

With such a satisfying way

to wrap up the winter season, the coaches excitedly looked toward the start of spring track.

As senior Chris D'Antona summed up, "The spring season is always really exciting because that's when our team hits its



Seidman looks to break more records.

*Courtesy of harrisoncsd.org*

peak. The coaches always try to have our times and performances reach their best in the spring, so it's exciting to see all of our hard work come together. We have a lot of seniors this year and a lot of guys that are committed to the team, so I think we're going to look really good by the time big meets like leagues and counties arrive."

Already, though the spring season has just begun, both the

boys and girls teams have shown people what they're made of. At the highly competitive Fulton Invite held at home on April 18, impressive times were broken. Junior Trey Wasilesky was able to break his previous record by finishing first with a time of 4:31.2. Along with this, other impressive top place finishes were made by Sebastian Cortes in the 400-meter hurdles and the Boys' 800-meter relay.

With such a successful day at the Fulton invite, the track and field team now is looking forward toward the April 23 dual meet against Rye at the Rye High School track. Similar to what was revealed in the winter season, the strength of the spring track team is its teamwork. Though there may not be any superstars on the team, there are certainly emerging and promising runners, as well as older runners who definitely can run competitively with the top. The teamwork aspect plays in here, because both the boys and girls teams have found that though they may not always have many first place finishers, it is not uncommon to come in second and/or third. As

a whole, these finishes are more meaningful than only a few first place finishes.

Overall, Harrison tends to come out near the top of the surrounding schools, and it is mostly because of Harrison's ability to work together to stack up the points.

Coming up quickly is the coveted Penn Relays held at UPenn. This meet is one of national renown, and draws the top athletes from all across the country. Usually, records are meant to be held for a number of years before they are broken, but with Harrison, this trend does not hold up. Many of the seniors on the team, such as Jacob Seidman in the pole vault, are hoping to continue shattering their past personal and school records, while new competition, coming from contestants like Ryo Inkyo, look to challenge these recently made records.

One new competitor, sophomore Ben Adler, says, "We expected this year to be a transition year, but everybody has worked so hard that we have been able to exceed our expectations."

## Mike DiTursi: A life on the links

Trent Lefkowitz

Staff Writer

Mike DiTursi is the senior superstar on Harrison's Boys' Golf Team. Recently, he granted us a quick interview.

**Husky Herald (HH):** When did you start playing golf, and how long have you played for the school?

**Mike DiTursi (MD):** I have been playing golf since I was three years old, and this is my sixth year playing on the Harrison Varsity Golf Team.

**HH:** What is your routine when you go to practice?

**MD:** My routine consists of hitting balls on the range for an hour to focus on my swing keys. After that, I practice my putting for 15 minutes, and finally play nine holes. After playing, I reflect on which area I struggled most in at practice so I can better myself as a golfer the next time.

**HH:** How have you and the rest of the team done so far this year?

**MD:** So far this year I have been playing fairly consistently. I am still waiting for my breakthrough round to lead me on the path to States. The team is also doing very well. We are currently #3 in our league and have a lot of exciting matches coming up.

**HH:** What is the best round you've ever shot, and where did you shoot it?

**MD:** The best round I ever shot was 68 (3 under par) at Westchester Country Club, Par 71.

**HH:** What is your favorite course to play?

**MD:** My favorite course to play is Old Marsh Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The course was built in the

marshlands and there is a ton of wildlife and incredible views that supplement the experience of playing golf there.

**HH:** What is the best part of having Mr. C as a coach?

**MD:** The best part of having Mr. C as a coach is how he connects with each player. He gets us excited for our matches when we see him throughout the school day, and the tradition he started for us, wearing shirts and ties to school for all of our league matches, portrays an image of class and pride for the members of the golf team.

**HH:** How do you characterize success on the golf course?

**MD:** Success is not always achieved from shooting a low score. When your actions on the course are not adding up to your

expectations, finding the will to continue and fight hard through the pressure is when success is fully achieved. If I always give the game 100 % and never give up, I can never be mad at myself. Golf is a mental game played in the space between your ears.

**HH:** Where are you playing collegiately, and have you thought of playing professionally in the future?

**MD:** Next year I am going to Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, on a golf scholarship. The Rollins Tars are a highly renowned team, and I am very excited to become part of the program. Regarding professional golf, I try not to think too far down the road. I'm going to strive to be an NCAA All-American and see where my college golf career takes me.



# Varsity Baseball Team Starts Season Strong

Ray Corona

Sports Editor

The Varsity Boys' Baseball team finished last year with one of their most successful seasons in recent years, finishing 15-7 and making a deep run into the playoffs. This year's Huskies had the daunting task of not only matching last year's performance, but trying to make it even deeper into the playoffs. The Huskies lost a core group of hitters with Michael Jacobson and Mike Chiarella graduating, as well as the hard throwing righty Brian Lobel. Despite the loss, the Huskies still have plenty of players on this year's roster that could make up for those losses and lead the Huskies to victory down the road.

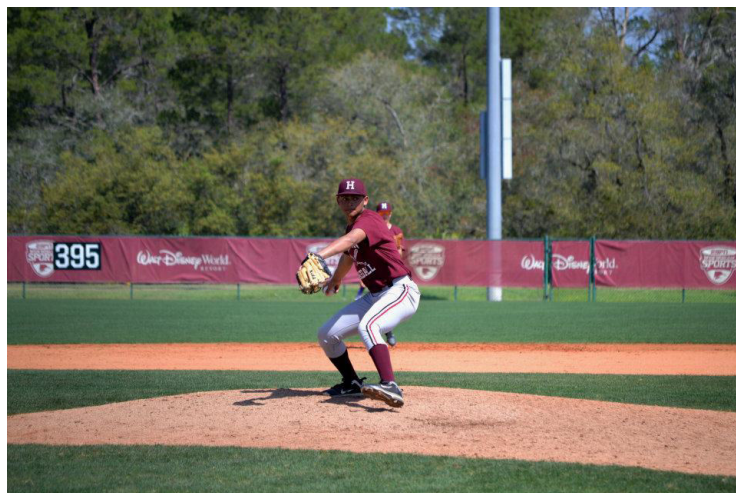
"I think a lot of people underestimated us coming into the season," says junior centerfielder Austin Pollack. "The loss of those seniors hurt, but we still have plenty of players that are great and can make a difference both pitching and hitting."

The Huskies' superb 6-1 start has been from a combination of strong hitting performanc-

es and stellar pitching.

The Huskies would cruise in their first game, beating Mount Vernon by a score of 9-0. Michael Forgione pitched six scoreless innings, giving up only two hits. The bats would aid Forgione's effort on the mound, especially Shang-Li Polera, who hit his first home run of the year. The Huskies would then follow up with another nine run performance, with a 9-6 victory over Keio. Keio, a team that finished with a solid 14-6 record last year, wasn't able to stop the Huskies' lineup as they were able to string together 10 hits.

After starting 2-0, the Huskies kept hot, winning their next four games. In those four games, the Huskies would outscore their opponents 33-7, scoring 10 runs against Greeley and 13 runs against Valhalla. In their first six games, the Huskies were 6-0, with an offense averaging just under nine runs per game and only allowing on average under three runs per game.



Santamaria winds up to deliver the heat.

Junior Tyler Hart, playing in his first year for varsity, was impressed with this fast start.

"It was a team effort," he said. "Hitting-wise, we got on base and drove in runs, while our pitching shut down the opposing hitters. Everyone was playing at their best and our 6-0 record showed it."

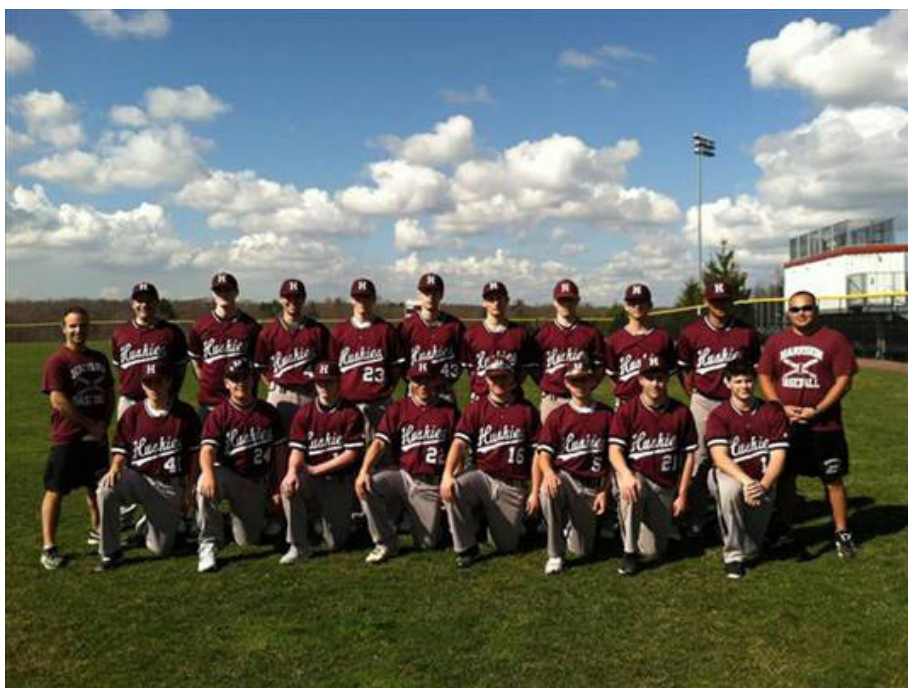
On a recent Tuesday, however, the Huskies suffered their first loss. It was an extra innings contest, and the Huskies fell to an Osining squad, 3-2, putting their record currently at 6-1.

Despite the loss, the 6-1 record still shows just how dangerous the Huskies could be this season. Even more impressive has been the masterful performances

Courtesy of Christian Santamaria by many of the players so far. Starter Michael Forgione has struck out 16, all while posting a 0.74 earned run average. Max Bruckner, the ace of last year, has been impressive too, striking out 17 batters and currently sporting a team low 0.58 earned run average. As for hitting, the Huskies have put up a .311 team batting average, as well as an impressive .459 slugging percentage. Max Bruckner and Shang-Li Polera each have a home run for the Huskies, and other notable sluggers include Alex Beckett with 5 runs batted in, Austin Pollack hitting .333, and Steven De Leo with two triples so far.

As the Huskies go deeper into the season, it will be important that they continue playing at this exceptional level. It will truly be a test to see how the Huskies face up against some of the top teams in Section 1. Despite the challenges to come, Jack McCarthy feels optimistic about the team.

"We know that we can match up against anyone in Section 1," says McCarthy, "If we just play smart, work hard, and continue playing at this high level, we'll be successful."



The 2012 Huskies pose for the photo op.

Courtesy of Christian Santamaria